

## THE HIMALAYAN CLUB E-LETTER

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## Contents - Volume 41

### COMMEMORATING PIONEERING CLIMBS

60th Year of the first ascent of Dhaulagiri	.....	2
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### CLIMBS, TREKS AND EXPLORATIONS

UFO line... Chamlang	.....	6
----------------------	-------	---

### IN CONVERSATION WITH

Reinhold Messner	.....	10
------------------	-------	----

### NEWS AND PERSONALITIES

The tale of a cloth merchant who was recently conferred title of Honorary Member of The Himalayan Club	.....	15
Doug Scott	.....	17
Indian Elected In The Highest Policy Making Body Of UIAA	.....	18
Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling 66th Foundation Day Celebrations And Tenzing Norgay MTB Challenge – 2nd Edition	.....	20
2020 Banff Mountain Book Competition Award Winners	.....	23
Mussoorie Mountain Festival 2020	.....	24
Evidence for Large Amounts of Brown Carbonaceous Tarballs in the Himalayan Atmosphere	.....	26

### CLUB NEWS

A Workshop On Writing About Mountains	.....	27
Exclusive Skiing Programme at Solang	.....	27

### IN MEMORIUM

Ang Rita Sherpa	.....	28
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### PRODUCT REVIEW

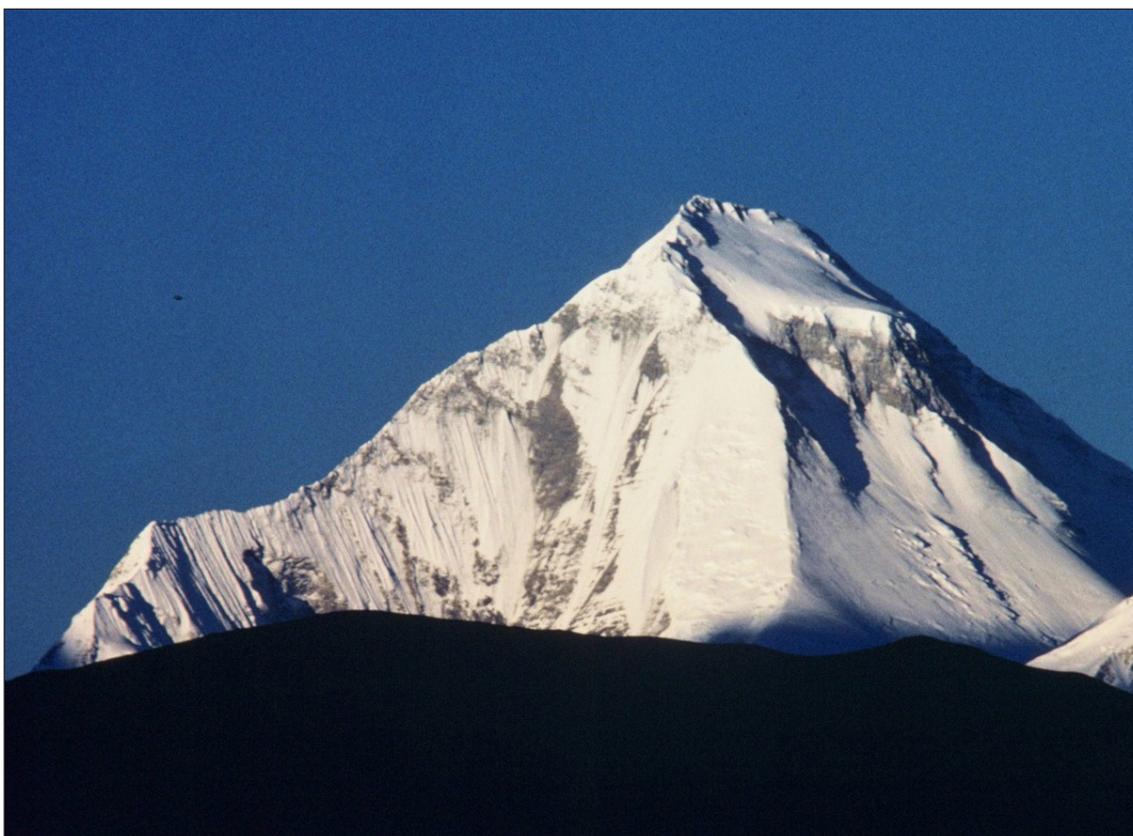
The Himalayan Club “Vocal for Local” Campaign - BLUE BOLT SOLO QUILT	.....	30
--	-------	----

### EDITORIAL

.....	32
-------	----

## **Commemorating Pioneering Climbs**

### [60th Year of the first ascent of Dhaulagiri](#)



Dhaulagiri with NE-spur in the center (route of first ascent 1960)

