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# Tertiary Himalayan structures and metamorphism in the Kulu Valley (Mandi-Khoksar transect of the Western Himalaya) - Shikar Beh Nappe and Crystalline Nappe

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#### Abstract

The Crystalline Nappe of the High Himalayan Crystalline has been examined along the Kulu Valley and its vicinity (Mandi-Khoksar transect). This nappe was believed to have undergone deformation related only to its transport towards the SW essentially during the "Main Central Thrust event". New data has led to the conclusion that during the Himalayan orogeny, two distinctive phases, related to two opposite transport directions, characterize the evolution of this part of the chain, before the creation of the late NE-vergent backfolding.

The first phase corresponds to an early NE-vergent folding and thrusting, creating the Tandi Syncline and the NE-oriented Shikar Beh Nappe stack, with <sup>a</sup> displacement amplitude of about 50 km. Two schistosities, together with <sup>a</sup> strong stretching lineation are developed at <sup>a</sup> deep tectonic level under amphibolite facies conditions (kyanite-staurolite-garnet-two mica schists). At <sup>a</sup> higher tectonic level and in the southern part of the section (Tandy Syncline and southern Kulu Valley between Kulu and Mandi) one or two schistosities are developed in the greenschist facies grade rocks (garnet-biotite and biotite schists). These structures and the associated Barrovian type metamorphism are all related to the NE-verging Shikar Beh Nappe. The creation of the NE-verging Shikar Beh Nappe may be explained by the reactivation of <sup>a</sup> SW dipping listric normal fault of the N Indian flexural passive margin, during the early stages of the Himalayan orogeny.

In the second phase, the still hot metamorphic rocks of the Shikar Beh Nappe were folded and thrust towards the SW (mainly along the MBT and the MCT with a displacement in excess of 100 km) onto the cold, low-grade metamorphic rocks of the Larji-Kulu-Rampur Window or, near Mandi, on the non-metamorphic sandstones of the Ganges Molasse (Siwaliks). Sense of shear criteria and <sup>a</sup> strong NE-SW stretching-lineation indicate that the Crystalline Nappe has been overthrusted towards the SW. Thermometry on synkinematically crystallised garnetbiotite and garnet-hornblende pairs reveals the lower amphibolite facies temperature conditions related to the Crystalline Nappe formation.

From the muscovite and biotite Rb-Sr cooling ages, the Shikar Beh Nappe emplacement occurred before 32 Ma and the southwestward thrusting of the Crystalline Nappe began before <sup>21</sup> Ma. Our model involving two opposite directions of thrusting goes against the conventional idea of only one main SW-oriented transport direction in the High Himalayan Crystalline Nappes.

Keywords: Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Crystalline Nappe, Main Central Thrust, tectonics, metamorphism, thermo-barometry.

#### Introduction

The Kulu Valley offers <sup>a</sup> continuous geological section through the southern part of the Himalayan chain (Figs 1 and 2). The Tertiary sandstones of the Siwaliks (Ganges Molasse) are exposed south of Mandi. At Mandi, these unmetamorphosed Molasse sediments are overthrusted along the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), by two thin tec-

tonic units (the Mandi Unit and the Bajaura Nappe). Some <sup>5</sup> km farther to the NE, the Main Central Thrust (MCT) places the greenschist facies metamorphic sediments of the Crystalline Nappe onto the Bajaura Nappe (Frank et al., 1973, 1977a; Mehta, 1977; Le Fort, 1986). The Crystalline Nappe is composed by metamorphosed graywackes of Proterozoic to Cambrian age (Phe Formation or Haimantas), intruded by

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Fig. 1 Index map of the investigated area in Himachal Pradesh and cross section of the Western Himalaya, after STECK et al. (1993 a and b).

granites of Cambro-Ordovician ages. West of the Rohtang Pass and in the Chandra and Chenab Valleys south of Tandi, the graywackes of the Phe Formation are stratigraphically overlain by the<br>Permian. Triassic and Jurassic limestones. Triassic and Jurassic limestones, dolomites and marls of the Tandi Syncline. Silusandstones, Carboniferous limestones and Permo-Mesozoic sediments are also exposed on top of the Phe Formation south of the Baralacha La and east of the upper Chandra Valley. The rocks of the Larji-Kulu-Rampur tectonic window, situated below the Crystalline Nappe, consist of very low grade metamorphic, mainly Proterozoic, sediments and metagranites. The thin Bajaura Nappe separates the Crystalline Nappe from the Larji-Kulu-Rampur sequence in this area.

The region where the metamorphic rocks of the Crystalline Nappe outcrop at up to 6000 m in elevation is called the Higher Himalaya or the High Himalayan Crystalline. The Bajaura Nappe and the Larji-Kulu-Rampur sequences belong to the Lesser Himalaya (Frank et al., 1973, 1977a, 1987, 1992; Powell and Conaghan, 1973 and 1978; Srikantia and Bhargava, 1979,1982; Thoni, 1977; Mehta, 1977, 1978; Steck et al., 1993 a and b; Vannay, 1993; Vannay and Steck, in press).

The following tectono-metamorphic model for the evolution of the Crystalline Nappe is sistent with published data from other authors. The regional metamorphism with biotite-, net-, kyanite-, kyanite-staurolite- and sillimanitezones in pelitic rocks is of Barrovian type and of <sup>a</sup> Cenozoic age (FRANK et al., 1973, 1977a; THÖNI, 1977). The thermal peak of this metamorphism occurred before 32 Ma as deduced from Rb-Sr muscovite cooling ages of  $32 \pm 2$  Ma (FRANK et al., 1977a). Frank et al. (1973) proposed the existence of an abnormally high geothermal gradient of 37- 45° C/km to explain the presence of amphibolite grade rocks (staurolite zone) in the Khoksar gion. This conclusion is based on the observation that the thickness of the stratigraphic series responsible for the overburden does not exceed 12-<sup>15</sup> km. The main thrusting to the SW of the talline Nappe is younger than the peak of metamorphism. It occurred during a period of retrograde crystallisation. The spectacular SW-verging Kalath fold in the Crystalline Nappe deforms the pre-existing isograde surfaces (Thoni, 1977). The





folding and thrusting of the hot rocks of the talline Nappe onto the cold rocks exposed in the Kulu-Larji-Rampur Window caused the inverted metamorphic zonation in this area.

