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## HARISH KAPADIA

### India 2002

In the year 2002 there were 108 expeditions to the Indian Himalaya. Out of these 73 were Indian expeditions. This report covers the 53 expeditions to notable peaks. There was a drop in the number of foreign teams climbing in the Indian Himalaya and only 35 expeditions climbed here in 2002.

Many popular areas, like Nun-Kun in Zaskar, Kishtwar and the entire Kashmir valley, remained closed for mountaineers due to security concerns.

#### Climbs

Amongst notable climbs were two first ascents: **Padmanabh** (7030m) by an Indian-Japanese team, and **Suj Tilla West** (6373m) by a two-member British team, followed by an Indian Navy team. **Arwa Tower** (6352m) and **Arwa Spire** (6193m) in Garhwal were climbed in good style, while smaller peaks like **Little Kailash** (6321m) and **Brahmasar** (5850m) were climbed.

#### Explorations

There were two major explorations and discoveries in the East Karakoram. The vast and unique Teram Shehr Plateau was explored for the first time by an Indian-Japanese team. They traversed the valleys along the Shyok River and stood on the historic Karakoram Pass. Later they crossed the high Col Italia, the first team to do so for 72 years. Two members of the team then trekked up the Teram Shehr Plateau which lies at an average height of 6000m. It is unique to find so high and vast a plateau surrounded by peaks and packed with snow and ice. It was first seen by mountaineers climbing the nearby Rimo I in 1985.

The Indian Army, stationed on the vast Siachen Glacier, also did some exploration. They discovered the remains of the old Balti settlement and the camp of an Italian team led by Prof G Danielli in 1930. The army found a large stone with inscriptions possibly in the Balti language, old human bones and a large inscription by the Italian team. This was certainly an important landmark in the rediscovery of the history of the Siachen glacier.

## SIKKIM

#### Nepal Peak (7153m)

Expedition: DAV Summit Club, Germany

Leader: Herbert Streibel (12 members)

This was a rare attempt on Nepal peak. They followed the route from Gangtok to Lachen and then via Yakthang and Yabuk Rest Camp. Base camp was established on the Nepal Gap Glacier at 3900m and Camp 3 on the SE Ridge of Nepal Peak at 6620m. On 21 October three members climbed the S Ridge to

the summit. The summit was reached by the leader with Ms Carl Claudia and Johann Paul Hinterimmer.

## UTTARANCHAL

### KUMAON

#### **Changabang (6866m) and Purbi Dunagiri (6523m)**

Expedition: German

Leader: Jan Mersch

This 11-member German team had an ambitious plan to attempt Changabang by the northern route and Purbi Dunagiri by two different routes. Base camp was established on 17 September with 65 porters, and the final camp was established on 26 September. Changabang was attempted and they reached 5700m. As there was too much snow they gave up the climb. Purbi Dunagiri was initially attempted by the W and S ridge, reaching 6100m. The expedition subsequently reached 6200m on the ESE ridge. On both routes the climbers were stopped by very loose rock and dangerous conditions.

#### **Little Kailash (6321m)**

Expedition: Indian-British Joint Expedition

Leader: Martin Moran (11 members)

Martin Moran, a regular visitor to the Indian Himalaya, organized this expedition to an unknown and remote peak. Proceeding from Dharchula on the pilgrim route, they turned towards Shin la and the Jolinkong lake to attempt the summit. Base camp was established on 26 September and the higher camps were in place by 6 October. On 3 October a peak which they called **Rajula** (c. 6000m), adjoining **Baba Kailash** to the north of Shin la was climbed. The summitters were Martin Moran, T Rankin, M Singh, S Ward, A Williams and R Ausden.

The height of Little Kailash according to them is 6191m. They attempted it from the N side from the Jolinkong lake with the intention of climbing to just 10 metres short of the summit, because of the holy status of the peak. However they were stopped by very loose snow and rotten rock at about 6000m. They climbed through a prominent rock band under very heavy snowfall in early September; but later, although the weather was good, conditions did not improve.