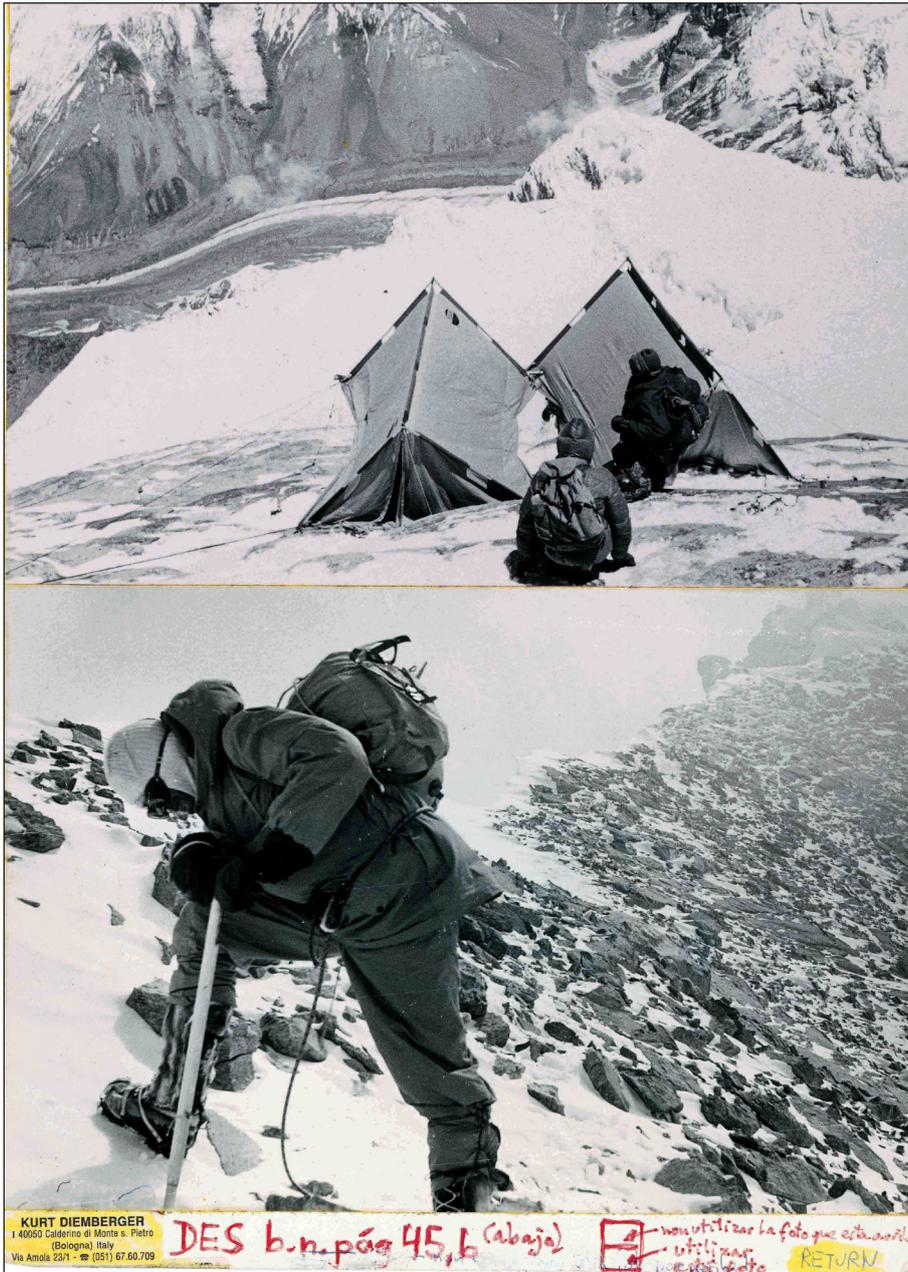
In 1960 an expedition organised by the Swiss Max Eiselin was the first to reach the summit; it followed the Northeast Ridge. On 13th May Kurt Diemberger, Peter Diener, Ernst Forrer, Albin Schelbert, Nyima Dorje Sherpa and Nawang Dorje Sherpa reached the summit without oxygen. It was the first Himalayan climb supported by a fixed-wing aircraft (the Yeti). Members and equipment was flown to the North Col, it eventually crashed in Hidden Valley north of the mountain and was abandoned. Kurt Diemberger is the only living person who has made the first ascent on two mountains over 8,000 metres: of Broad Peak in 1957 and of Dhaulagiri in 1960.



The crashed airplane is our Pilatus Porter YETI - after its unsuccessful start, now down in the nameless valley



Ernst Forrer climbing on NE-spur; with the SE-ridge in the background



Upper : Swiss-german exp. 1958 camp attached to the steep slabs of the "Gear".

Lower : E. Forrer at 8000m during 1st ascent 1960.



Group of Dhaulagiri-first ascent-summiters 13.5.1960 (from left to right:)  
Peter Diener, Sherpa Nima Dorje, Ernst Forrer, Sherpa Nawang Dorje,  
Albin Schelbert, Kurt Diemberger



Kurt Diemberger (left) and Albin Schelbert (summit photo 13/5/1960)

*Images-Kurt Diembergers collection*

## Climbs, Treks and Explorations

### UFO line... Chamlang

*Marek Holeček*



Northwest wall of Chamlang with the climbing route from Hungku valley

On May 23 we managed to finish the first ascent of the North-West face of Chamlang (7321 m), the face that has been attempted by many expedition in the past without any success. The summit of Chamlang oversees the Hongu valley from an exposure of two thousand metres. It rises up from the moraine with a lake and reminds us more a solitaire than an integral part of the central Himalayan ridge with numerous other summits. I have kept this goal in my mind for nearly twenty years, however, its realization has begun as late as this year.

There were several obvious problems we had to cope with. Gradually vertical face offered no “weaker” part that would seem easier for our ascent. We were sure to find very hard mixed parts as well as sections of pure rock and ice. The other objective danger was the lack of natural shelter spots up in the wall that could be used during adverse weather conditions. Similarly, the outlook for good bivi spots seemed also very rare. This made a clear message – we have to be fast enough with the help of God Almighty. The last unanswered question to think about was the descent, how to get down from the summit. No prospective descent



Magical view of the central Himalaya



First two days of climbing alternated between poor quality ice and crumbling rock route offered an easy retreat.