Since 1979, members of Lausanne University have been working on <sup>a</sup> geological transect of the NW Himalaya located between Hemis and Leh in the upper Indus Valley to the N, and Mandi on the Main Boundary Thrust and the Siwaliks (Ganges Molasse) to the S (BAUD et al., 1982, 1984; Stutz and Steck, 1986; Stutz, 1988; Spring and Crespo-Blanc, 1992; Spring, 1993; Spring et al., 1993 a and b; Vannay, 1993; Vannay and Spring, 1993). The main results of the different expeditions are summarized and compiled in STECK et al. (1993 a and b). This synthesis is also based on observations by Gansser (1964 and 1981), Fuchs (1982, 1987, 1992), Frank et al. (1977 a and b), GAETANI et al. (1986), GAETANI and GARZANTI (1991), HONEGGER (1983), HONEG-GER et al. (1982), KÜNDIG (1988 and 1989).

Our investigations corroborate the main clusions of the Vienna group (FRANK, GRASE-MANN, THONI and collaborators) mainly that:

- the Crystalline Nappe represents the product of a multiphase structural and metamorphic evolution (STECK et al., 1993 a and b; VANNAY, 1993; Vannay and Steck, in press);

- the deformational structures and the growth of the metamorphic minerals are all younger than the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sediments of the Tandi Syncline. These structures are therefore lated to Himalayan tectonic events;

- the peak of the Barrovian type metamorphism is related to <sup>a</sup> group of early Cenozoic structures. The products of this early tectonometamorphic phase are overprinted by a regional retrograde metamorphism, which is synkinematic with the formation of late schistosities, stretching lineations and folds. This second tectono-metamorphic phase is related to the Crystalline Nappe formation.

Our interpretation for the early Himalayan tectono-metamorphic process responsible for the Paleogene Barrovian metamorphism differs from those given by the previous authors. The posed high geothermal gradient of  $37-45$  °C/km for the early phase of Barrovian metamorphism (Frank et al., 1973) is questionable. From our observations and constructions (Steck et al., 1993

Fig. 3 Zonation of the Tertiary metamorphism of the Hemis-Mandi transect in the Western Himalaya (after FRANK et al., 1977a; Thöni, 1977; Stutz, 1988; Spring, 1993; Steck et al., 1993 a and b; Vannay, 1993 and this study).



<sup>a</sup> and b), the initial stratigraphie overburden above the staurolite zone of the Chandra Valley was less than 10 km, considerably shallower than the 12-15 km of Frank et al. (1973). Under these conditions, the geothermal gradient for this burden would be of about 55  $\degree$ C/km. This is the geothermal gradient of <sup>a</sup> Buchan-type (andalusite-sillimanite) metamorphism. We propose that the geothermal gradient responsible for the Barrovian-type metamorphism was approximately  $20-30$  °C/km, and that the overburden responsible for the staurolite zone is of tectonic origin. Additionally, there is the problem of the tectonic significance of the NE-verging Tandi Syncline situated on the top of the SW-verging Crystalline Nappe. Therefore, we aim to answer three main questions:

- What is the tectonic mechanism responsible for the Barrovian regional metamorphism that extends over 90 km from the Baralacha La to the N to the southwestern front of the Crystalline nappe?

- What is the tectonic significance of the NEverging Tandi Syncline and of related deformational structures?

- What are the structures and metamorphism related to the Crystalline Nappe?

In order to answer these questions, STECK et al. (1993 a and b) and Vannay (1993) subdivided the tectonic evolution of the High Himalayan Crystalline into two main events: the Eocene thrusting of <sup>a</sup> nappe stack (the Shikar Beh Nappe) towards the NE and the Miocene placement of the Crystalline Nappe towards the SW. The Shikar Beh Nappe is named after the highest mountain peak in this region, situated in the lowest part of the Shikar Beh Nappe stack.

The NE-vergence of the Tandi Syncline (Fig. 2) together with the regional metamorphism tribution (Fig. 3) led STECK et al.  $(1993$  a and b), Vannay (1993) and Vannay and Steck (in press) to the conclusion of the existence of <sup>a</sup> NE-verging Shikar Beh Nappe stack  $(Fig. 1)$ . This metamorphism reached amphibolite facies conditions in the lower part of the Chandra Valley (kyanitestaurolite zone near Khoksar) and decreases wards the NE to lower greenschist and pumpellyite-actinolite facies just SW of the frontal part of the Nyimaling-Tsarap Nappe (chlorite-stilpnomelane-pumpellyite south of the Baralacha La Thrust). The sediments that outcrop along this profile are approximately from the same stratigraphic level. Further north, the metamorphic grade increases again due to the Nyimaling-Tsarap Nappe formation (staurolite-kyanite-garnet in the Sarchu area). The high grade regional metamorphism of the lower part of the Chandra

Valley therefore cannot be related to the ing-Tsarap Nappe because the two high-grade metamorphic regions are separated by a low grade metamorphic domain. It can only be plained by a stack of nappes thrust from the SW toward the NE and this over <sup>a</sup> distance of 50 km. The vergence of the Tandi Syncline is in accordance with this movement direction. These observations lead to the conclusion that, in the Chanand Bhaga Valleys, the Tertiary deformation started with an intracontinental underthrusting of <sup>a</sup> north-eastern block below a south-western one. This crustal thickening is responsible for the gional metamorphism in the Chandra Valley-Rohtang La region. The total thickness of the Nappe overburden situated on the top of the staurolite-kyanite-garnet assemblage in the Khoksar region and sillimanite-bearing metapelites in the Parbati Valley (THÖNI, 1977; MAR-Wyss, personal communication) was in excess of 20 km and the kyanite-sillimanite type metamorphism indicates <sup>a</sup> pressure of about <sup>4</sup> to 5 kbar (RICHARDSON et al., 1969).