#### **Suj Tilla West (6373m)** (earlier known as Suitilla)

Expedition: Indo-British team, **First Ascent**

Leaders: Paramjit Singh and Graham Little

A small team attempted this virgin peak in the Ralam Valley in the eastern Kumaon. Paramjit Singh and Alka Sabarwal had to return early because of an infection and ailment, while Graham Little and Jim Lowther continued the attempt. They approached via the Shyangalpa Glacier and established base camp on 17 September and subsequent camps by 27 September. They climbed a super line, free and without any fixed rope. Abandoning their initial attempt

on the NW Face they climbed the SW Face on 27 and 28 September. They called the route *Moonlight Route*. Jim Lowther described the climb:

'Graham and I climbed the peak in pure Alpine style in a 22-hour continuous push. By the time we got to the western summit at 6373m (which we thought was going to be the highest point on the ridge but turned out not to be) we were totally spent and didn't have any reserves left to traverse the ridge to the other, higher, eastern point which we now believe to be 21 metres higher. We had to get down fast because we had no bivvy gear. This we did, and when we met up with the Navy a day later we told their leader about the height differences of the two summits. The western summit that we climbed is the one which you'd naturally assume to be the highest point, as it is the dominant snow peak visible from Ralam; the eastern summit is set back along the ridge.'

### **Suj Tilla West (6373m)**

Expedition: Indian Navy, **Second Ascent**

Leader: Lt Cdr Satyabrata Dam

Suj Tilla West (6373m) was climbed by the SW Face, as a second ascent, by Divyesh Muni, Lt Amit Pande, Sherpa Nima Dorje on 6 Oct and by Lt K S Balaji, Lt Amit Rajora, Chera Rajkumar, A Chaudhury, Sherpa Tsange Puri and Nima Thondup on 11 Oct. A small peak, **Ralam We** (5350m) was also climbed by the team.

## **GARHWAL**

### **GANGOTRI AREA**

#### **Shivling (6543m)**

Expedition: Austrian

Leader: Herbet Volf (4 members)

Shivling was climbed by the W Ridge on 26 September by four members including their leader. The other summitters were Mattle Rolande, Moritz Ijoachim and Bitscanu Leander.

Expedition: Swiss

Leader: Walter Hungerbuhler (6 members)

All seven members of this Swiss team climbed Shivling by the W Face on 30 September. They had excellent weather after establishing base camp on 20 September on the south side of the Gangotri glacier. The names of other summitters, with the leader, were Rita Schoppmann, Florian Stroub, Bammert Oliver, Hnopeter Hug, Franh Mavcel, Melanie Blatter.

Expedition: Israel

Leader: Ran Kagan (3 members)

A four-member team from Israel climbed the W Ridge of Shivling, reaching the summit on 29 September. The leader and the other three members all reached the top. They were Morah Levy, Alan Hod and Goy Hasson. Some members

suffered from frostbite and had to be evacuated on donkeys to Gangotri on the way to Delhi.

### **Shivling (6543m) (Continued)**

Expedition: Hungarian

Leader: Bela Mester (2 members)

Shivling was climbed by the normal W Ridge by two members, Casadaba Toth and Gabor Babscan. They established their final camp at 5520m and reached the summit on 2 October.

Expedition: Spanish

Leader: Jorge Corominas Garcia

A team of 15 members attempted the W Ridge of Shivling and the Gangotri glacier. On 5 October the leader, with Eva Zarzuvuelo and Jam Buenaza, reached the summit, followed next day by Msax Msesek and J Rimon Agras. They established base camp on 24 September and returned on 23 October.

### **Swachand (6721m) and Meru (6350m)**

Expedition: Canadian

Leader: Guy M Edwards (4 members)

This team followed the Gangotri glacier, established base camp by 10 September and was climbing in the area for a month. Owing to recent snow, the climbing on Meru Shark's Fin became very dangerous and they gave up the attempt. However, the W Face of Swachand peak was climbed between 3 and 7 October. The summit was reached on 6 October by Guy Edwards and John Miller.

### **Meru Shark's Fin (6350m)**

Expedition: British

Leader: Jules Cartwright with Jon Bracey and Matt Dickinson.

They approached this attractive rock face from the Gangotri glacier and established base camp by 16 September. High camps and summits were tried between 23 and 27 September by the E Face. The weather was good, but they were carrying too much equipment and were unable to reach the summit.