On May 16 we crossed the glacier and spent a night right at the foot of the climb. Next dawn found us taking the first metres up the route. We packed a small bivi tent, one eighty-metre rope 7 millimetres in diameter, 6 ice screws, 5 pitons and 5 friends. We also added food supplies for five days plus 3 gas cartridges next to the necessary dose of good fortune



Long icy section on the third day



Endless descend.(Hook)

into our backpacks. The following days turned out to be the true picture of our imagination. Loose rock at the lower part followed by hard mixed climbing and concrete-like ice. Bivouacs were gradually getting worse higher up providing space for about half a body size, while we needed to seat our two butts there. On May 20 we reached the top of the face and traversed the whole summit ridge including the main summit on May 21.



Frozen smiles( Hook to the left)

The last two and a half days of descent meant only a hard fight to return among the living. The dangerous ridge and a steep icefall cost us a lot of energy and nerves. We got run out of food and both our bodies and minds felt really used and fatigue. Finally on May 23 we arrived below the face again with a great climbing feat behind us. A fulfilled childhood dream. We returned back to the base camp with no one waiting for us besides one package of dehydrated food in a single tent, no celebrating crowds. The next day we loaded up the whole base camp on our sore backs and crossed the Mera La Pass in the direction of civilization. This is the end.

We devoted the climb to the memory of the ascent of Reinhold Messner and Doug Scott, who supposedly saw UFO during their ascent of Chamlang... Who knows, what it was. Well, I have seen the alien beside me all the time, named "Hook" (Zdenek Háek, my climbing partner). We have agreed on difficulty of the climb as the hardest we have done together in the mountains, ABO in other words. It was really our hardest climb, we could even think of its international importance.

*Ed.Note: This is one of the Honoured Ascents of 2020 Piolets d'Or*

## In Conversation With

### [Reinhold Messner](#)



In the year 1970 commenced the second phase of climbing of a mountaineer which changed the way of climbing of the eight thousanders and continues to inspire generations of climbers. The editor was privileged to have an one to one conversation with the great man. These is an excerpt from that conversation.

**Ed-** This year marks the 50th year of your first ascent of an 8000m peak. You were a fanatical alpine climber and according to you the Alps had become too small and Rupal Face of Nanga occupied the number one place of your list. So why Rupal Face?

**RM-** My interest in 70 was not Nanga Parvat but Rupal Face, because it is the highest wall in the world.

**Ed-** Why you choose Nanga Parvat again for your first solo ascent of an 8000m? Why this love for Nanga Parvat?

**RM-** Eight years later after gaining experience on big mountains and high altitude I felt strong enough to do the first solo ascent of an 8000m. I decided for Nanga Parvat because I knew the mountain quite well, I had a opportunity

to see and climb the south face, to go down the west face, the whole tragedy on the north and I had the feeling that on this mountain I am at home.

**Ed-** Another peak that you choose twice is Gasherbrum 1, this is also a milestone peak for you because it was your first alpine ascent of an 8000m and first traverse of two 8000m peaks. Why Gasherbrum 1?

**RM-** Because Gasherbrum 1 and Gasherbrum 2 are quite near together and I had a calculation or the feeling that this two 8000m peak they are possible in one traverse. We went up Gasherbrum 2, we climbed down and went to Gasherbrum 1 on Japanese route and came down via Slovenian route and that has not been repeated yet. The next traverse possible would be Everest –Lohtse. You can do this in two days with support but that is not traditional alpinism, I am interested in traditional



East Rombuk Glacier. Everest North side 1980

alpinism, it means I am there with a companion or alone without helpers, opposite of what is happening on Everest. What is happening on Everest is tourism and not alpinism.

**Ed-** What are your views on guided climbing?

**RM-** Guided climbing was there from the beginning, specially who went to the Alps they went with guides. Guides in alps increased. Today we have the Sherpas as the best guides on the Himalayas and many people who don't want to do Everest with their own power and ability they join

commercial expeditions and they go up on a prepared line with the guide- here the Sherpas. The Sherpas are doing the work, carrying the load, taking people to the summit. Its ok, but it is not alpinism, it is tourism.

**Ed-** Moving on to Everest-would you on a hindsight think that if you and Habeler had chosen the South Pillar and South West Face, you would have been successful?



Everest solo summit 1980

**RM-** I had the idea to do this South West Face. In 73, I approached an Italian expedition to join expedition and try the South West Face from the second camp onwards, but he didn't allow me. Chris Bnnington later tackled the South West Face, after that I decided to climb Everest without oxygen. It became my new goal because nobody knew how a human being will behave at this height.

**Ed-** What was the preparation of Everest without oxygen?

**RM-** Everest without oxygen was more a mental preparation because all the climbers told me that it was not possible. The doctors told me before starting that I would die up there or will not be able to reach the summit. I did three 8000m summit before that. Nobody in the 70's did three 8000m peaks. So I had experience. On the mountain the last 100m became really hard because we had storm and the snow was not so good but we were prepared very well, me and Peter had climbed before and we knew each other well and were quite secure to climb with close eyes. Everest is not difficult a mountain.

**Ed-** According to you Nanga Parvat and Gasherbrum traverse are the two most difficult climbs of you on 8000m.

**RM-** Also Annapurna, I did a new line on Annapurna-very difficult one, its not yet repeated. The Northwest Face is technically the most difficult thing that I did on Himalaya but from the whole problem to overcome



Everest 78 at BC, R.Messner and P.Habeler

Nanga Parvat was the biggest.

