

descend on skis at 9:30 and caused a giant avalanche. Luckily he was not carried far by it. Danthi, Dr. Shroff and I witnessed this from below and guided the badly shaken skier to safety. At the same time de Blanchaud and Giraud climbed Koteswar (c. 6080 meters, c. 19,950 feet) by its east ridge. After a day of practicing ice-and-snow techniques, on May 21 we started building up toward Sudarshan Parbat. Hubert Odier and de Blanchaud climbed a steep couloir of rotten rock and snow to gain the east col. They fixed rope on the north face of the east ridge and descended to Camp I at 19,000 feet. For the next five days we ferried loads. On May 24 Koteswar II (5690 meters, 18,668 feet) was climbed by Kothari, Sherpas Kami Tsering and Nawang and me, starting from Advanced Base. On the 25th Danthi, Lakhpa Tsering, Pomal and Giraud attempted Swetvarn (6340 meters, 20,800 feet) from Camp I West. They were stopped 300 feet below the summit by a dangerous ice traverse. More ropes were fixed on the east ridge of Sudarshan Parbat on the 26th and the first attempt was made on the 27th. Hubert Odier and de Blanchaud climbed in two hours a 65-foot ice wall and got to within 500 feet of the top, fixing ropes. On the 29th Danthi, Pomal and Kami Tsering camped below Saife and all the others went past Camp I West to push a camp 1000 feet higher at the start of the fixed ropes at 20,000 feet. Nawang and I returned to Camp I West. On May 30 the rest climbed the fixed ropes to a plateau. Above, the terrain was easy and they reached the summit at ten A.M. The other team climbed Saife at eight A.M. On June 3 we established Camp I East and reconnoitered the east col leading to the Shyamvarn Bamak. On the 4th ropes were fixed to the north col and beyond. On June 5 Hubert Odier, de Blanchaud and Giraud climbed Chaturbhuj (6655 meters, 21,835 feet). They left Camp I East at four A.M. and after going over the north col, descended 200 feet to the north over ice. They made a long traverse to the north ridge, by which they reached the summit at noon. On the same day Lakhpa Tsering, Kami Tsering and I crossed the east col to camp on the Shyamvarn Bamak on the east. On June 6 we unsuccessfully attempted Yogeshwar (6678 meters, 21,910 feet) by its south ridge, being stopped at 21,000 feet by a giant bergschrund which cuts the ridge from the summit pyramid. On June 7 Giraud and de Blanchaud again climbed Saife. On June 8 we all withdrew from Base Camp.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Names in the Gangotri Region.* The glaciers of the area are often named for their appearance. "Varn," meaning "colour of the skin or complexion," appears in several glacier names. *Raktavarn Bamak* (Reddish Complexion Glacier), *Swetvarn* (White Complexion) and *Shyamvarn* (Blackish Complexion) seem to conform in their colour

to these names. *Swetvarn* also refers to Rama, one of the incarnations of Vishnu, the preserver, namely "The God with the White Complexion." Another incarnation of Vishnu is Krishna, also known as *Shyamvarm*, "The God with the Blackish Complexion." The peaks' names are mostly based on Hindu Gods and their attributes:

*Chaukhamba* = Brahma, the Creator.

*Shivling* = the penis of Shiva, the destroyer and renewer of life.

*Sudarshan Parbat*. Sudarshan is the weapon of Lord Krishna or Vishnu.

Parbat = mountain, a name tied to Parvati, Shiva's consort.

*Chaturbhuj* = one with four hands. This is one of the names for Vishnu, who has four hands and holds the Sudarshan. The peak has four distinct ridges falling off in four directions.

*Yogeshwar*. A name for Krishna when serene. It thus applies to this high, snowy peak.

*Saife* = the sword carried by Rama.

*Koteshwar* = God of the Edges. The mountain has sword-edge-like ridges.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Jaonli Tragedy*. A five-woman expedition from Tokyo was overwhelmed by an avalanche on September 23. The leader Yoko Kominami, Yoko Tajime, Reiko Kato and an Indian porter died.

*Gangotri I, 1980*. We climbed Gangotri I (6672 meters, 21,890 feet) by the northeast ridge, first climbed by British in 1952. We placed Base Camp at 14,750 feet at Rudugaira Kharak on September 15, 1980. Camp I was established on the 17th at 16,900 feet and Camp II on the 21st at 18,575 feet. We followed a narrow, steep ridge and steep snow to Camp III at 20,650 feet, pitched on the 23rd. All members, Fukaya, Yokota, Hara, Kuramoto, Morishita, Ishizuka and I, got to the summit on either September 24 or 25, 1980.

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## India—Himachal Pradesh

*Leo Pargil*. An expedition of the Indian Dogra Regimental Centre on June 15 reached the summit of Leo Pargil (6791 meters, 22,280 feet). Reaching the top were Captain Haripal Singh, leader, Havildar Khem Singh, Lance Naik Lalit, Captains Govil and Jayant Rao, Havildar Prem, Naik Thakur, Havildar Ranjit, Naik Hari Ram, Angrej and Narboo.

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