### **Bhrigupanth (6772m)**

Expedition: Korean

Leader: Woo Suk

A Korean team with 8 members attempted the SE Face, establishing base camp at 5200m and further camps up to 6300m. On 28 August Ebn Soo Koo and Kwnchul reached the summit, despite some inclement weather.

### **Chaukhamba II (6974m)**

Expedition: French

Leader: Wagnon Patrick and Peter Trommsdorff, with Sauget Gregoria and Ziania Yannick, mountain guides from France.

They climbed Chaukhamba II by the W Face in perfect style and in a quick push. Braving some early bad weather, they finally ascended the peak in alpine style with three bivouacs, quickly returning to Delhi.

**Sudarshan Parvat (6507m) and Saife (6166m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Pune

Leader: Shripad G Sankpal (11 members)

This young team attempted Sudarshan Parvat by the SW Ridge which is not very often climbed. After passing Gaumukh they entered the Thelu bamak. Bypassing peak Thelu to the west, they climbed the SW Ridge to reach the summit of Sudarshan Parvat. Camp 3 was established on 4 July by Shripad Sankpal, Santosh Bomkar and Chandra Bahadur Sahai and H.A.P. On 7 July, starting early, they made a summit attempt along the sharp snow ridge and going across two rock humps and a hard ice wall on their way to the top. The weather was clear and they had excellent views. On 8 July, Avinash Khandekar and Sachin Naidu reached the summit at 1.30 pm following the same route.

**Kedarnath (6968m)**

Expedition: Italian

Leader: Moretti Martino (5 members)

A 5-member Italian team of doctors and an Alpine Guide attempted this high peak in the Gangotri valley. They established their camp ahead of Tapovan on the Kirti Glacier on 26 September. A high camp was made at 6100m by 2 October. They intended to follow the N Ridge of **Kedar Dome** to Kedarnath Peak. However, too much soft snow above 6100m stopped them.

**Thalay Sagar (6904m)**

Expedition: Japanese

Leader: Hiroshi Kawasaki with Kanji Saito

This two-member team set up base camp at 4700m on 31 May at the foot of Thalay Sagar intending to attempt its N Face. However, they could only reach a height of 6200m and because of tiredness gave up a further attempt. The last camp was established on 16 June at 6100m.

**Chaukhamba I (7138m) and Chaukhamba II (6974m)**

Expedition: Korean

Leader: Man Jae Lim (8 members)

An eight-member Korean team attempted the twin peaks of Chaukhamba from the Mana village going to Vasudhara Col and establishing camp at Satopanth tal. They established base camp at 4300m on 25 July and subsequent camps up to 6200m by 19 August. They attempted the E Face of Chaukhamba I and II, but the terrain was full of crevasses and there were several hanging séracs on the route. The leader of the team was hit by a broken sérac, but luckily survived. They reached a height of 6500m on peak I.

**Januhut (6807m)**

Expedition: Austrian

Leaders: Jochler Josef and Zenz Christian

This was a two-man expedition, both being professional climbing guides from Austria. They established a base camp following the long Gangotri-Tapovan route on 19 May to the head of the long Gangotri Glacier in early June. However, they had plenty of porter problems on their approach march, with too much

snow on the glacier and later bad weather which affected the fingers of one of the members. No serious attempt was made on the peak.

#### **Chaturangi IV (6304m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Calcutta

Leader: Dipankar Ghosh (12 members)

Chaturangi IV is situated on the Gangotri glacier. The team established three camps in early summer and 7 members reached the summit.

#### **Gangotri III (6577m)**

Expedition: Indian, from West Bengal

Leader: Suman Guha Neogi

Gangotri III lies to south of Gangotri temple at the head of Rudugaira glacier. This team established three camps, the last one being at 5900m. Finally, after braving some bad weather, on 2 June they reached the summit from the SSE Ridge. The summitters were Dipankar Ghosh, Debnath Das, Subashish Banerjee, Jaisingh Sahji, Jaisingh Thakur and Laxmansingh Thakur.

