



THE HIMALAYAN CLUB

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The Himalayan Club e-Letter

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Annual Seminar

The Himalayan Club Annual Seminar 2021

By Wg Cdr(Retd) Sudhir Kutty

The Annual seminar 2021 of The Himalayan Club around the theme 'Perennial Winters' was a three-day online event this year. It premiered on the Club's Facebook page and on You Tube simultaneously on March 5th 6th and 7th, 2021. Keeping in line with the theme, eminent mountaineers spoke on various subjects related to the Himalaya.

Club President Padmashree Motup Goba inaugurated the seminar from his Ladakh base. He sent out a passionate appeal to all involved in the sport of mountaineering to be responsible towards the environment. He appealed to all to respect the locals and their life styles and desist from degradation of their forests and mountainsides. Tourism should not lead to destruction of the local environment on which their livelihood and very life depended.

He also announced this year's Garud Medal winner, Konchuk Thinles and invited him to accept the citation and speak to members.

Bernadette McDonald gave the Kaivan Mistry Memorial lecture on her book 'Winter 8000'. She discussed 8000 m winter climbs that challenge human strength, resilience and sheer grit. Aided with visuals it was an interesting and inspiring lecture.

Prerna Dangi , our very own country girl told an inspiring story of how the sport of ice climbing has been introduced in India and how her pioneering efforts are starting to bear fruit, as many young Indians are taking up this sport in right earnest.

Mark Richey and Steven Swenson, courtesy The Alpine Club, shared the story of their ascent of Link Sar in Pakistan with their friends Chris and Graham. The climb came alive as they transported their viewers with their amazing photographs

The list of speakers on the second day was equally impressive.

Natalie Berry has translated Elisabeth Revol's book of survival on Nanga Parbat, 'To Live: Fighting for Life on the Killer Mountain' from the original French. She gave interesting insights into her book and the elusive

Elisabeth. The book and its translation did complete justice to the story of the impressive climb, survival, drama and tragedy that unfolded for Elisabeth Revol on this killer mountain.

'Kungzang Kangri – The First Ascent' was a talk by Kristjan Erik, an Estonian alpinist and mountaineer, on his maiden climb and exploration in Ladakh. The peak Kungzan Kangri (6751 m) is in the Eastern Karakoram.

The Mountaineers' Mountaineer Mick Fowler, author, Pilot D'or winner for three years, spoke on his first ascent of Sersank and his enduring friendship with Victor Saunders – 'Sersank - A Story of Friendship' was an enthralling and inspiring talk.

The evening ended with an interesting interview with Jamling Tenzing Norgay, son of the legendary mountaineer, Tenzing Norgay. In his own right Jamling is an Everester, a guide and author of the book 'Touching My Fathers Soul'. He was in conversation with our Club's Editor Nandini Purandare and Deepa Balsaver her colleague on The Sherpa Project. He stressed on the need for the Sherpas to protect their culture.

Finally the seminar wrapped up on Day 3 with another interesting line up of speakers.

Peter Van Geit, ultra runner, alpinist, minimalist, mountaineer and multiple records breaker spoke on his wonderful journeys through the mountains and his accomplishments along the way. His most wonderful experiences were with the villagers he met along the way and their generosity.

Rupin Dang an avid lover of the Himalaya and its flora and fauna shared with viewers a series of short films and vignettes, highlighting the urgent concerns of the Himalayan environment and its short and long term repercussions. He also shared rare footage on a snow leopard hunt that has never been captured on camera ever before.

Prof Shekhar Pathak, spoke on the topic closest to his heart - protecting the Himalaya. He spoke about natural disasters in the Himalaya and the responsibility we have to protect and preserve the Himalayan ranges. He stressed on the importance of the ecological and bio-socio-cultural diversity of this range. He sent out a strong appeal for responsible tourism and responsible development.

Kuntal Joisher an Everester, who has climbed in various mountain ranges and an acclaimed photographer was in conversation with his climbing pal Mingma Tenzi Sherpa on the latter's historic first winter ascent of K2 with Nimsdai Purja and the Nepali Sherpa team in 2020. The humble and charming Mingma won the hearts of all the viewers with his honest and simple narrative of the climb.

The annual seminar ended with a vote of thanks to all. We would specially like to thank our presenter Uttara Purandare who hosted the show and Andrew Desouza for the smooth handling of our social media and video uploading.

Climbs, Treks and Explorations

[Winter Exploration in Lahaul](#)

Debabrata Mukherjee



Returning to camp 1 after load ferry

“Improvisation and Changing the disadvantages to advantages are the two major characters of quality Mountaineering”.

While the Pandemic stole the popular pre-monsoon and post-monsoon climbing season from the Indian Mountaineers in 2020, most of the mountaineers and trekkers took it as the hit by the destiny.



Camp 1



After 7 days of snowfall

However, we wanted to reap as much as possible from this situation with our limited resources. We thought of trying a pure winter exploration & if possible to climb an unnamed, unclimbed 6000m peak in the Lahaul Himalayas.

We also had to think about the budget, enthusiasm and experience of the young team members. Taking all into consideration finally

we found our goal.

Pt. 6044m towering over the true left bank of Billing Nala near Keylong. However we tried it from Darcha side from Chikka.

A team of 11 members led by Debabrata Mukherjee went for that exploration from 17/11 - 08/12/2020 without any Sherpa, Guide etc.