**Ed-** When exactly did you decide to climb all fourteen 8000m?

**RM-** In 82.Sisha Pangma was closed for many years.But in 81 I got permission and climbed Sisha Pangma and in 82 I climbed three 8000m peaks-Kanchenjunga,Gasherbrum 2 and Broad Peak.So I was missing only four of the 8000m peaks and after having climbed the three in two months I knew that I could do the rest.

**Ed-** You have some strong views like not to carry any flag on the summit. Why so?

**RM-** I think that we are not going to the summits anymore to conquer for a nation.In the beginning this was normal as the countries went to the peaks to climb them as a nation.It was a colonial behaviour,but today we go there for climbing and not conquering a mountain anymore.So now we go for our private glory,challenge or whatever.I never took a flag with me but I am also very lucky that I am also not part of a nation because I am South Tyrolean.We are part of Italy but we have strong autonomy. In reality we are German speaking people living in Italy.So I don't feel I belong to any country and see myself as an European. Geographically South Tyrolean but I see myself as a world citizen with lots of friends specially people of the mountains around the world.

**Ed-** There was a controversy of burying the Austrian climber on Gasherbrum 2

**RM-** Its a very interesting story, when we approached Gasherbrum 2 in 1982 we got the information in the base camp that two of the climbers are missing. We went up with little hope of finding them. We found the second camp and found a diary. From the diary we understood that they went higher. We found one of the dead men around 7800m in a cave. We also found some footprints afterwards probably of the second climber. We couldnt find the second climber. We took photographs and left the body there. When i came home i send the diary to the climbers family and two years later when i went for the traverse the family told us to bury the body. I think we can not touch a body on the mountain if we dont have a nod from the family, we did it only after we got the permission from the family because they couldnt go up that height and bury the body.

**Ed-** Is there any route that you wanted to do but couldn't do on the Himalayas ?

**RM-** I tried Dhaulagiri South Face, beautiful wall, failed. I tried twice the South Face of Lhotse, failed. I tried in the winter Cho Oyu Southwest face, failed. I failed seventeen times on the 8000m peaks. In 2000 I tried the North Wall of Nanga Parvat but failed.

**Ed-** What is the future of mountaineering?

**RM-** I think real good climbers and there are many of them who will go to 7000m and 6000m to do very good and difficult new lines. On the 8000m peaks most of the challenges is done. I think mountaineering will become like tourism in the years to come where you will book peaks, the Sherpas will fix ropes, bring up the supplies and in one day you see two hundred people going up the mountain. This is no longer alpinism, this is tourism because tourists are going where there is infrastructure, alpinists are going where nobody else is going.

**Ed-** Why didn't you come to India for climbing?

**RM-** I tried to get the permit for Nanda Devi once for a film expedition but was denied. The first ascent route is easy and you could do more on that mountain.

*Images: Reinhold Messner's collection*

## News and Personalities

The tale of a cloth merchant who was recently conferred title of  
Honorary Member of The Himalayan Club

*Nandini Purandare*

Take the quiz: Who is this person?

**Clues:**

- Cloth Merchant who ran a suiting and shirting shop in Mumbai's Kapad Bazaar.
- India's most celebrated mountaineer.
- Recipient of (among other honours) – 1) Royal Patron's Medal in 2003 by the Royal Geographical Society for immense contributions towards geographical exploration 2) the King Albert Mountain Award by the King Albert I Memorial Foundation, Belgium 3) Lifetime Achievement Award for Adventure by the President of India 4) Gold Medal by the Indian Mountaineering Federation 5) Piolets d'Or Asia Lifetime Achievement Award from the Union of Asian Alpine Associations.
- Pioneer of a famous exploration which traced the course of the Tsangpo in India and confirmed that Brahmaputra is indeed the same river. Many other explorations followed, such as the Siachen glacier and explorations in Arunachal Pradesh on which he will base his next book.
- Author of many landmark books on the Himalaya.
- Honorary Member of the British, American, Polish and the Japanese Alpine Clubs.
- An important and eminent and active member of The Himalayan Club for over 50 years.



If you have not yet guessed, then here is the last clue:

He got involved with The Himalayan Journal as an assistant editor to

Soli Mehta in the year 1975 and soon became editor. He published 37 editions of the journal as editor and currently is Editor Emeritus of The Himalayan Club.

In 2020, finally, Harish Kapadia was conferred the title of Honorary Member of THC. For decades he was the face of THC in so many ways that this title eluded him. We often fail to mark jewels in our backyard and this personality who became synonymous with the Club continued to work tirelessly to make THC and THJ what they are today.

It is very hard to encompass a whole era in a few lines. Therefore I would like to write about my own



experiences and impressions, which probably reflect his impact. For over fifty years, Harish has been a great mentor and teacher to all those who knock at his door. His child like enthusiasm to get people to go to the Himalaya is infectious. If you ask him for route assistance, he will give you maps, details, articles, references of people in the area, staff support and even equipment. His humour is irascible and cutting so you need to get past that – repartee, intellectual engagement and exchanging stories makes Harish the most interesting mountain companion, not to mention the food and camp comfort. He has sculpted Indian Himalayan travel and exploration without even realizing it.

Way back in the 80s when I started attending THC programmes, Harish was always at the helm, regaling audiences with his slide shows and stories thus making trekking and exploration the most fun filled activity. It was like a picnic, compared to some mountaineers today who make their forays into the Himalaya seem so hard, unattractive and humourless.