### CENTRAL GARHWAL

#### **Devban (6852m)**

Expedition: Indo-Tibet Border Police

Leader: Y S Sandhu

This is a high and difficult peak near Kamet in Garhwal. A strong ITBP team reached the summit on 19 September. The summitters were Vijender Singh, Jyot Singh, Mohammed Ali and Tashi Motop. They followed the S Ridge, approached from eastern sector.

#### **Rataban (6166m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Chandarnagor, W Bengal

Leader: Gautam Banik (16 members)

They approached this peak, meaning 'Red Arrow', from Malari and crossed the Bhuidhar Khal to establish a camp at its foot. The summit was reached via the W and NW Ridge on 27 August by 12 members.

#### **Kamet (7756m) and Abi Gamin (7355m)**

Expedition: Indian

Leader: R C Bharadwaj (10 members)

The expedition, from the Uttaranchal Tourism Board, attempted two high peaks on the border with Tibet in Northern Garhwal. On Abi Gamin the summitters were Rakesh Joshi, Ashish Singh, William Akbarchandra, Chanda Bist with Sherpa Mig Tamba and the summit was climbed on 3 October. After suffering some delays on 5 October, Kamet was climbed by team member Satish Chandra Bhat with 3 Sherpas, namely, Pasang Dorje, Dawa and Purba Gyalzen. The team was climbing along with and at the same time as an Indian army team, which was also attempting the summit. Owing to the late season, several members suffered frostbite and other cold injuries.

**Peak 6075m (On Kakodagad near Harsil)**

Expedition: Indian, Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi

Leader: Ms. Chandraprabha Aitwal (9 members)

The team approached the unclimbed peak via Harsil on the Gangotri motorable road in early September. They acclimatised at Kana tal and a low base camp was made at 3100m. They made two camps en route to the summit which was climbed on 19 September after a long day. Climbing in two groups, seven members reached the summit. They were Sushma Thakur, Kavita Burathoki, Reena Kaushal, Sundri Devi, Babita Gosawi, Ekta with 3 HAPS and Narendra S Kutyal.

**Brahmasar (5850m)**

Expedition: British

Leader: Martin Moran (8 members)

A small British team led by energetic Martin Moran made ascents of six smaller peaks in Garhwal. These peaks are situated around Khatling glacier at the head of the Pirangla Valley. They established a base camp on 1 May and higher camps between 4 and 13 May. The following summits were climbed:

**Rabbit's Ear**, 5530m, by E Ridge

**The Cathedral**, 5360m, by W Couloir

**The Fortress**, 5541m, by N Couloir

**Point Walkers**, 5260m, by E Ridge

**Point 5709m** by NW Bank

**Brahmasar II**, 5800m, by SE Couloir

An attempt on Brahmasar I by Martin Moran and two other members failed 60m below the summit on 11 May. They climbed 15 pitches at grades 4, 5, and 6 and reached a maximum height of 5790m. Descent was done by 11 abseils. They had excellent weather throughout.

**Jaonli (6632m)**

Expedition: British

Leader: Oliver Clayton and Ed Cropley

This two-member team climbed Jaonli by the NW Ridge on 6 June 2002. They had approached from Lod Gad Valley to Jaonli Glacier to reach the foot of the NW Ridge. Base camp was established by 31 May and Camp 2 at 5800m by 5 June. Both the young summitters reached the summit in Alpine style.

**Arwa Towers (6352m) and Arwa Spire (6193m)**

Expedition: French

Leader: Antoine De Choudens (11 members)

This strong French team climbed Arwa Tower by two different routes. First they established base camp on 4 May and climbed the S Face in a three-day push by Emanuel Pellissier and François Savarx, reaching the summit on 11 May. Then another team climbed the NW Face, with the leader and three other members. Arwa Spire was climbed on 16 May in a three-day push by the leader

with François Savarx, Philip Renard and Thomas Pauchevre. The expedition enjoyed excellent weather, withdrawing on 21 May.

### **Arwa Spire (6193m)**

Expedition: Swiss

Leader: Bruno Hasler with Stephen Harvey and Roger Schaeli

This team of three mountain guides established base camp at 4660m and abc at 5400m. On 24 May Hasler, Harvey and Schaeli reached the summit by the Central Pillar in a three-day Alpine-style push. On 5 June, all the three members climbed the W Pillar of Arwa Spire in a seven-day Alpine-style push. These were some of the finest ascents in the Indian Himalaya this year.

