

summit was reached on September 18 after a one-day approach from Base Camp at Sundanban and a 5½ -day ascent. The first difficulties were to reach and traverse a group of five pinnacles, which had turned back previous unsuccessful attempts. The pinnacles provided excellent rock climbing. The route above there was of consistent high quality. Other pinnacles and towers proved significant obstacles between relatively easy snow-and-ice walls and arêtes. The hardest climbing was a bold rock pitch to gain the summit of the Great North Tower, where we made the sixth and highest bivouac at 6085 meters. Since some difficult diagonal and overhanging abseils were made, we left 120 meters of rope to facilitate retreat along the ridge if it had been necessary.

ROBIN BEADLE, *Oread Mountaineering Club, England*

*Kedarnath Dome.* After installing Base Camp, Camp I and Camp II at 4700, 5700 and 6300 meters on August 11, 17 and 20, the following climbed to the summit of Kedarnath Dome: on August 22, Ettore Nanni, Libero Pelotti, Roberta Faldella, Fabrizio Desco; on August 23, Cristina Carantoni, Luciano Pasuali, liaison officer Kumar Das; on August 24, Eliana Palazzi, Rossalio Patuelli; on August 25, Rodolfo Baraldini, Angela Montanari. On August 28, Nanni, Palazzi, Pelotti and Patuelli climbed Baby Shivling (5500 meters, 18,045 feet) by a 400-meter-high rock route of UIAA V to V+ difficulty.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Bharte Khunta.* This peak was climbed on June 19 by a team from Delhi led by C.S. Pande.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Bharte Khunta.* We set up Base Camp at Topovan on September 18. Once acclimatized and having set up Camp I on the Kirti Bamak at 4630 meters, we made a cache higher. On September 26, we occupied Camp II at 5640 meters. On the 27th, Toni Bou, Kiko Colo, Josep Ximenis and I climbed to the summit of Bharte Khunta (6578 meters, 21,580 feet). The mountain is more dangerous than difficult because of crevasses and threatening séracs. The ice is from 45° to 60°.

JOAN SALA, *Club de Esquí de La Molina, Girona, Spain*

*Shivling Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of geologists and climbers: Tony Rex, Mike Norry, Paul Metcalf, Nick Groves, Alan Newby, Jill Peacegood, Jon Tinker, Mark Miller, Simon Nathan and me, United Kingdom; Maryrose Fowlie, New Zealand; Patrick LeFort, Arnaud Pecher, and Jacques Dardel, France; and Bruno Scaillet, Belgium. We spent from April 1 to May

28 around the Gangotri Glacier and side valleys with two objectives: to conduct a regional geological survey involving mapping, sample collecting for geochemistry, mineral chemistry, radiometric dating and fission track geochronology and to climb new routes on Shivling and Bhagirathi I. Base Camp was established at Tapovan on April 4. We spent a week exploring the Chaturangi Glacier and the northwestern flanks of the Bhagirathi group. Without skis and snowshoes, movement would have been impossible the whole time we were in the Gangotri region. Four big snowstorms each deposited about two meters of snow and there was more snow when we left than when we arrived. Local climbers said it was the heaviest snowfall and the worst pre-monsoon season in 30 years. We made three attempts to climb two new routes on Shivling: the northwest face, about 200 meters left of the original Indo-Tibetan Border Police route, and the north face. The first two attempts failed when avalanches buried lower camps and bad weather set in. A second try on the north face from May 16 to 20 by Tinker and Miller reached 5800 meters at the funnel below the upper icefield. Newby, Rex and I reached 6250 meters on the northwest face after a tremendously exposed bivouac clipped into ice screws on a 70° face. The final summit ridge would have been in a frightening unstable condition. We were also suffering from mild frostbite. On May 19 we abseiled ten rope-lengths down the mixed ridge bounding the right side of the north face.

MICHAEL SEARLE, *Leicester University, England*

*Shivling Attempt.* During the summer of 1987, a Norwegian team composed of Jan Westerby, Thornbjørn Envold, Magnar Osnes and Aril Meyer hoped to climb the north buttress of Shivling. Unstable weather hindered progress. Some 500 meters below the summit they got stopped where the ridge is of steep and difficult rock. Climbing difficulties, lack of equipment and illness of one of the members forced them to retreat.

JUSTYNA KOLSTØ, *Oslo, Norway*

*Shivling North Face Ascent and West Ridge Tragedy.* Our joint expedition had 15 Czechoslovakian and three German climbers. From Gangotri we set out with 10 porters and 15 horses and got to Base Camp at Tapovan a day later. To acclimatize, we decided to climb Shivling by the normal west-ridge route, hoping to get all members up that route before attempting the unclimbed north face. To our sorrow, two of our group were too much in a hurry and used no camps or fixed ropes. Karel Jakeš and German Erik Henseleit reached the summit (6543 meters, 21,467 feet) on August 26. On the descent, Henseleit used an old fixed rope that was in place on the upper part of the rock buttress, which broke, and he fell to his death. The expedition was interrupted for some time. The other two Germans, Knut Burgdorf and Christian Dirjack, went back home. On September 4, the summit of Shivling was reached via the west ridge