The first mountaineering team that crossed the Atal Tunnel in winter and reached the last road head Palamau on 21st November. The severe winter temperature (-23°C) with continuous snowing and high wind made our movements very difficult. We got only 5 sunny days (out of 15days) without snowing. The fresh & dry powdery snow over 60°+ Scree & boulder zone made every step a trap. The waist to chest-deep snow was difficult to tread through. We could establish our base camp after 10 days only after several route opening and load ferrying days. On 3rd December we reached the highest point of our exploration at 4767m on a sunny morning. But the weather forecast wasn't good for the next few days again. So we decided to return. This experience of climbing in winter will surely help us to plan better in future. Thanks to IMF for helping us by lending proper equipment from its store.

News and Personalities

Yuri Gagarin and Indian mountaineers!

Suman Dubey

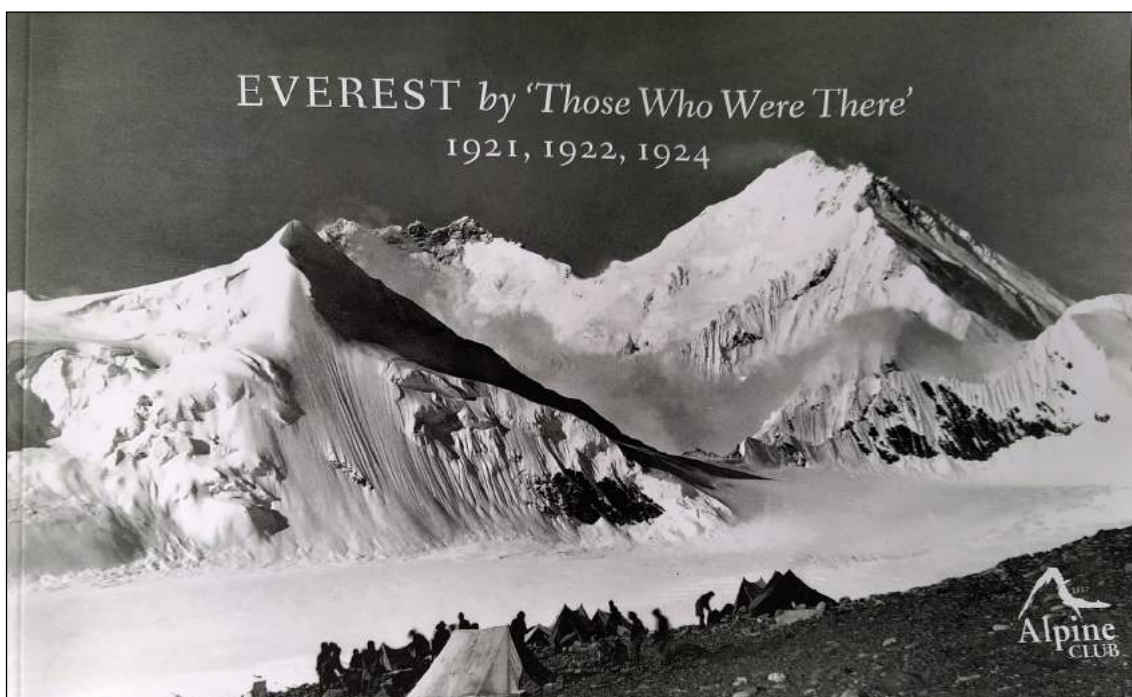


The 60th anniversary of the first space flight by a human being — Yuri Gagarin launched into a single earth orbit at the top of a Vostok I rocket on 12 April 1961 — reminded me of an unexpected meeting all those decades ago. On his triumphant world tour Gagarin came to India and I was one of a handful of guests invited by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to meet him at tea - there weren't any Indian spacemen so they chose the next best thing - mountaineers! Nehru was partial

to climbers, as is well known, and I'd just come back from Nanda Devi and ascents of Maiktoli and Devistan. I have a souvenir lapel pin that Gagarin gave me. He was a small man who spoke no English. But it was his captivating smile that left quite an impression. Nehru saw him handing me something and strolled over to ask, क्या दिया तूम्हें ? I showed him the pin and he smiled. So this has been touched by two unique individuals....

Everest Exhibition

By Harish Kapadia



A major exhibition is held at the Alpine Club, London to celebrate 100th Anniversary of the First attempt of Everest. See [www.http://alpine-club.org.uk/](http://alpine-club.org.uk/) for full details. They have published a special booklet titled "EVEREST by Those Who Were There, 1921, 1922, 1924."

This booklet covers history early Everest attempts and with historic photos. A special Two Page spread of panorama from Pang La of Everest is printed. Photographed by Kunj Trivedi, who is Patron of The Himalayan Club.

The exhibition is on for long time and the booklet, which is collector's item, is available on above website.



Panorama from Pang La of Everest by Kunj Trivedi

This exhibition celebrates the centennial of the 1921 reconnaissance of Mount Everest and the first attempts to reach the summit in 1922 and 1924. It uses the words of the expedition members themselves to tell the story, from the first suggestions to tackle the mountain made in the 19th century to the successes and failures of the first expeditions and final tragedy of 1924. Through the climbers' diaries, journals and letters, through their art work and photographs, and from their clothing and equipment, visitors to the exhibition will gain new insight into how these men thought and what they accomplished.

The Alpine Club's Honorary Librarian Barbara Grigor-Taylor compiled the material for the exhibition and wrote the catalogue. She was assisted by the Club's Keepers of Photographs and of Artefacts, and by the Honorary Archivist. Such a wide range of material from Alpine Club Collections covering the first three Everest expeditions has not been shown before now; some items are shown for the first time in a century. The catalogue reflects this; it is a compelling companion piece to the exhibition, reproducing every item shown, and is a collector's item in itself.