The world has few explorers. There are those who climb mountains and

others who visit tourist areas. But those who lovingly explore every nook, corner and valley of a particular area the way Harish has explored the Garhwal, Sikkim, Siachen and Arunachal to name just a couple, is very unusual. Over half a century, he has gathered knowledge that makes him a fabled encyclopedia. Show Harish a blurred photo of any range and he will rattle off region, heights, names, coordinates and details that are available nowhere else. It is indeed remarkable.

As one who assisted Harish for several years before becoming editor of the Journal, I can say that the learning curve has been sharp and upward. I learnt what to do, but more importantly I learnt what not to do. Particularly, never compromise content and style. I could go on...

The lightness of being that Harish brings into everything he does makes him so special. This would be his single greatest contribution to mountaineering. He brought the Himalaya home to many of us.

Take a bow, Mr Kapadia for they don't make them like you anymore!

## Doug Scott



Briton Doug Scott, one of the world's most acclaimed mountaineers and a longstanding member of the UIAA, became a UIAA Honorary Member in October, 2020.

Recognised for his pioneering and legendary feats in mountaineering and

immense commitment to supporting mountaineering communities.

Doug Scott's climbing career includes 45 expeditions to the high mountains of Asia, a considerable number on new routes or for the first time in Alpine Style. An integral part of the



first successful British Expedition to Everest, Doug Scott has reached the summit of 40 peaks including the top of the highest summits on all seven continents.

Demonstrated in his longstanding stewardship of Community Action Nepal, Doug Scott has invested significant time and passion in directly supporting over 45 projects in Nepal with a focus on education, health and improving the working conditions of those whose lives depend on the trekking industry.

Doug Scott has also lent significant support to the UIAA through his roles with the Mountaineering Commission and Management Committee. His extensive and celebrated works of literature include a seminal paper for the UIAA, the Preservation of Natural Rock for Adventure Climbing, an important reminder about the need to preserve the ethics, traditions and styles of climbing.

*Courtesy UIAA*

*He is also an Honorary Member of The Himalayan Club*

## [Wg Cdr \(Retd\) Amit Chowdhury Elected In The Highest Policy Making Body Of UIAA](#)

*Manik Banerjee*

Former Vice President of Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) Wg Cdr (Retd) Amit Chowdhury has been elected as a member of the Executive Body of 'Union Internationale d'Alpinisme' (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation), popularly known as UIAA- the apex body of mountaineering in the world. Executive Body is the highest authority in UIAA.

Beside Wg Cdr Chowdhury present vice president of IMF Dr. Harswani



Bisht and honorary secretary of The Himalayan Club and former secretary of IMF Wg Cdr (Retd) Sudhir Kutty has been reelected as a member of Mountain Protection Commission and Access Commission of UIAA respectively. Three other IMF members have also been elected as member in other UIAA Commissions. They are Dr. Anil Gurtoo (Medical Commission -reelected), Ms. Reena Dharamshaktu (Mountain Commission) and Bhaskar Das (Youth Commission).

Wg Cdr Chowdhury, who is the first Indian to hold this position, was elected at the UIAA's General Assembly held at Bern, Switzerland on October 24 last, for a four-year term. Prior to this post Wg Cdr Chowdhury was the Chairman of Safety Commission of UIAA for four years since 1917. He was also in the Management Committee of this apex organisation for some time.

After being initiated to the fine sport of mountaineering through rock climbing in Shusunia and Joy Chandi Hills in West Bengal, Amit had his mountaineering training from Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling. While studying in Jadavpur University in Kolkata he joined his first expedition to Jogin group of peaks. Beside leading the venture, he also climbed Jogin II which was the first ascent of the peak. The expedition organised by Jadavpur University Mountaineering & Hiking Club (JUMHC) in 1980 climbed all the three peaks - Jogin I, II and III.

Thereafter with JUMHC and later on after joining Indian Air Force Amit

led a series of expeditions including Kamet & Abi Gamin, Satopanth, Jaonli, Sudarshan and on various peaks in Himachal Pradesh.

The blue riband of his mountaineering career, however, was successfully leading the first Indian Air Force team to the top of Mount Everest via north-east ridge through Tibet during 2005.

Amit also served Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering (IIS & M) in Kashmir as its Principal and held the post of honorary secretary of IMF.

Amit was conferred Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award for his contributions towards mountaineering and allied sports.

## HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE, DARJEELING 66TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AND TENZING NORGAY MTB CHALLENGE – 2ND EDITION

*Gp Capt Jai Kishan*

Introduced in May 2019 on the occasion of 105th Birth Anniversary of late Tenzing Norgay Sherpa the MTB event has gained immense popularity and the public response has been overwhelming. Due to popularity of the event, 109 athletes registered for the event. However, keeping safety in mind and Covid-19 protocol only 75 participants were allowed by HMI for the live race in Darjeeling on 2nd Nov 2020. An approximate 200 riders did virtual MTB race at their own location and completed a distance of 35 kms. The data verification is under progress (these includes NCC cadet, personnel from armed forces also.)

It was encouraging to see that there was good number of participation from Darjeeling and adjoining areas and they have also managed to secure respectable position. For us every participant whether coming from Kolkata or Kerala, Jharkhand or Uttarakhand, Nepal or India, all are equally important. In fact, we encourage wide range participation. However, one of the motive of this event is to encourage and promote local talents and give opportunity to local youths and we are happy to note that our efforts are paying off.