### **Arwa Tower (6352m)**

Expedition: Swiss

Leader: Frederic Roux

This was a four-member team consisting of three guides and one manager. They climbed the N Face and the E Ridge of Arwa Tower in 17 hours of Alpine-style climbing on 7 October 2002.

## **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

### **LAHAUL**

#### **Ramjak (6318m) First Ascent**

Expedition: Indian Mountaineering Foundation

Leader: Sangay Dorjee Sherpa

Two earlier attempts by IMF Expeditions in 2000 and 2001 were unsuccessful. The expedition left Delhi on 22 July and established Base Camp at 4620m on 27 July after fording several icy streams on the way. They established Camp 1 on 3 August after negotiating difficult terrain, crevasses and exposed slopes. Finally, on 4 August, the Leader reached the summit along with HAP Dawa Wanchuk, Nima Dorjay, and Mul Dorjay.

#### **Unnamed Peak (6265m) and Tung Ring Ho (5865m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Calcutta

Leader: Prasanta Roy (8 members)

This unnamed peak is located N of Kharcha Parbat in Kharcha nala. The attempt on the peak failed because of steep snow conditions. However, after establishing two camps, the team reached the summit of Peak 5865m which is known locally as Tung Ring Ho.

#### **Lion (6164m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Aarohi, West Bengal

Leader: Satyajit Kar (10 members)

Lion is a peak situated in the Barashigri glacier which was approached from Baltal. On 23 August the summit was reached by Dilip Sadhu, Pasang Bodh and Prakash Thakur.



**Unnamed Peak (6107m), Koa Rong group**

Expedition: Polish

Leader: Andrzej Zbinshki (Aged 67) (9 members)

The Koa Rong group lies SE of Darcha and there are several peaks in these groups of Koa Rong and Tela. The N Face of unnamed peak 6107m was attempted on 18 August by Kryuztof Gardyna and Krzysztof Bigta. They reached 5500m on its steep face.

**Shiva (6142m)**

Expedition: Indian, Mountaineers Association of Krishnanagar, Calcutta

Leader: Basant Singha Roy

The summit was reached on 30 August by the leader with Debasis Biswas, Sange Sherpa and Dukka Sherpa.

## SPITI

**Kangla Tarbo I (6315m) and Kangla Tarbo II (6120m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Calcutta

Leader: Chanchal Bhagduri (9 members)

This is a peak in the Khamengar Valley in Western Spiti. The team approached it by going from Mikkim and trekking 9 days to reach base camp. Kangla Tarbo I was climbed on 11 September by Gopal Das and Padma Anchule in excellent weather.

## KINNAUR

**Phawrarang (6349m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Calcutta

Leader: Mohammed Mahjoob Khan (7 members)

This lovely peak is situated in the Tirung Valley in Eastern Kinnaur. The expedition approached it from Thangi and established base camp in early September. They reached the summit on 17 September via the SE Ridge. The summitters were Pasang, Jayanta and Pangba followed by Ramesh and Subrata.

**Leo Pargial II (6792m)**

Expedition: Indian, Ordinance Factory Trekkers, West Bengal

Leader: Sajal Kumar Kundu (13 members)

This is the high peak situated north of Leo Pargial I in NE Kinnaur. They attempted it from Yangthang and Nako and made a base camp at the foot of the Leo Pargial Glacier. Summitters were: Baryui, Ratikanta Hembram, Subendru, Subhajib Roy, Subrata Mondal.

## KULLU

**Deo Tibba (6001m)**

Expedition: Tokyo Alpine Club

Leader: Hiroaki Aarikava (with Tadashi Hirano, Kagu Shibata, Tatsuya Ajaiki)

The expedition established their camp from Chandra Tal valley in late September and the final camp was made at 5300m. From here the leader and the three other members climbed the S Face to the summit on 2 October.

## EAST KARAKORAM

**Saser Kangri IV (7416m)**

Expedition: Indian, from Chandigarh.