[Expedition Brief And Press Release](#) [Historic Imf Indian Everest Massif Expedition 2021](#) [Summary Of Achievements](#)

The expedition was organized and conducted by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation or IMF, which is the Apex National Body for Mountaineering and Allied activities in India. The expedition was sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India.

The expedition and has been path breaking in many ways as follows :-

1. Never before in the history of the Everest Massif, major peaks namely Nuptse (7861m), Pumori (7161m), Lhotse (8516m) and Everest (8848.86m) have been attempted by an Indian team or even perhaps from any other country in the world.
2. This was the smallest Indian team comprising of 14 climbing members to attempt 4 major mountains, with an average of 3.5 climbers per mountain, thus ensuring minimum environmental foot print and human impact on the already fragile environment of these hard pressed mountains.
3. The expedition was undertaken during the very challenging pandemic times of Covid 19 and faced the full onslaught of Cyclones Yaas and an extended fallout of Tauktae. Following all protocols and observing mountain safety at all times, the expedition achieved its assigned objectives in excellent shape and form, without any mishap or injuries. The expedition did not have a single case of Covid.
4. This was the first Indian team to attempt the very challenging Nuptse (7861m) and reached within striking distance of the summit from the north face of the mountain.
5. IMF Indian Everest Expedition -2021 team made the first Indian ascent of Pumori (7161m) also known as the 'Killer Mountain', from the north west ridge of the mountain. 100% members of Team Pumori climbed, including the first Indian woman.
5. Lhotse (8516m), the fourth highest mountain of the world was successfully scaled from the west face. 100% members of the Team



Lhotse climbed, including the second Indian woman.

6. Everest (8848.86m), was climbed from the traditional South East ridge of the mountain. 100% members of Team Everest climbed the mountain.
7. Lobuche (6119m) was climbed by all team members during the acclimatisation phase.
8. In keeping with the spirit of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' and the effort of the Nepalese Army to clean the mountain, the expedition contributed its bit, by undertaking cleaning of the Khumbu Glacier, despite the Covid threat and adverse weather conditions .
9. The expedition earned enormous goodwill as it treated many Sherpas for medical ailments at the Base Camp. This was gratefully acknowledged by the Sherpas. In addition, the team treated and provided medical aid to the hardy Yak herders, as requested.

Launching the first-ever global survey on waste in mountains

From theuiaa.org. 22 March 2021



GRID-Arendal, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment

Programme, international mountain sports and guiding federations – including the UIAA, and other partners, is launching the 2021 Mountain Waste Survey. This is the first-ever global survey of the public on waste in mountain areas.

More than 1.1 billion people live in mountain regions, and millions more visit mountains every day. Most of us who spend time in mountain areas have seen litter problems first-hand, but there has been little formal information gathering or study of the issue.

The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey is designed to help plug this crucial knowledge gap, by gathering information about waste from mountain residents and visitors around the world. The organisers invite people from all walks of life to complete this survey, including the general public, mountain sports enthusiasts, scientists and researchers, NGO staff, government officials, and those working in the agriculture and forestry sectors. The survey is available in English, French, German, Spanish, and Russian, and takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

“This is an exciting joint initiative that demonstrates and supports our collaboration as stipulated in the MoU signed between the UIAA and UNEP, with GRIDA in 2019. We encourage all UIAA member associations to participate,” explained UIAA Mountain Protection Commission President Dr Carolina Adler.

By sharing your experiences, observations, and opinions, you can help keep mountain environments as we like them – clean. The survey has been designed to generate new knowledge about types and volumes of waste, sources and drivers of waste, and solutions that have been implemented or could be tried. GRIDA will use the information gathered to advocate to policy makers and governing bodies for better waste management and clean-up.

About the Survey

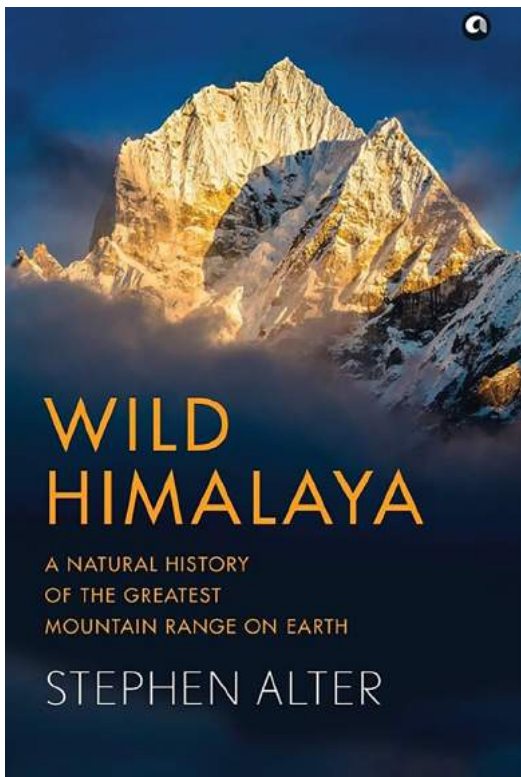
Important actors in the international mountain community have come together to increase knowledge about waste in mountains and address this growing problem, and the 2021 Mountain Waste Survey grew out of this partnership. The survey was designed by GRID-Arendal,

in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA), the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA), the Kilian Jornet Foundation, the Union of International Mountain Leader Associations (UIMLA), and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS). The survey will remain open until the end of April. The results will be summarised in a short report, which will be sent to all interested survey participants, and will also feed into a larger report on waste in remote and mountainous areas being prepared by GRID-Arendal for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Club News

