

We started at 1 a.m. and climbed most of the route using headlamps. The angle reached 70° but the crux was a section of vertical ice above 5,500m. In five hours we climbed a narrow corner system and by noon we were on the top of a 5,845m summit (two altimeter readings). We christened it Mt. Mahindra and named our 900m route, The Last Minute Journey (ED1). This was the end of our never-ending wait.

DODO KOPOLD, *Slovakia*

Editor's note: The two Slovaks reached a foresummit of the main peak, the highest point of which is thought to be ca 6,000m.

Unnamed peak on the Spaghetti Glacier, Miyar Valley. Four Italians, Roberto Iannilli, Marco Marciano, Moritz Tirler, and Giovanni Rivolta, attempted a route toward the left side of the big rock wall that forms the west face of the impressive unnamed ca 6,000+m summit north of Thunder Peak. They were hampered by very poor weather and eventually gave up at ca 5,700m after climbing over 400m at 6c and A2.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

CB 44, a previously unnamed peak in Central Lahul, probable first ascent. Our organization, Kolkata Trekkers Youth (formerly Calcutta Trekkers Youth) of West Bengal, organizes expeditions in unexplored regions, or to virgin or relatively unknown peaks, or peaks that require technical climbing. For our 18th mountaineering expedition we decided to climb Akela Qilla (CB 46, 6,005m), Tombu (CB 48, 5791m), and Jori (CB 49A, 5,791m) in the Kulti Valley of Himachal Pradesh.

The first successful expedition in this region of the Chandra Bhaga peaks was organized



A camp en route to climbing CB44 (5,938m), the pointy peak behind. Sandip Majumden

in 1955 by the R.A.F under the leadership of Tony Smythe. This team climbed CB 46 (now at least four ascents to date) and CB 48 (now at least two ascents to date). However, CB 49A does not appear to have any recorded ascent. Nearby there are many beautiful peaks. From the north these are: Taragiri, Tila ka Lahar, Ashagiri.

On August 29 we established Camp I above a hanging icefall, which we had bypassed via ca 250m of steep rock on the left side of the moraine. On September 2 Sonamji served bed tea at 3:35 a.m. and we left for the summit two hours later. We traversed onto the northeast side. Ashagiri (6,161m, climbed by the 1955 expedition) was the nearest objective, then unnamed peak (CB 44, 5,938m), and Akela Qila (6,005m). At 10:30 a.m. we put on crampons and climbed a steep face of around 75° for ca 250m. After tough climbing we reached a rock ridge at 11 a.m. and considering the prevailing weather and the time, we decided to climb CB 44. Perhaps the weather would not allow us to climb Akela Qila, Tambo, or Jori. Rajib was out of breath and I decided to wait here with him. But Sonam, Sandip, and Tikkim went on to climb CB 44, reaching the summit at 11:35 a.m. (32°27'N, 77°24'E). There appears to be no previously recorded ascent of this peak and we have no other information regarding whether this summit has been reached before.

ASHIM KUMAR GHOSH CHOWDHURY, *Kolkata Trekkers Youth*

HIMACHAL PRADESH

SPITI

Losar Valley, Pt 6,000m, (first?) ascent and Dawa Kangri, second ascent. A 10-member team from Kolkatta led by Ujjal Ray climbed in Spiti's Losar valley. They first climbed an unnamed peak of 6,000m. The summit was reached on August 28 by Rajan Aich, Surojit Bhowmick, Subrata Mukherjee, Deb Das Nandi, Tushar K. Sarkar, and Satyajit Shroff. The following day Bhowmick, Nandi, Ray, and Shroff made the second/third ascent of 6,140m Dawa Kangri, a peak first climbed on August 5 and 7, 2000, by a large Japanese expedition under the overall leadership of Takako Kata, which reached the summit via two different routes: the north face and northeast ridge.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

GANGOTRI

Gangotri National Park. Recently the Gangotri region gained national park status. The park has already reported a number of successfully completed projects and an on-going program is planned. This program is displayed at the park entrance a few kilometers from the road head at Gangotri. Projects are listed below with a somewhat liberal translation from the Indian English (I struggled with a number of words).

Project Enterprise of Achievements

1. Installation of eco-friendly incinerator at Gangotri.
2. Placing 50 garbage bins between Gangotri and Bhojbas.
3. Issue of 400 LPG connections at Gangotri and beyond.
4. Issue of 15 tubular frame structures with protective covering to replace existing shelters