

Rashesh Pitre

5/3/02

Have been in touch with your friend IY PAI over the SIACHIN project. Read your scholarly obituary of H.A. in OBC 34. Glad that you have referred to World Bank & Sarus in PITTA received today. Will be away in Kihini from 12/3 to 31/5

Regards  
Zafar

Mined you on 16/12

9/3  
2002

# Saving Siachen from pollution

**T**HE HIGHEST battleground, the highest helipad at about 19,000 feet, the highest dropping zone at nearly 22,000 feet, the highest public phone booth, and also the highest cemetery in the world. Welcome to the Siachen glacier on the eastern edge of the Karakoram range. With a length of nearly 80 km. and a width ranging from two km. to eight km., this glacier is the longest in the world outside the polar region.

Siachen has long been the bone of contention between India and Pakistan.

Although it remained unmentioned in the ceasefire line of

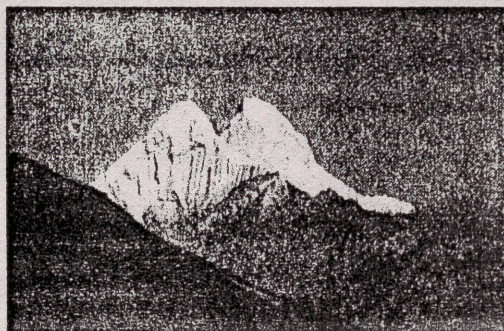
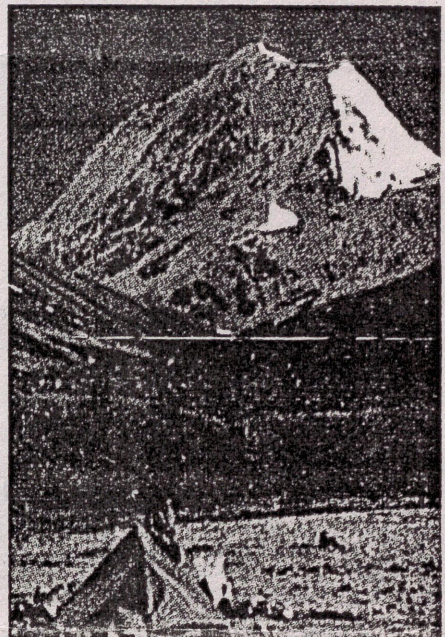
1949, the Tashkent Agreement of 1965, and the Shimla Agreement of 1972, the two countries tried to prove their supremacy on the region through several expeditions.

In 1984, India stopped a Japanese

expedition to Siachen that was permitted by Pakistan, and set up its military base there.

While accolades poured in for the undaunted bravery of the jawans, the grim reality of environmental hazards remained hidden.

Aamir Ali, Chairman, Association of Civil Servants, Geneva, who has been on several expeditions to the Himalayas, is a relentless crusader against pollution in this region.



generated there. It is packed in metal drums and dropped into crevices, in nearly 4,000 drums a year.

The glaciers into which these drums are dumped give birth to the Indus, the Ganga, the Yamuna, the Brahmaputra, the Hwang Ho, the Yangtze, and other smaller rivers.

"What might happen with these non-biodegradable drums years later is easily understandable," Ali says.

According to him, converting Siachen into a trans-frontier peace park, where India and Pakistan will not wield any control, is the answer to the pollution hazards.

This will be the best gift the subcontinent can offer to the world in the International Year of Mountains.

Talking about this, he asks: "Do we want to leave destroyed this majestic area of the Himalayas for our future generations?"

"Everything from cans, drums, fuel containers, tetra-packs, and aluminium packets are found there. These can neither be burnt nor destroyed," he says.

Perhaps what aids pollution largely in Siachen is human waste.

Everyday, 10,000 kg. of human waste is



By K.Satyamurty

REPORT

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UP family a refreshingly delicious time.

## Aasheesh Pittie

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**From:** zafarally <zafarally@eth.net>  
**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@vsnl.in>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2002 5:56 AM  
**Subject:** Jacana/Kihim

Dear Aasheesh, I hope you will have the time to visit us in Kihim. November is a good time. There should be plenty of birds on the sea shore at that time. My son Murad and daughter in law Irmela could be contacted in Bombay at telephone 6145922 and 6136877 in Bombay Office : Transweigh : 8682311 and 8682266. But you can contact us in Kihim at (02141) 32118  
Hope everything will work out smoothly and happily Regards Zafar and Laeeq

*ZF will be in Kihim from 20/x - 5/x11*

*Murad & Irmela Futebally.*

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