The Himalayan Club Kekoo Naoroji Book Award for Himalayan Literature Ceremony 2021

By Wg Cdr(Retd) Sudhir Kutty



This year in keeping with the new normal and following the pandemic protocol, THC Kekoo Naoroji Book Award Ceremony, awarded to the best book on Himalayan literature published during 2020 was organized by The Himalayan Club and The Godrej family as an online event. The award ceremony was premiered on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel on Saturday, 29th May 2021. This year we had extended the publication date and the submission date for the award, in order to get maximum entries, given the uncertainty and courier delays because of the

pandemic. The response we got was better than ever before and the following books were shortlisted:

The Books

Name of Book	Author
Wild Himalaya -	Stephen Alter
TheWorld Beneath their Feet-	Scott Ellsworth
The Last Great Mountain	Mick Conefrey
Himalaya - A Human History	Ed Douglas
Blue Sky Kingdom-	Bruce Kirby
Winter 8000	Bernadette McDonald
To live-Fighting for life	Elizabeth Revol
Beyond Possible	Nimsdai Purja
Frozen River	James Crowden
Nine Lives	Robert Mads Andersen
Kashmir: A Journey through History	Garry Weare
The Moth and the Mountain	Ed Ceasar

The Jury

The Jury comprised of Stephen Goodwin as Chairman, Rama Goyal and Nandini Purandare.

Stephen Goodwin is a mountaineer and journalist. After a career as a political reporter on The Times and The Independent he quit the surreal 'Westminster village' for a real village in Cumbria, UK. From there, for 10 years (2004-2013), he edited the prestigious Alpine Journal. He is the author of three mountain guidebooks. In 1998 Stephen reached the south summit of Everest, filing an award-winning diary to The Independent. He is still active as a climber and ski-mountaineer.

Rama Goyal is an avid mountain lover and has trekked in Nepal and the Indian Himalaya. When she is not thinking about the mountains, she is a freelance copy editor and economist who worked with many national and international think-tanks and organizations. She has been Senior Editor at Oxford University Press (OUP), Consulting Editor for The Financial Express newspaper, and Lecturer at St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. She studied at Welham Girls' School, Dehradun, Lady Shri Ram College for Women and Delhi School of Economics at the University of Delhi, and Trinity College, University of Cambridge.

Nandini Purandare loves the Himalaya and loves books. After having

trekked and travelled in the Himalaya for over forty years she continues to find ways to staying connected. Therefore she edits the Himalayan Journal, actively participates in the working of the Himalayan Club, works on Juries like the KN and Banff Mountain book competitions and importantly works with her colleague Deepa Balsavar towards creating an Oral History Archive of the Climbing Sherpas of Darjeeling.

The Presentation

Our special guest for this event on behalf of The Godrej family which has instituted this award was none other than Dr Pheroza Godrej. An art-historian and Chairperson of the Godrej Archives Council, Dr Godrej is also the founder of the Cymroza Art Gallery Mumbai. Dr Godrej wears many hats – she is a member of the Apex Committee of the National Gallery of Modern Art, the Chairperson of the Museum Society of Bombay, and President Emeritus of the National Society of the Friends of the Trees. She is also a former Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai and is a trustee of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum and Impact India Foundation. Most importantly, she has been an unflinching pillar of support to The Himalayan Club, through the Pirojsha Godrej Foundation. Most of us know that Godrej has always been a crusader for a better world with initiatives that benefit the environment, the endangered forests, wildlife, mangroves and, above all, our climate. The Pirojsha Godrej Foundation supports among others, The World Wide Fund for Nature - India

Dr Pheroza Godrej announced the winning book 'Wild Himalaya' by Stephen Alter and 'virtually' presented the award.

The Jury Statement

On behalf of the Jury and incorporating all observations, Stephen Goodwin read out the Jury statement which is reproduced here:

The 2020 Kekoo Naoroji Award has been a long road for us three jury members. The Covid-19 pandemic caused protracted delays in book distribution—a minor inconvenience set against so much human tragedy—such that it became necessary to extend the entry period and the jury submission deadlines by several months. This resulted in what

is probably a record number of 12 books to read. First of all, therefore, I would like to thank my jury colleagues Nandini Purandare and Rama Goyal for their forbearance during the struggle to secure all the books and then their thoughtful consideration of each and every entry. We owe a big thank-you to Meher Desouza at the Himalayan Club office for her hard work, harrying all those publishers.

What a pleasure it has been to have so much diverse writing about, or set within, the Himalaya to immerse ourselves in during the long periods of lockdowns and home isolation. The 12 entries ranged from gripping climbing narratives, through rose-tinted reminiscences to weighty scholarship on religion and Himalayan dynasties. How do you judge between a perilous near-death descent from Nanga Parbat in winter (Elisabeth Revol's *To Live*), the tension between myth and reality in our understanding of the Himalaya (Ed Douglas's *Himalaya: A Human History*), and the Himalaya and all its inhabitants, natural and human, coming alive in lyric prose (Stephen Alter's *Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth*), amongst others? It is as if one has to choose between apples and oranges.