The event has also been glorified by the participation of veterans like Honorary Flight Lieutenant Nizamuddin, an Indian Air Force veteran who is also a hardcore Skier & Cyclist. Team HMI proudly salutes him and wishes him long adventurous life.

MTB Challenge 2nd Edition, which was organized on 2nd Nov 2020 is the only International Event conducted in this region during pandemic period (since 24 Mar no race took place in India for International Athletes). Until 1st October 20, we were unsure whether we'd be able to organize



it or not. A quick decision was taken on 2nd Oct to launch the Event. In depth route recce, grass route planning i.e. operations, administration, support service.

Prize Distribution Ceremony was conducted on the Foundation Day of HMI i.e on the 04th of Nov 2020. Chief Guest of the Ceremony was His Excellency Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor of West Bengal accompanied by first lady Smt. Sudesh Dhankhar. Addl Chief Secretary Shri Satish Chandra Tewary also grace the occasion as a Guest. The Hon'able Governor praised all out efforts put in by team HMI for taking various new initiatives.

Total prize amount of Rs 1.5 lakhs was presented to winner and Special prize for women participants and top ten riders were distributed. The race had an elevation gain of 3000 feet with Off-road steep upslope, formidable forest terrain.

**Names of winner Open Men Category are as follows:**

- 1st Hikmat BK (Nepal)
- 2nd Shri Rajukmar Rai (Darjeeling)
- 3rd Shri Isaac Rai (Kalimpong)

**Winners of Women Category:**

- 1st Ms Priyanka Metha (Uttarkhand)
- 2nd Ms Anju Tamang (Kalimpong)
- 3rd Ms Pragya Chettri (Darjeeling)





## [2020 Banff Mountain Book Competition Award Winners](#)

Category	Book Name	Author & Publisher
Grand Prize	Raven's Witness: The Alaska Life of Richard K. Nelson	Hank Lentfer, Mountaineers Books (USA, 2020)
Adventure Travel	Labyrinth of Ice: The Triumphant and Tragic Greely Polar Expedition	Buddy Levy, St. Martin's Press (USA, 2019)

Mountain Fiction & Poetry	The Bear	Andrew Krivak, Bellevue Literary Press (USA, 2020)
Mountain Literature (Non Fiction) The Jon Whyte Award	Raven's Witness: The Alaska Life of Richard K. Nelson	Hank Lentfer, Mountaineers Books (USA, 2020)
Mountain Environment and Natural History	Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth	Stephen Alter, Aleph Book Company (India, 2019)
Mountain Image	The Wild Coasts of Canada	Scott Forsyth, Rocky Mountain Books (Canada, 2019)
Guidebook	Crack Climbing: The Definitive Guide	Pete Whittaker, Vertebrate Publishing (UK, 2020)/ Mountaineers Books (USA, 2020)
Mountaineering Article	Leper Chai	Jeff Long, Rock & Ice Magazine (USA, March 2020)
Climbing Literature	Emilio Comici: Angel of the Dolomites	David Smart, Rocky Mountain Books (Canada, 2020)
Special Jury Mention	Himalaya: A Human History	Ed Douglas, The Bodley Head, Vintage (UK, 2020)

## [Mussoorie Mountain Festival 2020](#)

Woodstock School's Hanifl Centre for Outdoor Education and Environmental Study is delighted to announce that a virtual, online edition of the Mussoorie Mountain Festival will air on 7, 8 & 9 December, 2020. An exciting lineup of more than 50 mountaineers, photographers, musicians, conservationists and writers are scheduled to give presentations and performances during this unique event, celebrating the diversity of the Himalaya. Please mark your calendars and join us!

The Himalaya are the world's largest classroom and the Mussoorie Mountain Festival includes a wide variety of educational experiences