A new detailed structural and metamorphic analysis of the High Himalayan Crystalline tween Mandi and Khoksar was initiated to constrain this hypothesis. The present paper is the result of field data collected by J.-L. Epard, J. Hunziker and A. Steck during a 9 week expedition in the Chandra and Kulu Valleys in the summer of 1993. Detailed structural analysis as well as mineralogical observations were performed in order to provide a better understanding of the structural and metamorphic evolution of the Crystalline Nappe and the High Himalayan talline exposed between Khoksar, the Rohtang Pass and Mandi. Considering our working pothesis, the distinction between (a) the old structures (folds, schistosities, stretching lineations) and minerals assemblages related to the Shikar Beh Nappe with its high grade metamorphism of Barrovian type and (b) the younger structures and minerals of the Crystalline nappe created during its movement towards the SW der retrograde conditions was made in the field where possible. It was indeed often possible to observe on the outcrop the crystallisation/deformation relationship of biotite, garnet, hornblende, kyanite and staurolite blasts within such structures as folds and schistosities. Additionally, oriented samples collected along the section were analysed in the laboratory to determine the morphic mineral paragenesis, the crystallisationdeformation history and the thermo-barometry.

The results of the tectono-metamorphic study conducted along the Kulu Valley transect are sented according to the chronology of the Terti-

Tab. 1 Chronology of the Tertiary Himalayan structures and metamorphism in the Kulu Valley (Mandi-Khoksar transect).

Early NE-verging movements: Tandi Syncline, Shikar Beh Nappe and regional Barrovian metamorphism A) First NE-verging  $F_{1a}$ -folds, S<sub>1a</sub>-axial surface schistosity and NE-oriented L<sub>1a</sub>-stretching lineation

B) Second NE-verging  $F_{1b}$ -folds, S<sub>1b</sub>-axial surface schistosity and NE-oriented L<sub>1b</sub>-stretching lineation

Main SW-verging deformations: Crystalline Nappe, Main Central Thrust and synkinematic retrograde metamorphism

C) SW-verging  $F_2$ -folds, S<sub>2</sub>-axial surface schistosity, and NE-oriented L<sub>2</sub>-stretching lineation (in SW-verging Kalath Anticline:  $AS_{2a}$ -axial surface and  $F_{2a}$ -anticline and SW-verging  $F_{2b}$ -folds and  $S_{2b}$ -axial surface schistosity)

Dextral transpression and backfolding

- D) Late dextral shearing in the lower Chandra Valley and Rohtang La region
- E) NE-verging  $F_4$ -"back" folds

Late extensional structures

F) Intrusion of aplitic and pegmatitic dikes

ary Himalayan structures and their related morphism (Tab. 1), the metamorphic zones of the early metamorphism of Barrovian type related to the Shikar Beh Nappe stack, thirdly, the retrograde metamorphism associated with the Crystalline Nappe structures will be described and finally the thermo-barometric study of the Crystalline Nappe retrograde metamorphism. A last chapter presents a synthesis and the conclusions.

### Early NE-verging movements: Tandi Syncline, Shikar Beh Nappe and regional Barrovian metamorphism

The geological profile (Fig. 1) and the map of metamorphic zones (Fig. 3) show that the amplitude of the Shikar Beh nappe estimated between the hinge of the Tandi syncline and the position of the frontal part located in the Baralacha La gion is approximately 50 km. The frontal part of this nappe has been eroded, but the structures of its internal part can be studied within the High Himalayan Crystalline exposed in the Kulu Valley transect.

Two phases of NE verging folding  $(F_{1a}, S_{1a}$  and  $F_{1b}$ ,  $S_{1b}$ ) are restricted to the amphibolite facies grade metamorphic rocks of the Kulu and the Chandra Valleys between Kulu and Khoksar (Figs 2, <sup>4</sup> and 5). In pelitic rocks the existence of the first schistosity  $(S<sub>1a</sub>)$  is often revealed by quartz-veins (Figs <sup>5</sup> and 7). The mineral paragenesis of the biotite, garnet, kyanite and staurolite zones associated with the quartz veins represents the highest temperature recorded by the regional metamorphism. The end of crystallisation of the high temperature mineral assemblages post-dates

the second  $S_{1b}$ -schistosity as suggested by the crystallization of non oriented staurolite and anite blasts in the metapelites from Khoksar and of biotite poikiloblasts in the low grade metamorphic rocks of the biotite zone. A very strong, NEoriented, stretching-lineation characterises the two schistosities. Sheath-folds are common along the Rohtang Pass road, between Koti and Marhi. Hand specimen scale structures indicate thrusting by simple shear to the NE. At <sup>a</sup> higher tectonic level of the Shikar Beh Nappe, in the Tandi Synclines, the first  $S_{1a}$ -schistosity represents the main deformational structure (Fig. 6).