But choose we must, looking to common factors: literary merit, a furthering of our understanding of the Himalaya, reader engagement; in short, a story well-told, page after page that sings, we hope, with the voice of the mountains. Most of the entries had one or more of these qualities, but one book captivated us all—*Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth* by Stephen Alter, our choice as the winner of the 2020 Kekoo Naoroji Award.

Though *Wild Himalaya* is described in its subtitle as a 'natural history', it is anything but an academic tome and takes in a rich store of myth and creation stories as well as the scientific. Stephen writes with the sensibility of a poet; every page is touched with a certain beauty, though darkly so when he laments man's destructive impact on the Himalaya and the planet as a whole. He is adept at using the personal and particular to discuss the bigger issue, for example, a cloudburst overflowing the gutters of his Landour home opens the way to reflections on global warming and the droughts, forest fires and floods that beset the Himalaya.

Every page in this book is a reason why Himalayan wilderness is worth saving. As one jury member pointed out: ‘Stephen’s telling of mythology and oral histories that have tried to make sense of the world for centuries is absolutely matchless. These stories are representative of how it is perfectly possible to be an atheist and still place value on the mysteries, spiritual explanations and myths that abound our rich culture. I love this balance. The most important element, apart from the amazing mythology based stories, are the stories of the little known heroes of the wilderness, the conservationists and scientists doing their best to conserve bits and pieces of the natural Himalaya.’

Another jury member found *Wild Himalaya* to be a ‘truly magical’ book: “Personal memoir, travelogue, history, folklore, myths, legends, flora, fauna, forest, geography, origins, treks and climbs combine with little known stories in a lyrical style, bringing alive the Himalaya in a unique way through all its inhabitants and constituents—rocks, stones, rivers, birds, butterflies, plants and trees, martens, goats, sheep and other animals, rhododendrons, blue poppies, etc.—the Himalaya belongs to all of them too apart from we human beings. They are all players and stakeholders in the past, present, and future of the Himalaya. *Wild Himalaya* reminds us of this fact. There is a sense that the author is deeply aware of the entire ecosystem around him in the Himalaya, natural and human, and that the Himalaya is an intrinsic part of him, starting with the house ‘Oakville’ where he lives in Landour and the history associated with it.”

There are passages of *Wild Himalaya* that weave a kind of enchantment. One chapter describes how the heroic legends of the Garhwal are recited by village bards who accompany their story telling with the percussive beat of a dhol and damaun—a musical tradition known as Dhol Sagar: an ‘ocean of drumming’. It is, writes Stephen, an aural text, ‘part of the ethereal soundscape of the Himalaya’.

This is lyric prose of a high order. Stephen Alter and his Indian publisher, the Aleph Book Company, are to be congratulated on this remarkable addition to the literature on the Himalaya.

The Author

Stephen Alter 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*, his most recent work of non-fiction, received the 2020 Banff Mountain Book Award in the Mountain Environment and Natural History category and now the Kekoo Naoroji Book Award (his second). *Becoming a Mountain: Himalayan Journeys in Search of the Sacred and the Sublime* received the Kekoo Naoroji Book Award for Himalayan Literature just a few years ago. He has written extensively on natural history, folklore and mountain culture, particularly in his travel memoir *Sacred Waters: A Pilgrimage to the Many Sources of the Ganga*. Educated at Woodstock School and Wesleyan University, Alter has taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, where he was director of the writing programme for seven years. Following this, he was writer-in-residence at MIT for ten years, where he taught courses in creative writing. Among the honours he has received are fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Fulbright Program, the East West Centre in Hawaii, and the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture. Stephen Alter is founding director of the Mussoorie Mountain Festival.

ON receiving the award, Stephen Alter spoke on one of the most unusual subjects and made it most interesting. He spoke on the bibliography of his book. Stating that every book is a product of several books, he detailed different authors whose books had influenced him and inspired him. Each experience, his chats with so many influencers and experts, his reading of many books that came his way, made *Wild Himalaya* the rich literature that it is.

The evening was hosted by Uttara and Ratnesh Javeri lent technical support. Our thanks to them.

THC Himalayan Trail Mapping Project

The Himalayan Club has initiated an ambitious project to trail map all the trekking routes in the Indian Himalaya and establish a trusted platform for the trekking community to connect with each other and create an authentic database with detailed information via a mobile App.

The Himalayan Trail App will be designed to provide

- Interactive offline trail maps, highlighting offbeat and lesser known treks and trails and loads of information including photos and videos related to the route, waypoints enroute, elevation and terrain data, water sources, local flora & fauna, danger areas, alternate routes and all such relevant information



- Users will also be able to record and create trekking tracks based on GPS data, mark Points of Interest, capture Geotagged photos and videos and other information through the App while on the trek, even in offline mode, generating valuable trail metadata for the benefit of the adventure community.

Accurate and reliable data collection is the key to creating a comprehensive App, as the trail metadata has to be compiled for over thousands of Himalayan treks and trails, which is not feasible without the active involvement of the trekking community at large.

The Himalayan Club is seeking assistance from trekkers to share vital route details generated during their previous/ forthcoming treks, which will help the Club to create a robust mobile App for the community. Due credit will be given to all the contributors for the shared data .