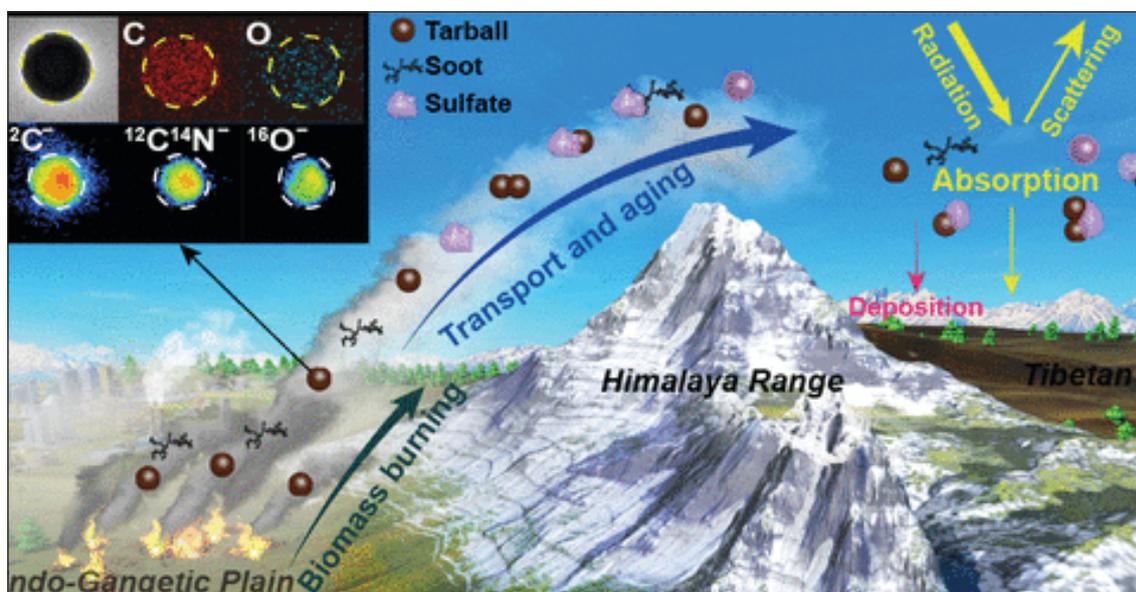


and opportunities in an entertaining and compelling format. In the field of Natural History we have speakers such as Rohit Chakravarty an expert on the bats of Uttarakhand, Dr. Rodney Jackson, the world's foremost authority on snow leopards, and Duke University's Professor Greg Wray speaking about art and biodiversity. Historians Ram Guha and Shekhar Pathak share the stage with publisher Rukun Advani. Poets Mamang Dai and Arvind Krishna Mehrotra will read from their work. India's greatest contemporary explorer, Harish Kapadia, engages with mountaineering legends Sir Chris Bonington, Doug Scott and Stephen Venables in interviews never aired before. Musicians from across the Himalaya, like the Tetseo Sisters of Nagaland and Cadenza Collective from Nepal, will perform new songs recorded for the Mussoorie Mountain Festival 2020.

Don't miss this unforgettable experience, which will open your mind to the full panorama of Himalayan adventure, exploration, scholarship and creativity!

All sessions are free and open to the public, accompanied by an interactive online conversation moderated by Hanifl Centre staff. On each day of the festival sessions will begin at 8:00 pm (IST)/2:30 pm (GMT)/10:30 am (EST). Once each session has been released it will continue to be freely available at any time on Hanifl Centre's YouTube channel.

## Evidence for Large Amounts of Brown Carbonaceous Tarballs in the Himalayan Atmosphere



Primary brown carbon (BrC) co-emitted with black carbon (BC) from biomass burning is an important light-absorbing carbonaceous aerosol. BC from the Indo-Gangetic Plain can reach the Himalaya region and influence glacial melting and climatic change. However, to date, there is still not sufficient direct evidence for primary BrC in the Himalayan atmosphere. Here, we detected light-absorbing tarballs at microscopic scale collected on the northern slope of the Himalayas. We found that about 28% of thousands of individual particles were tarballs. The median sizes of externally mixed tarballs and internally mixed tarballs were 213 and 348 nm, respectively. Air mass trajectories, satellite detection, and Weather Research and Forecasting model coupled to Chemistry (WRF-Chem) simulations all indicated that these tarballs were emitted from biomass burning in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. A climate model simulation shows a significant heating effect (+0.01–4.06 W/m<sup>2</sup>) of the tarballs in the Himalayan atmosphere. We conclude that the tarballs from long-range transport can be an important factor in the climatic effect and would correspond to a substantial influence on glacial melting in the Himalaya region.

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00735>.

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## **Club News**

### [A Workshop On Writing About Mountains](#)

**Online Workshops:** The Himalayan Club is organizing the first of a series of online outdoor writing workshops: “A WORKSHOP ON WRITING ABOUT MOUNTAINS” helmed by Stephen Alter in conjunction with the Mussoorie Mountain Festival 2020 from 04 - 19 Dec 2020.

Stephen Alter, Honorary Local Secretary of Mussoorie section of THC is the author of more than twenty books of fiction and non-fiction. He was born in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, India and much of his writing focuses on the Himalayan region. WILD HIMALAYA: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth (Aleph 2019), his most recent work of non-fiction, received the 2020 Banff Mountain Book Award in the Mountain Environment and Natural History category. Becoming a Mountain: Himalayan Journeys in Search of the Sacred and the Sublime (Aleph 2014) received the Kekoo Naoroji Award for Himalayan Literature. He has written extensively on natural history, folklore and mountain culture. Stephen Alter is founding director of the Mussoorie Mountain Festival.

### [Exclusive Skiing Programme at Solang](#)

**Skiing Programme :** The Himalayan Club presents an exclusive skiing programme at Solang, Manali for THC Members. Learn the basics of skiing in the 8 day programme organized by The Himalayan Club. At the end of the course, you can ski down the basic slope, and learn how to stop, (without falling over!), do a snow plough turn, parallel turn etc.

Dates: 23rd Dec, 2020 to 30th Dec, 2020 (Batch 1)

2nd Jan 2021 to 9th Jan, 2021 (Batch 2)



For more details follow link at :

<https://www.himalayanclub.org/downloads/offers/THC-Skiing-programme.pdf>

## **In Memorium**

### **[Ang Rita Sherpa](#)**

*Bikram PandeKaaji*

For the first time I heard of Ang Rita was in early eighties. But later I met him number of times along the Everest trail in course of my professional career. As I myself was involved in organizing Mount Everest expeditions in multiple brands. As a human being, Ang Rita was a very humble, sober and a gentle family man. He was a man of high dignity and caliber. He was a man of himself, a self styled man, aloof and enjoyed being away of mixing with the crowd. But he stood out as a macho mountaineer of outstanding heroism. I pray for his eternal peace in the heavenly abode.

Ang Rita was born in 1948 in Yillajung in the Everest Region in a humble family. For the livelihood, his family reared yaks and most of time in his childhood he was there looking after the yaks and made an errand as a



porter on trading expeditions across the Himalayas to Tibet. He started his career in mountaineering as a porter at the age of 15 devoid of formal education.

