

Adventurists from city do it again

Members of Great Hyderabad Adventure Club scale Kalindikhal pass

Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: English mountaineer George Mallory's famous reply for climbing the Mount Everest -- 'because its there'-- has remained an inspiration for many to take up the challenge of scaling the Himalayas.

Closer home, members of the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club (GHAC) have been on their slow and steady run as they create a new record every time they embark on the Himalayan conquest. Recently, a five member GHAC team beat the earlier record of the club's treks to the 5324 metre high Everest Base Camp. This time they scaled the Kalindikhal Pass in the Garhwal Himalayas, standing at an altitude of 5970 metres.

Tired yet upbeat, the team celebrated their feat with the rest of the members who were all ears to know more about the trek over coffee and

cake. The five member team led by Naveen Kanakadandi included Sivakumar Nataraajan, Satish Pavan, Karthik Prasanna and Deepak Thapliyal, all in their late 20s and gung-ho about climbing mountains.

"We had to overcome different kinds of terrains. We negotiated through glaciers and crevices. At many places we met moraine path with glacial debris- snow, mud, water and boulders- when we had every chance to slip. We had to focus on each step," says team leader Naveen.

Apart from the picturesque mountainscapes, camping in high altitude, melting snow for water and planning for the next day was an experience to remember. "It is a dangerous trail and we got to know later that a lot of mountaineers have lost their lives on this pass. But we went through a lot of blogs and book and were aware of possible high alti-

tude problems," says Naveen. The team went up to the Kalindi Base at 5900 metres, 300 metres short of the peak, and returned back owing to the crevasse or deep cracks in ice sheets, and avalanche. "It was an experience of a lifetime," recalls Deepak.

GHAC founder and chief organiser Diyanat Ali is upbeat. "We plan to do full scale mountaineering soon. As we are talking a team has left for Everest Base Camp. We plan to scale the Mera Peak in the Sagarmatha region of Nepal, at 6,476 metres." The earlier visitors to the peak include Edmund Hillary among other.

"When you climb a mountain, the day-to-day life becomes easier. You don't hesitate to take up more challenges and there is a striking improvement in your professional life," says Diyanat who will be leading the Mera Peak trek himself in May next year.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Members of the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club at Kalindikhal Pass in the Garhwal Himalayas.-PHOTO: BY ARRANGEMENT