Trail Information required

GPS recorded tracks

Geographic coordinates of Waypoints/ Checkpoints such as Bridges, River crossing point, Track junction, prominent landmarks, major turns, lakes/water body, temples etc

Elevation data : Major Heights, Gradient, type of slopes etc

Geotagged photos and videos along the route

Information regarding alternative routes, local dangers

Photos of local flora- flowers/ fruits etc, wildlife

Mobile connectivity along the route

Any other relevant information

Contact us at info@himalayanclub.org for more details

The Himalayan Club Online Writing Workshops

By Mehar Desouza

The Himalayan Club began a series of writing workshops late last year. The first workshop was conducted by Stephen Alter in December 2020. Enthused by the response, THC conducted its second online writing workshop for members and friends in May 2021.

Participants were truly privileged to have acclaimed author Bernadette McDonald conduct one set. Bernadette shared her experiences and methodology that went into writing her latest book *Winter 8000*.

Our very own The Himalayan Journal Editor and Managing Committee member Nandini Purandare and her colleague Deepa Balsaver conducted the other set. They shared their knowledge on interviewing, transcribing and collating material and transforming this material into stories. Their work was based on collecting oral histories as part of The Sherpa Project.

The workshop was intended for those who wished to share their observations, stories and information with others through the written word, with a specific focus on writing essays and articles about mountains and related subjects.

The workshop was spread over two weekends and the participants were given a month to research and write their assignments.

The number of participants was limited to a maximum of 15 persons. However a spate of registrations within the first 24 hours, saw us close the acceptance. 24 members were given a chance to participate in the workshop.

The primary texts read by the participants were:

- Winter 8000 – Bernadette McDonald
- Specific articles and transcriptions by The Sherpa Project

All registered participants received instructions, assignment and guidelines for the workshop during the first session of the workshops. A month later, in the second session, they were all mentored individually on their submissions.

They were also given an opportunity to have their work published in the forthcoming The Himalayan Journal if considered worthy.

The workshop was well received and the participants requested The Himalayan Club to organize more such workshops.

[John Porter](#)

By Harish Kapadia



John Porter is from England, though originally from the USA. He is a well-known climber of our generation as his CV will tell you. He has climbed in India and in many ranges in the world.

He is an author, mountain movie expert and authority on mountain training.

- His climbs are of high class-route like South Buttress of Changabang, First ascent of Chong Kumdan I , 7091 m in East Karakoram, West Ridge of Everest and many others.
- 1977: First ascent of the N.E. Face of Koh-y-Bandaka in the Hindu Kush
- Attempts of new routes on Shivling, K2, Kedar Dome and Sepu Kangri.
- With Brian Hall and Jim Curran created the Kendal Mountain Festival in 1980 Director of same until 2008

- Vice President of the British Mountaineering Council 1994-97
- Alpine Club Committee Member 2011-12, Vice President 2013-14 and President of the Alpine Club 2017-19.
- Raised the fund for and project managed the National Mountaineering Exhibition 2001
- Secretary to Mountain Heritage Trust and Trustee until 2019
- Published writer and photographer: One Day as a Tiger Grand Prize winner Banff Mountain Book Festival 2014 – now in seven languages
- Presenter, Film and Literature judge at Mountain Festivals including Banff, Trento, Telluride, Tergensee, Teplice, Leh, Kathmandu, Bahcko, Ljubljana, Zakopane, Ladak, Mumbai, Ulju, Words by the Water (Keswick), Abelore, Fowey, the Royal Geographical Society and Warsaw Book Festival

He has a long association with The Himalayan Club and has visited our Club office and lectured at the club few times. He is as a regular contributor to the Himalayan Journal.

The Himalayan Club is proud to elect him an Honorary Member.

[Prof. Shekhar Pathak](#)

By Harish Kapadia



Shekhar Pathak (born: 1950) taught in Kumaon University for more than 3 decades, had been Fellow of Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla (1995-98) and Centre for Contemporary Study, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi (2005-09).

He has worked on different aspects of Himalayan history, culture, folk lore and Himalayan explorations. His works on coolie begar system, forest movements, Languages of Uttarakhand, Himalayan Histories and definitive biography of

explorer Nain Singh Rawat are well known. He is associated with Askot Arakot Abhiyans, other Himalayan study tours; People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI); PAHAR Foundation and edits the journal PAHAR (Mountain). He worked with the team of New School, New York on the Kailas Trans-Boundary Sacred Landscape Project. More than 25 research scholars did Ph.D. under his supervision. He served as Member of many high committees.

Shekhar Pathak has been travelling in Indian Himalayan regions/states, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet for last 40 years. To mention a few of his travels are his three journeys to Mt. Kailas and Lake Manasarovar, four journeys to four sides of Mt. Chomolungma/Mt. Everest (Nepal, Sikkim and Tibet), Five Askot Arakot Abhiyans (1974, 84, 94, 2004 and 2014) from eastern to western borders of Uttarakhand Himalaya covering 1150 km on foot, each time.

He has crossed many passes of the Himalaya. He did some journeys on the footprints of Webb and Raper, William Moorcroft, Schlagintweit Brothers, Nain Singh Rawat, Kishan Singh Rawat and Rahul Sankrityayan in Himalaya and Tibet. He has also travelled in some mountain regions outside India including Pakistan.

He edited 21 volumes of PAHAR (A journal devoted to Himalayan Studies); delivered hundreds of lectures and organized visual presentations on different Himalaya associated subjects in India and some other countries.

He was awarded Padmashri by President of India in 2007 and Rahul Sankrityayan Award in 2008. Recently his works on Chipko Movement 'Hari Bhari Ummeed' and 'Chipko Movement: A People's History' and collection of his essays and lectures titled 'Dastan-i-Himalaya' (2 volumes) are published. His The Chipko Movement, was edited by Ramchandra Guha, who wrote a long introduction to the book and was of high praise and respect for his work.