## Main SW-verging deformations: Crystalline Nappe, Main Central Thrust and synkinematic retrograde metamorphism

In the Kulu Valley, the NE-verging structures of the Shikar Beh Nappe are overprinted by SWverging Folds  $(F_2, S_2 \text{ and } F_{2a}, AS_{2a}, Figs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8)$ and  $9$ ) of the Crystalline Nappe. A strong NEoriented stretching lineation and hand specimen to outcrop scale shear criteria show that the talline Nappe has been thrust towards the SW (Fig. 10). Predominantly, the strong stretching lineation observed throughout the region corresponds probably to an early L1 lineation related to the Shikar Beh Nappe transposed and stretched again by the younger L2 lineation related to the Crystalline Nappe. At a larger scale, the stretching lineation parallel to the transport rection has a remarkably constant orientation perpendicular to the main strike direction of the Himalayan chain (MATTAUER, 1975; BRUNEL, 1986; Jain and Anand, 1988; Mattauer and



peak of metamorphism: 40 -35 Ma

Fig. 4 Crystallization and deformation history of the Shikar Beh Nappe and the Crystalline Nappe.  $mu = musco$ vite (500 °C) and bi = biotite (300 °C) Rb-Sr cooling ages after FRANK et al. (1977a).

BRUNEL, 1989; STÄUBLI, 1989; GUNTLI, 1993). Deformation occurred under retrograde metamorphic conditions, but still at an amphibolite facies grade (kyanite zone) in a deep tectonic level between Khoksar and Kulu and under greenschist facies conditions (biotite zone) in <sup>a</sup> higher tectonic level (Tandy Syncline area) and in the frontal part of the nappe between Kulu and Mandi (Fig. 4).

Between Kulu and Manali, <sup>a</sup> spectacular SW vergent  $F_{2a}$ -fold, the Kalath fold, has been formed during the thrusting of the Crystalline Nappe on the Main Central Thrust towards the SW (Figs 2, 10 and 11; THONI, 1977, geological map and Fig. 14). An interesting relationship between folding and schistosity can be observed. The  $AS_{2a}$ -axial surface of this SW-verging  $F_{2a}$ -fold is obliquely cut by the steeper and equally SW-verging  $S_{2b}$ schistosity, probably formed in the late stages of the progressive and rotational deformation (Figs  $2,12$ ). The large-scale fold structures of the Crystalline Nappe have a SW-vergence and indicate a thrusting of the nappe to the SW (Kalath Antiand Kulu Syncline on Figs 2 and 10). During the Crystalline Nappe phase of the Tertiary Himalayan Orogeny the metamorphic rocks of the Shikar Beh Nappe were thrust towards the



Fig.  $5$  Tertiary structures in the metapelites of Khoksar: The two  $S_{1a}$ - and  $S_{1b}$ -schistosities are related to the amphibolite facies metamorphism of the Shikar Beh Nappe, with syn- and post-kinematic crystallization of kyanite and staurolite. The third  $S<sub>2</sub>$ -crenulation cleavage, created under retrograde metamorphic conditions, is related to the SW-verging  $F<sub>2</sub>$ -folds of the Crystalline Nappe.



Fig. 6 Stratification Ss,  $F_{1a}$ -fold and S<sub>1a</sub>-schistosity in the marbles of the Tandi Syncline (Seki Nala, N of Dhundi, Solang Valley).

SW onto the very low grade metamorphic rocks of the Larji-Kulu-Rampur Window and onto the unmetamorphosed Ganges Molasse at Mandi (FRANK et al. 1973, 1977b; Thöni, 1977; GRASE-MANN, 1993). The thrust amplitude of the Crystalline Nappe is greater than 100 km (Fig. 3).



Fig. 7 The first  $S<sub>1a</sub>$ -schistosity with quartz veins, attributed to the Shikar Beh Nappe, is overprinted by SWverging  $F_2$ -folds and the main S<sub>2</sub>-schistosity of the Crystalline Nappe and the Main Central Thrust (bridge at the entrance of the Mahui Kad, 5 km south of Kulu).



Fig. 8 SW-verging  $F_2$ -folds of the Crystalline nappe overprinting a NE-verging  $F_{1a}$ -anticline in the Tandi marbles, Seki Nala north of Dhundi ( $Do =$  boudins of dolomitic marble).

Apart from the Main Central Thrust, we were not able to distinguish any other important thrust structures. The stratigraphie sequence is folded throughout the study area, and generally not turbed by thrust planes. The hypothetical Halindi Thrust is an exception (Fig. 2). Its existence is revealed by the superposition of different morphic mineral assemblages (Figs 14 and 16). In the upper Flalindi Nala north of Manali, staurolite-kyanite and garnet bearing two mica schists are overlying kyanite-garnet-biotite-metapelites. The superposition of metapelites of higher morphic grade on metapelites of lower grade



Fig. <sup>9</sup> The SW-verging Sagor Pass Fold belongs to the  $F_2$ -fold generation of the Crystalline Nappe ( $F_2$ -fold axis: 330°/15°). Ss: stratification;  $S_{1a}$ : first schistosity of the Shikar Beh Nappe, arrows indicate stratigraphie younging.

Fig. 10 Structural map of the Crystalline Nappe along  $\triangleright$ the Kulu Valley (Beas River) transect (Lambert equalarea projection, lower hemisphere).





Fig. 11 The SW-verging Kalath Anticline (right side of the Kulu Valley) as observed from Sajloh.

may be due to a thrust. The kyanites and staurolites above the hypothetical stratiform Halindi thrust are deeply altered and partly replaced by white mica. The replacement of staurolite and kyanite by muscovite may be related to the grade recrystallization during the late SW-oriented thrusting of this tectonic element within the Crystalline Nappe.

#### Dextral transpression and backfolding

A map scale dextral shear zone, the Chandra Dextral Shear Zone, is responsible for the late E-W reorientation of the linear structures in the Chandra Valley-Rohtang La region (Fig. 10 and



Fig. 12  $S_{1a}$ -quartz veins, schistosity and NE-verging  $F_{1b}$ -folds are overprinted by the SW-verging  $F_{2b}$ -folds and associated  $S_{2b}$ -crenulation cleavage and late NEverging  $F_4$ -folds (gorge about 500 m above the village of Bran in the overturned and frontal limb of the Kalath  $F_2$ -anticline).