Leader: Satyander Singh Rana (14 members)

This team attempted the peak from the western approaches moving on from Leh to Nubra valley and Phukpoche glacier. They set up base camp on the glacier and made steady progress, establishing Camp 4 at 6500m. Their intention had been to attempt Saser Kangri I, but the difficulties of the route combined with illness to members of the team made them give up that attempt. However, on 14 July the summit of Saser Kangri IV was successfully climbed, in two ropes, by Shivjit Singh, Ajmer Singh and Sange Sherpa. Three members accompanying them stopped after a few hours as two of them fell in a crevasse; happily, they were rescued. The second team, consisting of the leader, Rakesh Kumar, Ganesh Jaina, Pemba Sherpa and Thandup Sherpa reached the summit on the same day.

**The Indian-Japanese East Karakoram Expedition 2002**

Five Indians and five Japanese mountaineers undertook a long traverse of the East Karakoram valleys for two months. The team covered almost 550km (including some repeated load-carries), took with them almost 2500kg of food, equipment and personal gear, first carried on 55 mules, and later by 11 members and 15 Sherpas and porters. They lived continuously on snow for almost 35 days, braving rather cold temperatures. There were no injuries, accident or sickness (except to one porter).

The team traversed an historic route in the Shyok valley and returned via the Nubra valley (the Siachen glacier). Five passes were reached or crossed, two large glaciers were traversed and a vast unknown ice plateau was explored. The first ascent of the virgin and difficult peak, **Padmanabh, 7030m**, was achieved.

- 1 The team traversed the Shyok river valley from the Shyok village (Tankse-Darbuk) to the Karakoram Pass, along the ancient winter Trade route – the first expedition to achieve this in five decades.

- 2 The historic Karakoram Pass, on the border between India and China, was reached. It was the first time in the history of independent India that a team involving foreign mountaineers was permitted to visit the Pass. (One sole British photographer had reached the pass in 1997). Japanese mountaineers were the first from their country to stand on the Pass for 93 years.
- 3 The team traversed the central Rimo glacier and the Teram Shehr glacier by crossing Col Italia, the high pass between the two glaciers. It was for the first time, since its first crossing in 1929, that this pass had been crossed. (An Indian team consisting of almost the same members had reached the pass in 2000 but had not crossed it).
- 4 The high and vast Teram Shehr Plateau was explored and various cols surrounding the plateau were investigated. The plateau is a unique feature in the Karakoram, with ice and snow at a height of about 6200m, surrounded by high peaks on all sides. This was the first time that anyone had reached the plateau (Harish Kapadia and Ryuji Hayashibara) seen so often in photos taken from peaks like Rimo.
- 5 The first ascent of peak **Padmanabh** (7030m) was made on 25 June by Hiroshi Sakai and Yasushi Tanahashi. After setting up a second base camp (5650m) at its foot, another high camp was made at 6250m near a col at the foot of the S Ridge. In the next four days, 16 pitches of ropes were fixed up to about 6750m. Two teams of Japanese and Indian mountaineers worked together to push the route. Finally a team of two Japanese and one Indian (Lt Cdr S Dam) started for the summit. However, Lt Cdr Dam had to drop out of the final attempt. Two Japanese, in a long push of almost 11 hours of continuous climbing, reached the summit. Both had previously climbed Nanga Parbat but rated this peak more difficult in some respects than that famous 'killer mountain'. A team of Indians and Japanese (Motup Chewang, Rushad Nanavatty and Dr Oe, each of them having worked hard and reached high in preparing the final route) was poised to attempt the summit again in the next two days, but due to the onset of bad weather, this plan had to be abandoned. This was the highest peak on the Teram Shehr plateau and a major first ascent in the Siachen glacier group after many years.
6. The team returned via the Siachen glacier to the Nubra valley. This was the first international team to climb on this war-torn glacier since 1986. These were the first Japanese mountaineers to visit the glacier from the Indian side since the conflict on the Siachen glacier began in 1984 (many Japanese teams had climbed on the Siachen glacier between 1972-1983, approaching it from the west).

Despite gathering war clouds between India and Pakistan while the expedition was on the mountains, the Indian army fully backed the team and at no point were we asked to stop or change our route.