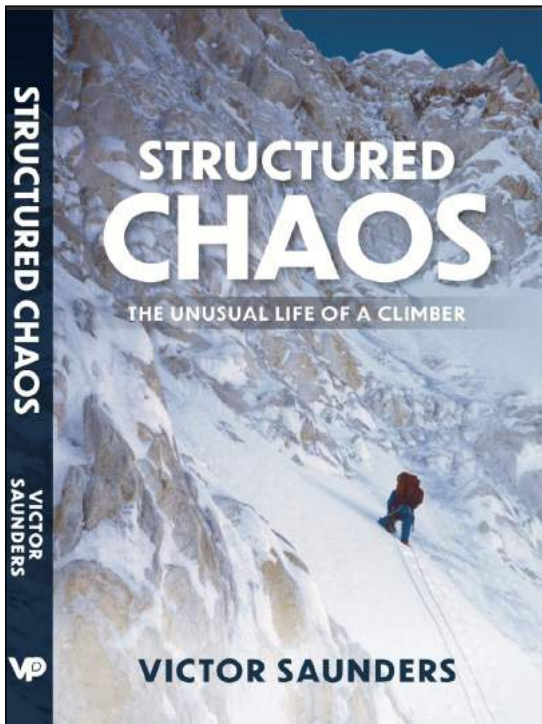
He has lectured to the Club and written articles for the Journal. The Himalayan Club is proud to elect him as an Honorary Member.

The Himalayan Club Virtual Event

The Himalayan Club organised a virtual event on Sunday 9th May, 2021, with acclaimed mountaineer and multiple award winning author, Victor Saunders as our Guest Speaker, in conversation with Divyesh Muni, Vice President of The Himalayan Club and our past Assistant Editor of The Himalayan Journal, Muslim Contractor. All three of them have been climbing partners and share a bonhomie that made the talk interesting and exciting.

A little bit about **Victor Saunders**

Victor started climbing in the Alps in 1978 and has climbed in the Caucasus, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan.



He became a UIAGM mountain guide in 1996 after a career as an architect in London.

He relocated to Chamonix, France and became a member of the SNGM (National Syndicate of French Mountain Guides) in 2003.

He has been on more than ninety expeditions in mountain ranges including the Himalaya and Karakoram, and estimates that he has spent seven years of his life under canvas.

His previous books include Elusive Summits, which won the Boardman Tasker Prize for Mountain Literature in 1990; No Place to Fall; and Himalaya: The Tribulations of Mick & Vic, co-written with Mick Fowler, which won the Grand Prize at the Passy International Mountain Book Festival in 2015.

Divyesh Muni

Divyesh Muni our Vice President, himself an acclaimed mountaineer, has several climbs, explorations and first ascents in the Himalaya to his credit. A Chartered Accountant by profession Divyesh has been

volunteering with The Himalayan Club for nearly 30 years, serving the club in capacity as Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and Managing Committee member.

Muslim Contractor has been on the Managing committee of The Himalayan Club and served as Assistant Editor to our prestigious Himalayan Journal. He has a passion for the mountains and has several climbs and first ascents to his credit.

Victor Saunders spoke at length on his latest book “Structured Chaos.- The unusual life of a climber. In this, his memoir, he not only goes through his mountaineering triumphs but also shares accounts of rescues, tragedies and failures. The book is a testament to the value of friendship and the things that really matter to him in life. He tells his story in his inimitable style with humour and warmth.

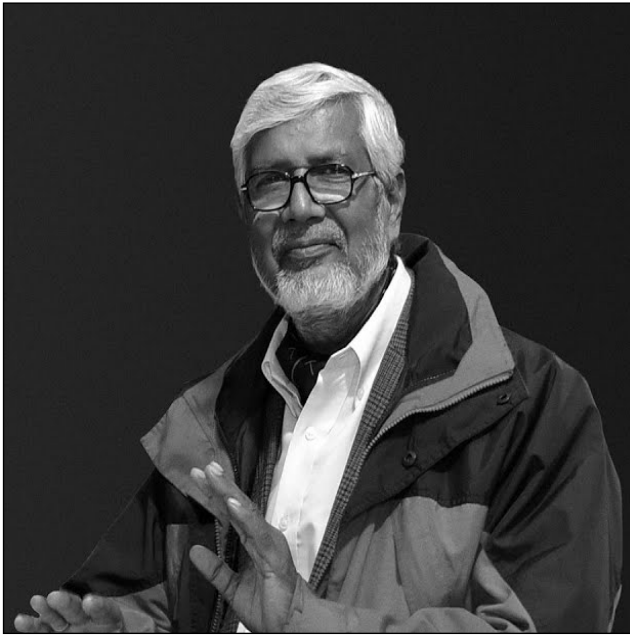


In his conversation he shared with Divyesh and Muslim some of the decisions that in hindsight he could have avoided. The climbing pals relived their expedition memories together. They took questions from the audience and all in all it was an interesting evening.

In Memorium

Sreebash Bhattacharjee The Doyen of Indian Sport Climbing

By Manik Banerjee



As one entered the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) complex in Delhi during any sport climbing competition, he or she used to watch a little over six feet tall and stout Sreebash Bhattacharjee, popularly known as “Dada”, moving around like a colossus giving start to an event or providing necessary instructions to the competitors or judging an event. Apart from

technical aspects Dada, who nurtured sport climbing from the very beginning to its present stage in the country, extended his helping hand to solve whatever problem that could arise..