Vannay, 1993; Vannay and Steck, in press). The relative ages of the late dextral shear, the NEverging F4-backfolding, the late extension and the intrusion of pegmatitic and aplitic dikes canbe well constrained by the field observations. Different successions of structures have been observed in the Mandi-Hemis transect of the NW Himalaya (Fig. 1). For instance, in the Nyimaling region, dextral shear occurred before, during and after the formation of the NE-verging Nyimaling dome. In the Sarchu region, the NE-verging backfolds are cut by two generations of normal faults. It is possible that all these structures are various expressions of map scale dextral shear zones, characterized by dome and pull-apart basin structures, normal faults related to transtension and NE-verging folds related to transpression. In the study area, the dextral shear zone of the Chandra Valley and the late extension structures (described below) are perhaps various expressions of a dextral transtension zone. Similar late kinematic dextral shear zones, which are sponsible for the E-W transposition of older stretching lineations, are described in other gions of the Himalayan chain (Burg et al., 1984; Gapais et al., 1984,1992; Brun et al., 1985; Ni and BARAZANGI, 1985; Pêcher and Bouchez, 1987; Pêcher, 1989, 1991; Pêcher and Scaillet, 1989; Mattauer and Brunel, 1989; England and Molnar, 1990; Pêcher et al., 1991).

#### $NE$ -verging  $F_4$ -"backfolds"

NE vergent  $F_4$ -backfolds are observed all along the transect between Mandi and Khoksar. The main structures are the Pandoh F4-syncline, be-



Fig. 13 Late kinematic and post- $F_2$  pegmatitic dike (white) in the hinge zone of the SW-verging Kalath Anticline (gorge 500 m above the Village of Bran). The old pegmatites are probably the same age as the Cambro-Ordovician granitic intrusions (country rock: metagrauwacke of the Phe Formation).

tween Mandi and Larji, the Shoja Dhar F4-anticline forming the Larji-Kulu-Rampur dome, the Solang F4-syncline, north of Manali and the Rohtang Pass F4 anticline or Rohtang pass dome (Figs <sup>2</sup> and 10). It is difficult to know if the map scale dome and basin structures and the outcrop scale backfolds are due to the same or two differphases of deformation. The fold axes have similar NW-SE orientations.

### Late extensional structures: intrusion of aplitic and pegmatitic dikes

Cross-cutting postkinematic pegmatitic dikes are common in the amphibolite facies grade rocks between Patli Kuhl, in the Kulu Valley, and Khoksar in the Chandra Valley (Fig. 13). Near Khoksar the pegmatites are associated with 10 cm to 30 cm thick aplites. These aplites are probably related to the Early Miocene leucogranitic intrusions of the Himalaya, which are located in zones of dextral transtension (BURG et al., 1984; GUIL-LOT, 1993; VANNAY, 1993; VANNAY and STECK, in press).

## Metamorphic zones of the Shikar Beh Nappe and the Crystalline Nappe

164 rock samples have been examined in thin section and the relation between crystallization and deformation established. Paragenesis and relics of an older Barrovian-type metamorphism and younger retrograde mineral assemblages have been identified. The older metamorphism is

related to the Shikar Beh Nappe stack. Its grade ranges from kyanite-staurolite-garnet zone near Khoksar, Palchan and in the upper Flalindi Nala to biotite-garnet zone near Larji (Figs 14 and 16a). The regional distribution of staurolite is not so extensive as indicated on Thoni's (1977) map.

The crystallization of the younger retrograde mineral assemblages is related to the deformations that occurred during the cooling of the preexisting Shikar Beh Nappe metamorphism and deformation related to the Crystalline Nappe thrusting. Two metamorphic zones can be guished: a greenschist facies zone, with chlorite, biotite and sometimes garnet, between Mandi and Kulu and very low grade amphibolite facies zone, with biotite, garnet, hornblende and kyanite between Patli Kuhl and Khoksar. The eional distribution of index-minerals and their relationship with the deformational structures of the Shikar Beh and Crystalline Nappes is matically represented on Fig. 4. Figures 15 and 16b show the regional distribution of the indexminerals of the retrograde metamorphism related to the Crystalline Nappe. In the northern Kulu-Khoksar transect, the deformations related to the Crystalline Nappe, as well as those related to the Shikar Beh Nappe, occurred mainly under lower amphibolite facies conditions and for this reason the retrograde metamorphism is not very apparent.

#### Geothermometry and geobarometry

To complete the index minerals distribution and crystallization-deformation studies, 21 samples have been selected for temperature and pressure estimations using mineral assemblages of the Crystalline Nappe. Experimental techniques and mineral analyses are given in the appendices.

Twenty garnet-biotite temperatures were used to determine the temperature distribution within the Crystalline Nappe. Three calibrations were tested: FERRY and SPEAR (1978), HODGES and SPEAR (1982) and GANGULY and SAXENA (1984). The analyzed garnets have a varying and sometimes rather high Ca content. Therefore, a correction was applied to the FERRY and SPEAR (1978) calibration. Most of our conclusions rely on perature variations and not on absolute values, the choice of a calibration is therefore not crucial.

The temperature estimates based on the garnet-biotite geothermometer using the Hodges and Spear (1982) calibration are plotted on the schematic geological section of the Crystalline Nappe of the Kulu Valley (Fig.  $16c$ ). The temperature distribution yields a coherent picture. It is



Fig. 14 Relics of the Shikar Beh Nappe metamorphism of the Kulu Valley transect.