### FIRST ASCENTS OF SUMMITS OVER 6400M

A study by Prof Josef Hala of Prague involved mountain expeditions from 40 countries and included 923 virgin peaks in the Himalaya and Karakoram. The first three entries are as follows:

Country	No. of expeditions to virgin peaks organized by that country *	No. of virgin peaks above 6400m climbed by summiters of that country ‡
Japan	290.5	219
UK	136	169
India	106	170

\* For joint expeditions a half credit is given to each country.

‡ No second or further ascents of the same expedition are included.

The full list is available in the *Himalayan Journal* 59 and the *Himalayan Club Newsletter* 56.

### CLIMB FOR PEACE IN THE SIACHEN GLACIER

A group of four mountaineers from India and Pakistan (Harish Kapadia and Mandip Singh Soin from India and Nazir Sabir and Col Sher Khan from Pakistan) climbed peaks in Switzerland in response to a joint initiative of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) for a 'real' summit in the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn region which has recently been designated the first UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in the Alps. Their aim was to promote mountain protection, co-operation and peace during the UN's 'International Year of Mountains 2002'. The flags of India and Pakistan, were hoisted together on three Swiss summits. It was the special hope of the climbers to give a call for peace on this long war-torn glacier where the armies of India and Pakistan have been fighting a high-altitude war since 1984. This war has caused many deaths and injuries, brought major destruction to the environment, and trapped some most beautiful mountain areas in the conflict zone.

As the climbers stated:

On the entire climb our minds remained occupied with thinking of how often the people of India and Pakistan had been kept away from so much happening between them. It is such a tragedy that such a commonly enjoyed sport is not allowed between our two countries. Yet thankfully, through such events, there is hope of bringing our two nations closer. Even the staunch enemies of the Cold War have overcome old barriers and come closer together. The Berlin Wall was dismantled, so let us hope the psychological wall that exists between our people can also be dismantled and we can live like natural neighbours and friends.

As mountaineers they have shown the way that it is hoped that others will follow to promote peace through sport and promote 'peace zones' as a means to overcome border disputes, protect mountain regions and the freedom to enjoy the mountains, particularly a peace zone for the Siachen Glacier

### ELIZABETH HAWLEY IS HONOURED

The Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2002 paid tribute to one of the most important figures in the climbing world. In 1960 Nepal got its first full-time mountaineering correspondent in the form of a young American woman, Elizabeth Hawley. 42 years later, Hawley is still in Nepal and is the repository of every detail of every expedition mounted in the Himalaya over the last four decades.

Hawley first came to Nepal as a political correspondent but at the same time she was meeting returning expeditions and gathering information while it was still fresh in climbers' minds. Things have changed over the past decade or so; it is now considered mandatory for climbers to pay their respects to the 77-year-old Hawley. The developments in satellite technology and live coverage of climbing exploits have only strengthened Hawley's work; she continues to be the person to assess the significance of a climb and put it in perspective.

Sometime in the next year, with the help of fellow-American, computer expert and climber Richard Salisbury, Hawley will publish the results of a lifetime of meticulous interviewing, reporting, and collecting of information in a comprehensive volume. Her lifetime's work has met a major need for information about the Himalaya.

### ANG TSERING SHERPA

The climbing world lost a legendary figure when Ang Tsering passed away at Darjeeling on 22 May 2002 at the age of 97. He was perhaps the last person still alive from the 1924 Everest expedition and the last to have climbed with Mallory and Irvine. In 1924 he was 20 years of age.

Ang Tsering also took part in the fateful Nanga Parbat expedition of 1934. He was the sole survivor of a party of four German climbers and five Darjeeling Sherpas who were stranded at a high camp in a blizzard. One by one his companions died, and he descended the face alone. When he reached Camp IV, barely alive, he told a simple and straightforward tale of the tragic events that had taken place above. 'What suffering this loyal man must have endured and what a superhuman achievement!' remarked one of the other members.

In 1935 Ang Tsering was awarded the German Red Cross Medal. He was also a holder of the 'Tiger Badge' awarded by the Himalayan Club. Ang Tsering had witnessed and participated in Himalayan climbing from its infancy until all the highest peaks had been climbed.