Beside Delhi, Dada could be seen and was most sought after in various sports climbing championships, both national and international, which were held in different parts of India. Apart from acting as judge or ‘Chief of jury’ he would also extend his help to organize the meet whenever required.

Sreebash was Chairman of IMF North Zone Committee which was earlier known as IMF North Zone Sport Climbing Committee for a couple of decades. He was then made National Advisor for Sport Climbing in India by IMF which he held till the dreaded Covid 19 took him away on May 14 this year plunging a pall of gloom among the sport climbing and mountaineering fraternity in the country.

It was an autumn evening during 1981 when we first met through a

common friend at Chittaranjan Park of south Delhi. I was then staying there at my friend's place for a couple of days after returning from Nanda Devi expedition. . He was hugely built but soft spoken. Though we were of same age, he gave due respect to my experience. He spoke very less but listened about the expedition intently. He started active climbing a little late but made it up by sincerity and disciplined hard work.

Though in later years sport climbing became his main passion, Sreebash's first love was mountaineering among the various kind of adventures he pursued since the school days.

Born at Daudpur-Ichapura village in Comilla district of undivided Bengal on 20th May 1945 Sreebash grew up in a joint family. He was eldest among the siblings and cousins .He used to take a leading role in various social and sporting activities at home as well as in the school. This leadership quality was amply reflected in different adventure and other activities he pursued in later years.

Sreebash did his schooling at Comilla. Subsequently his parents migrated to Agartala under Tripura where he completed his college studies. He then took a job at Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi and finally settled at Chittaranjan Park of South Delhi in 1967. It was here where his interest for the various land based adventure grew and fructified.

After starting with trekking in nearby Himalayan ranges and rock climbing around Delhi, Sreebash underwent mountaineering training from Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling in 1977 which opened his door for bigger ventures in the Himalaya. During this period he took a leading role in setting up an adventure organization named "Climbers & Explorers Club" in Delhi and got involved with mountaineering in full swing. He took part in 19 major Himalayan expeditions, the notable among them include successfully leading Indo-Russian Expedition to Nanda Devi East during 1991 and IMF Expedition to Panchachulli III in 1993 . Prior to that he also participated in Indo-Swiss Climbing expedition to Rimo and rafting on Sayak river , Indo-Japan Himalaya expedition , Expedition to Saser Kangri IV . On invitations from climbing organizations of Russia and Japan Sreebash did some good climbing in Pamir and Japanese Alps.

While his main focus was on mountaineering, Sreebash also took part in other adventures like cycling around 3000 km to visit various states of the country, rafting in Bramhaputra, Kaveri, Sayak and Ganga. During his initial years, he also joined a boat expedition from Hardwar to Kolkata by a row boat through Ganga and trekking in Jungle and desert.

During his later years Sreebash's attention turned to 'Sport Climbing' as it s made its advent in India. Since the first climbing wall was made at Meera Model School in Delhi in 1994 , Sreebash remained actively connected with this sport and spent most of his time and energy to nurture sport climbing further. Many a times he also spent money from his own pocket for the growth of sport climbing. On many occasions I have seen him not only arranging accommodation and food for some competitors who arrived unnoticed, he also bought their return tickets. His house at C R Park always remained open for mountaineers and sport climbers if they could not find any accommodation in Delhi.

Since the first National Sport Climbing Championship organized by IMF at Delhi in 1996, Dada was there in almost all the national championships and other major events including World Cup Bouldering Championship at Vasi, Navi Mumbai and Asian youth Championship at Bengaluru. Sreebash took a fine initiative to introduce Sport Climbing to the visually challenged persons during the National Sport Climbing Championship at Delhi in 2015 and then organized a National Championship for them at Jammu in 2018.

He was the secretary of the IMF North Zone Sport Climbing Committee since its inception in...2004 and acted as Chairman of the IMF North Zone Committee from 2009 to 2019 before he was nominated as the National Advisor of Sport Climbing by IMF in 2020.. Sreebash was also nominated as the Treasurer of IMF during 2016. The last two posts he successfully held till the time of his sad demise. IMF apart he was secretary of Climbers & Explorere Club, vice president of Himalayan Adventure Club of Delhi and advisor for adventure activities in three Delhi schools.

In his efforts to popularize and spread sport climbing and mountaineering Sreebash was ably supported by his wife Dipasri and daughter Shriya

who accompanied Sreebash during mountain trekking some time. Shriya who attended rock climbing training and then Basic Mountaineering Course at NIM, Uttarkashi ,is a chartered accountant and now settled in Bengaluru with her family and two daughters. Dipashree, who was also in the hospital icu following Covid 19 same time , is now back at home ..

Beside being a noted adventurer Sreebash was at the helm of affairs many social work organizations like South Delhi Kalibari at R K Puram,, Chittaranjan Park Bangiya Samaj and Chittaranjan Park Kalibari in south Delhi. He was the main fulcrum for the growth of these NGOs to its present status.

Sreebash was felicitated by numerous mountaineering clubs and other organizations for his contribution to growth of adventure sports, particularly Sport Climbing and various social causes. The Indian Mountaineering Foundation East Zone Committee also honoured him with ' Life Time Achievement Award' during the 14th National Sport Climbing Championship held in Kolkata in 2014 for his untiring efforts to spread sport climbing in different parts of the country.

We are missing you Sreebash. Even the climbing walls all over the country will miss you.

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