Fig. 15 Metamorphism, garnet-biotite temperatures (calibration Hopges and Spear, 1982), garnet-hornblende temperatures (calibration GRAHAM and Powell, 1984) and GASP geobarometry (calibration Hodges and SpeAR, 1982) of the Crystalline Nappe of the Kulu Valley transect



possible to draw the 500 °C and 600 °C isotherms, indicating temperatures increasing from south to north up the Kulu Valley and also a normal vertical temperature gradient between Kulu and the Rohtang Pass. Near Kulu, the 500 and 600 °C isotherms are folded by the Kalath and Kulu folds, but not as much as the older main  $S_{1b}$ -schistosity in the SW-verging Kalath Anticline, which is cut by the 600 °C isotherm. This geometric relationship suggests that thrusting of the Crystalline Nappe occurred at high temperature and that the temperature distribution has been influenced by heat flow related to cooling by erosion and overthrusting of the hot Crystalline Nappe on the colder rocks of the Larji-Kulu-Rampur Window. The garnet-biotite temperature distribution roborates the post-temperature peak and synmetamorphic thrusting of the Crystalline Nappe deduced from the crystallization-deformation lationships (Fig. 4). The temperatures obtained from the garnet-biotite thermometry could represent the period between the peak of metamorphism and the late retrograde conditions. paring the stable mineral-paragenesis with the temperature obtained from the Hopges and SPEAR (1982) calibration we observe that the calculated temperature is always about  $50^{\circ}$ C higher than the temperature estimated from the hornblende-plagioclase-in isograd (Figs 17 and 18).

To complete the garnet-biotite geothermometry, some garnet-hornblende assemblages were analyzed. Six samples were analyzed, five of which contain also the garnet-biotite assemblage. The results of temperatures from the GRAHAM and Powell (1984) calibration are given in figure 16d.

To better constrain the model and the geothermometry data, some analyses were formed using the garnet-kyanite-quartz-plagioclase (GASP) barometer. Three samples, all located in the Manali region, contain the GASP assemblage. In figure 19, the intersection area between the P-T lines for the garnet biotite thermometer and for the GASP geobarometer (both using the calibrations of Hodges and  $SPEAR$ , 1982) are plotted on a pressure temperature diagram. Pressures from 5 to 7 kbar and temperatures around 550 °C can be deduced from this diagram. It corresponds to <sup>a</sup> thermal gradient of about 22-30 °C/km.

#### Synthesis and conclusions

The new field observations (Figs  $2$  and  $10$ ) confirm the excellent geological maps drawn by FRANK et al.  $(1973)$ , Thöni  $(1977)$  and Grase-(personal communication). Along the Kulu Valley transect, the structures and metamorphism observed in the metasediments and metagranites of the High Himalayan Crystalline are all related to the Himalayan Orogeny. No evidence of any deformational structures related to an older compressional orogenic belt in the Upper Precambrian to Jurassic sedimentary sequence as posed by JAIN et al. (1980) was found. Relics of a high pressure metamorphism, as observed by POGNANTE and LOMBARDO (1989) and POGNANTE et al. (1990) in the High Himalayan Crystalline of SE Zanskar, have not been observed in the study area.

The field observations from summer of 1993 and new laboratory data corroborate the model proposed by Steck et al. (1993 <sup>a</sup> and b), Vannay (1993) and Vannay and Steck (in press) for the tectonic evolution of the High Himalayan talline. The High Himalayan Crystalline has suffered a complex tectono-metamorphic history with two major phases of nappe emplacement (Fig. 20). Crustal thickening of the High Himalayan Crystalline started in the Shikar Beh (Rohtang La) region with the formation of the NEverging and intracontinental Shikar Beh Nappe stack perhaps due to the reactivation of a SWdipping intracontinental listric normal fault of the North-Indian flexural passive margin (Vannay, 1993).

According to geochronologic data from FRANK et al. (1977b), LE FORT (1986, 1989), MEHTA (1977 and 1978), PANDE and KUMAR (1974) and TRELOAR and REX (1990), the temperature peak of the Himalayan Barrovian metamorwas reached some 40 to <sup>35</sup> Ma ago, before the  $32 \pm 2$  Ma Rb-Sr-muscovite cooling age obtained by Frank et al.  $(1977a)$ . The arrival in the Baralacha La region of the frontal part of the SWdirected Nyimaling-Tsarap Nappe is <sup>a</sup> little

Fig. 16 Metamorphism in the Kulu Valley transect. Cross sections from Mandi to Rohtang Pass and Khoksar.

a) Distribution of relics of index-minerals related to the Shikar Beh Nappe metamorphism.

b) Distribution of index-minerals related to the retrograde metamorphism of the Crystalline Nappe.

c) Temperature estimates of the retrograde metamorphism of the Crystalline Nappe using the biotite-garnet geothermometer (calibration Hodges and Spear, 1982),  $P = 5$  kbar.

d) Temperature estimates of the retrograde metamorphism of the Crystalline Nappe using the garnet-hornblende geothermometer (calibration GRAHAM and Powell, 1984),  $P = 5$  kbar.



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younger than the formation of the NE-verging Shikar Beh Nappe stack.

The formation of the SW-vergent folds of the Crystalline Nappe and the Main Central Thrust is younger and was postpeak metamorphic but still at high temperatures. The Crystalline Nappe has been thrust towards the SW before cooling down to 300 °C,  $21 \pm 2$  Ma ago (Rb-Sr-biotite-cooling age, Frank et al., 1977a). The onset of this thrusting is probably older than the intrusion of the leucogranites 24-22 Ma ago (U-Pbmonazite age on the Oji Bihal granite François Bussy, personal communication; Ar-Ar age on the Gunjerab granite, VILLA and ODDONE, 1988). Thrusting, rapid isostatic uplift and erosion are sponsible for the cooling of the High Himalayan Crystalline. The amplitude of the displacement wards the SW of the Crystalline nappe along the Main Central Thrust is in excess of 100 km. The



Fig. 18 Garnet-Hornblende geothermometry of the retrograde metamorphism of the Crystalline Nappe (calibration GRAHAM and Powell, 1984),  $P = 5$  kbar.