He became an extremely successful mountaineer and was given prestigious awards from the Government of Nepal and abroad for his achievement in the mountaineering. In his long career in mountaineering, the most remarkable achievement was climbing Mount Everest ten times without using supplementary oxygen during the period of 1983 to 1996 for which this phenomenal achievement got recorded in the Guinness Book of World Record.

He climbed Mount Everest, K2, Cho Oyu, Lhotse, Manaslu, Annapurna and Dhaulagiri, multiple times without supplementary oxygen. He was given a Title of Snow Leopard because of his fierce and accurate sense of when to attack the Summit by the civil society as well as mountaineers fraternity of Nepal. He died peacefully in Kathmandu on September 21st, 2020 at the age of 72.

## Product Review

### The Himalayan Club “Vocal for Local” Campaign BLUE BOLT SOLO QUILT

Wg Cdr (Retd) Sudhir Kutty

THC’s “Vocal for Local” Campaign is a small endeavour to promote Indian entrepreneurs , who are creating good quality adventure equipment and to reach out to all adventure enthusiasts in India.

In each edition of this E-letter, we will aim to introduce good quality innovative products by indigenous manufacturers along with reviews by experts after extensive field trials .

#### BLUE BOLT SOLO QUILT Solo Quilt v4.0

Blue Bolt custom quilts combine an integrated hood and an advanced moisture and heat loss management system with the innovative Climashield Apex Insulation for a more restful sleep outdoors.

The comfort-rated quilt helps hikers stay warm in extreme cold and wet conditions by combining into a single ultralight and compact package a bivy shell, a vapor barrier liner, Climashield insulation and a thermally-efficient contoured 3D design.



The Solo Quilt’s softer handfeel 10D bivy shell and vapor barrier liner prevents both internal and external moisture from touching the insulation, and maintains its full thermal efficiency in cold conditions, preventing any heat loss through convection and evaporation.

The unique anatomical quilt design allows the Solo Quilt user to vary their coverage and fine tune their warmth level.

The Solo Quilt features a contoured design that cocoons the users

without feeling restrictive. The extra long cut allows the user to cover the head to keep warm with a box construction that lifts the material off one's face to avoid the claustrophobic feeling.

The quilt also have a draft stopper system made with breathable fabric and pad attachment system to avoid the cold drafts from getting in while users sleep.

Blue Bolt offers free custom sizing for men, women and even kids. And is available in 4 different comfort temperature ratings. Solo Quilt is ultralight and packs down small.

About Blue Bolt Blue Bolt was founded in 2019 by Huzefa Siamwala, a keen adventure enthusiast. Initially setting out as "make your own gear" project for his mountaineering expeditions in the Himalayas, he started researching into ultralight equipment for independent exploration.

With its own in-house design and production team in Mumbai, the Blue Bolt team is currently designing next-generation of lightweight, functional outdoor gear made from latest materials that empower users to hike safely with a lighter pack. Blue Bolt was one of top 5 finalists in the Crowdfunded Summit 2020 Pitch Competition program, and has been manufacturing in-house since 2019.

For more detailed information, visit their website at <http://blueboltgear.com/>.

**Review by Peter Van Geit, Ultralight athlete and Trans-Himalayan trekke**

"I completed a 4-month exploration / alpine style / minimalist / ultra hike across 120 passes in Uttarakhand, Himachal, Ladakh (Indian Himalayas) and had a very positive experience in using the Blue Bolt solo quilt.

It's super light and comfortable even while sleeping at near zero temperatures. I did not carry a tent and was mostly sleeping in the open with just the quilt and basic Decathlon Quecha sleeping mat. I only used a lightweight bivy in case of rains and cold winds in which the quilt again was providing comfort and warmth from 1000 to 5000 meters altitude.

The quilt never had any condensation and easily dries when wet. When sleeping in the open, it nicely cuts the cold wind. One of the best items in my minimalist gear this year!"



## Editorial

*Nilay Chakraborty*

At the fourth issue (since I took over) of the E Letter, I have gathered enough courage to write this editorial. Though christened as an editorial, this is everything other than that. It's just me paying gratitude in written words, to the people who had faith in me and encouraged me all the way to be the editor of the E Letter. Thank you Wg.Cdr(Retd) Sudhir Kutty for asking me to do this, Nandini Purandare for having faith in me, Tom Nakamura for being ever helpful and inspiration, Ravi Mariwala for guiding me, ever encouraging Manik Banerjee and last but not the least Harish Kapadia who taught me, scolded me, rectified me and encouraged me to carry on. Without you all whatever that is being done would not have been possible.

Since I will hardly be writing editorials, I as the editor take the liberty to commence a new section which will focus on little known Himalayan facts that I have come across on my many sojourns to the Himalaya. These are mainly from the lower or middle Himalaya which is so vibrant with its people, flora and fauna. If the great Himalaya is heavenly then the lower

and middle Himalaya is lovely for sure. I have been encouraged by Bill Aitken's "Mountain Delight", and I have named this section

### **HIMALAYAN TIT BIT.**

The first one will be tracing the footprints of the famous mountaineer Mallory in Darjeeling. A pair of oxygen cylinder of the fabled 1924 Everest expedition along with many photographs is kept at the billiard room of the Tea Planters Club, Darjeeling. The club has many more interesting collection and its worth a visit.



Mallory also stayed in The Ivanhoe House, Darjeeling which is one of the oldest building of Darjeeling built in 1841 by Mrs. Mackie, owner of Mokrung Tea Estate in Assam.



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