Fig. 19 Pressure and temperature estimation of three qz-mu-bi-pl-gr-ky schists of the retrograde Crystalline Nappe metamorphism, using the garnet-biotite geothermometer and the GASP geobarometer (both calibrations Hopges and SPEAR, 1982). Sample location on figure 15;  $Al<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>5</sub>$  triple point from HOLDAWAY (1971).



formation of the Crystalline Nappe is followed by dextral shear and the creation of great dome and basin structures as well as NE-verging backfolds The Chandra Dextral Shear Zone located in the Rohtang Pass and Chandra Valley region is sponsible for the E-W transposition of the preexisting NE-SW oriented stretching-lineations (VANNAY, 1993; VANNAY and STECK, in press). Aplitic veins are situated in this dextral shear zone, suggesting that intracrustal dextral shear is followed by, or accompanies transtension and extension. In the Zanskar region, the late leucogramite intrusions have an age of 24—22 Ma (Oji Bihal granite, monazite U-Pb ages, François Bussy, personal communication)

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 $\triangleleft$  Fig. 20 Kinematic model for the Cenozoic tectonometamorphic evolution of the High-Himalaya in the Kulu Valley-Lahul-SE Zanskar area (NW Himalava). The initial situation represents a part of the NW Indian margin of the Neotethys as reconstructed by STECK et al. (1993 a and b) and VANNAY (1993). Maximal thickness for the Mesozoic-Cenozoic sequence has been extrapolated to the entire section. The Shikar Beh Nappe could be the consequence of an older intracrustal extensional fault related to the Neotethyan rifting (STECK et al., 1993 a and b, VANNAY and STECK, in press). As the structures of the frontal part of the Nyimaling-Tsarap Nappe are superposed to those related to the Shikar Beh Nappe, the initiation of the former unit to the north is most probably coeval or even older than the development of the latter unit. The Shikar Beh Nappe stack and the Nyimalmg-Tsarap Nappe are responsible for early Paleogene regional metamorphism with peak temperatures prior to <sup>32</sup> Ma for the Shikar Beh Nappe metamorphism (Rb-Sr white mica cooling age, Frank et al., 1977a) and before 33.5 Ma for the Nyimaling-Tsarap Nappe metamorphism (40Ar/3'Ar cooling age for amphibole, total gas age, SPRING et al. 1993a). The development of the Crystalline Nappe occurred in Neogene time with crystallization and deformation during cooling and erosion (Rb-Sr biotite cooling ages of 21 and 16 Ma for biotite, Frank et al., 1977a). Based on our P-T estimations, an average uplift and erosion rate of 0.6 mm/y has been chosen for this model.

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## Appendix



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## Tab. A1 Representative analysis of garnets and biotites.



## Garnets (cont.)



## Tab. A2 Representative analyses of garnets and hornblendes.

Tab.  $A3$  Representative analyses<br>of garnets and plagioclases.

	<b>Garnets</b>						<b>Garnets</b>			
Sample	AS93126	AS93152	AS93204	AS93221	AS93254	AS93274	Sample	AS93159	AS93241	AS93259
Analysis#	J-98	D-21	$B-19$	$D-20$	$F-36$	$A-7$	Analysis #	$B-22$	$A-9$	$B-28$
SiO <sub>2</sub>	37.15	37.35	37.28	37.32	37.27	37.62	SiO <sub>2</sub>	37.13	37.92	37.21
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.13	TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.00	$0.01\,$	0.00
$\text{Al}_2\bar{\text{O}}_3$	20.98	21.28	20.73	21.58	20.81	21.05	$\text{Al}_2\bar{\text{O}}_3$	20.90	21.38	21.31
$Cr_2O_3$	0.10	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.02	$Cr_2O_3$	0.00	0.04	0.08
FeO	31.23	27.94	27.53	26.00	26.68	23.69	FeO	33.99	30.32	34.08
MgO	2.66	2.54	1.30	3.08	1.96	1.89	MgO	3.30	5.14	3.54
CaO	5.45	8.63	7.80	7.72	8.30	8.67	CaO	2.62	2.89	2.63
MnO	2.30	2.29	5.92	4.78	4.81	7.71	MnO	2.37	2.73	2.06
Total	99.94	100.09	100.64	100.50	99.88	100.77	Total	100.31	100.43	100.91
Cations normalized to 12 oxygens							Cations normalized to 12 oxygens			
Si	2.985	2.973	2.989	2.957	2.989	2.987	Si	2.983	2.991	2.966
Ti	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.000	0.003	0.008	Ti	0.000	0.000	0.000
Al	1.975	1.997	1.959	2.015	1.968	1.970	Al	1.979	1.988	2.002
Cr	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.001	Сr	0.000	0.003	0.005
$Fe^{++}$	0.037	0.026	0.046	0.028	0.040	0.033	$Fe^{++}$	0.038	0.018	0.026
$Fe^{++}$	2.030	1.833	1.800	1.694	1.749	1.540	$Fe^{++}$	2.246	1.982 0.604	2.245 0.420
Mg	0.307	0.301	0.155	0.364 0.656	0.235 0.713	0.223 0.738	Mg	0.395 0.226	0.244	
Ca Mn	0.523 0.165	0.736 0.155	0.670 0.402	0.321	0.327	0.518	Ca Mn	0.161	0.183	$0.225$ $0.139$
Sum	8.025	8.025	8.026	8.035	8.024	8.018	Sum	8.028	8.013	8.028
X Fe	0.671	0.606	0.595	0.558	0.578	0.510	X Fe	0.742	0.658	0.741
X Mg	0.101	0.100	0.051	0.120	0.078	0.074	X Mg	0.130	0.200	0.139 0.074
X Ca	0.173	0.243	0.221	0.216	0.236	0.244	X Ca	0.075	0.081	
X Mn	0.055	0.051	0.133	0.106	0.108	0.172	X Mn	0.053	0.061	0.046
XMg/XFe	0.151	0.164	0.086	0.215	0.134	0.145				
	<b>Hornblendes</b>						<b>Plagioclases</b>			
Sample	AS93126	AS93152	AS93204	AS93221	AS93254	AS93274	Sample	AS93159	AS93241	AS93259
Analysis#	J-98	$D-21$	$B-19$	$D-20$	$F-36$	$A-7$	Analysis #	$I-3$	$A-27$	$B-3$
SiO <sub>2</sub>	42.02	43.24	41.89	43.09	42.53	42.45	SiO <sub>2</sub>	60.39	60.48	61.65
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.35	0.63	0.09	0.61	0.49	0.45	$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	24.86	24.63	24.21
$\text{Al}_2\bar{\text{O}}_3$	18.12	14.98	16.52	16.33	16.98	16.09	Ca <sub>O</sub>	6.19	5.61	5.44
FeŌ	16.94	14.73	17.28	14.28	16.86	16.64	Na <sub>2</sub> O	8.42	8.28	$\begin{array}{c} 8.89 \\ 0.07 \\ 0.25 \end{array}$
MgO	7.29	9.53	7.42	9.73	7.56	8.38	$K_2O$	0.08	0.04	
$\overline{\text{MnO}}$	0.18	0.16	0.29	0.37	0.24	0.38	FeO	0.07	0.31	
CaO	11.02	12.21	12.17	11.53	11.44	11.39	MgO	0.00	0.02	0.00
$K_2O$	0.40	0.64	0.36	0.56	0.53	0.49				
Na <sub>2</sub> O	1.75	1.40	1.33	1.48	1.22	1.46	Total	100.00	99.37	100.49
F	0.11	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.21	0.14				
$O = F$	98.19 0.05	97.67 0.06	97.45 0.04	98.08 0.04	98.05 0.09	97.87 0.06				
Total	98.14	97.60	97.40	98.04	97.96	97.81				
Cations normalized to 23 equivalent O									Cations normalized to 8 oxygens	
Si	6.214	6.399	6.280	6.3189	6.305	6.313	Si	2.691	2.694	2.747
Ti	0.039	0.070	0.010	0.067	0.055	0.051	AI	1.306	1.293	1.272
Al	3.157	2.612	2.919	2.821	2.966	2.819	Ca	0.295	0.278	0.260
Fe	2.095	1.824	2.166	1.751	2.090	2.069	Na	0.728	0.716	0.768
Mg	1.606	2.103	1.657	2.125	1.669	1.856	K	0.005	0.002	0.004
Mñ	0.023	0.020	0.037	0.046	0.030	0.048	Mg	0.000	0.001	0.000

K 0.076 0.120 0.068 0.104 0.101 0.092 Na 0 503 0 403 0 387 0422 0 352 0 421







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Tab. A4 Results of garnet-biotite and garnet-hornblende thermometry, GASP barometry and analyses of plagioclases.

## Garnet-biotite thermometry [°C]  $P = 5$  kbar



## Garnet-hornblende thermometry [°C]

 $P = 5$  kbar



## GASP barometry [kbar]



## An % in plagioclase



### Analytical technique

Mineral analyses were performed on the Cameca SX50 microprobe of the "Institut de Minéralogie et Pétrographie" of the Lausanne University. The following operating conditions were used: accelerating voltage: 15 kV; beam current:  $20$  nA for garnets,  $15$  nA for biotites and amphiboles,  $10$  n $\overline{A}$  for plagioclases; beam diameter: point mode for garnets, focused beam scanned on a 4 by 6  $\mu$  area for biotites and amphiboles, and on a 5 by 7  $\mu$  area for plagioclases.

#### Garnet-biotite thermometry

Representative garnet and biotite analyses are given in Table Al. Garnet are normalized to <sup>12</sup> oxygens. Fe<sup>3+</sup> is estimated supposing that  $YFe^{3+}$  =  $2-(\overline{Y}A1 + \overline{Y}Cr + \overline{Y}Ti)$ . The Fe<sup>3+</sup> content is always very low and in most cases insignificant. Biotites were normalized to <sup>22</sup> equivalent oxygens. All the iron is considered to be bivalent. In each sample, contacts between garnets and biotites were preferred for temperature estimates. The rim of garnets is analysed and compared to the biotite analyzes located in the immediate vicinity. When textural equilibrium between garnets and biotites could not be found (i.e. AS 93152), the rim of garnet was used with the nearest biotite in the matrix.

Three calibrations (FERRY and SPEAR, 1978; Hodges and Spear, 1982; Ganguly and Saxena, 1984) were applied to each garnet-biotite assemblages (8 to 60 temperature estimates for one

 $\bar{z}$ 

calibration depending of the sample). The results are given in table A4. In addition, the Hodges and SPEAR's calibration results are plotted in histograms (Fig. 17). This provides a rapid and convenient way to judge the distribution and the coherence of the calculated temperatures. The temperatures considered as representative are printed in each histogram, and are compiled in figure 16c.

#### Garnet-hornblende thermometry

The same philosophy is applied to the garnethornblende thermometry. Representative analyses are given in table A2. Hornblendes are normalized to 23 equivalent oxygens. Following the Graham and Powell (1984) calibration, all Fe is supposed to be bivalent. Results are given in table  $A4$  as well as in histograms (Fig. 18).

## Garnet- $Al_2SiO_5$ -quartz-plagioclase (GASP) geobarometer

Three samples  $(AS 93159, 241$  and  $259)$  contain the GASP geobarometer mineral assemblage. Pressures are calculated using the Hodges and Spear (1982) calibration. Representative analyses are given in table A3. Plagioclases are normalized to 8 oxygens. Intersection area between P-T lines for the GASP barometer and for the garnet-biotite geothermometer (both calibrations Hopges and Spear, 1982) are plotted in figure 19.