

1988 after a two-day trek from Panamik up the Pukpoche Lungpa. Camp I was established on July 26 at 17,800 feet on the Pukpoche Glacier, a kilometer short of the bifurcation of the North and South Pukpoche Glaciers. Camp II was placed at 20,300 feet above the South Pukpoche Glacier on July 28. Camp III was above a steep ice patch, followed by a sharp snow ridge and rock shoulder. The complete route from Camp II to III required 2500 feet of fixed rope. Camp III, established on August 6 at 22,600 feet, was the summit camp. For Saser Kangri IV (7420 meters, 24,330 feet) it was a three-hour climb to the top. For Saser Kangri I it would have been advisable to have a bivouac camp in the col, though we climbed it from Camp III, based on the previous year's report. It took us a little more than twelve hours to reach the summit (7672 meters, 25,170 feet), but unlike last year's expedition, we fixed 2000 feet of rope simultaneously from the col to west summit. From there to the main summit is less than an hour's descent to the col and the final ascent of 400 feet to the peak. On August 24, 1988, two summit parties left at the same time for the two different peaks. K.R. Lavaraju, Sange (senior), Pasang and I climbed Saser Kangri I. Kripa Narayan, S. Srivatsa and Sange (junior) climbed Saser Kangri IV. The other members of the team were Mahendra Sharma, S. Bhattacharjee, B.K. Gupta, J.P. Singh, Surinder Chauhan, Sandeep Goswami, Prajapati Bodhane, Tapeshe Bansal, Miss Nandini Lohia and Miss Yangdu Gombu. For the first time, Indian women participated in an expedition to the Karakoram.

HEERA LOHIA, *Climbers and Explorers Club, India*

*Peaks Above Chong Kumdan and Aq Tash Glaciers.* Our members were Arun Samant, Muslim Contractor, Monesh Devjani, Vijay Kothari, Ashwin Popat and I as leader. We visited the last two major glaciers in the Eastern Karakoram and climbed peaks northeast of the Saser La. Our approach was fraught with difficulties. Via Sasoma, the Tulum Puti La, Changmolung, the Saser La and the Shyok River, we finally got to Base Camp at the snout of the Aq Tash Glacier on July 29. It was 28 days since we had left Bombay and 17 days from Leh (instead of the expected 6). During the ensuing days, I suffered a bout with malaria and went to Chong Tash Camp with Devjani to recover. Samant and Contractor penetrated the Aq Tash (White Stone) Glacier with porters. In six days they had Camps I and II established and stocked at 5200 and 5650 meters. In inclement weather they climbed to the col between Aq Tash (7016 meters) and P 6739. Aq Tash was too steep and sharp. They tried P 6739, east of the col, and on August 7 reached a 6400-meter black tower. They returned to Base Camp on August 9, where Devjani and I joined them after my recovery. Contractor and porter Pasang Bodh decided to continue climbing around the Aq Tash Glacier while others proceeded to the Chong Kumdan (Big Dam) Glacier. They climbed "Lokhzung" (Eagle's Nest; 6090 meters, 19,981 feet) on August 12 and "Chathung Thung" (Black-Neck Cranes; 5645 meters, 18,520 feet) on August 14. Devjani, Samant and I with three porters left for the Chong Kumdan Glacier along the Shyok River. Cutting across the Thangman Glacier, Samant and porter

Koylu Ram had a tough time crossing the ice pinnacles. We reached the four-kilometer-long plain near the Chong Kumdan Glacier. This advancing glacier has blocked the flow of the Shyok a number of times in the past, forming a huge glacial lake. Whenever the dam burst, it loosed giant floods in the Shyok (River of Death), causing destruction and death for miles downriver. The last such major flood was on August 16, 1928. We established an Advance Base on the left moraine at 5040 meters, below the peak "Skyang." In the short time we had, we could only examine the eastern and southern aspects of Chong Kumdan I (7071 meters). We placed a camp up a side glacier at 5540 meters. On August 14, we climbed to a 5900-meter pass, where I, nursing a recent fracture, had to drop out. The views of Chong Kumdan I were both enchanting and threatening. Samant, Devjani and Kolyu Ram climbed to the summit of "Chogam" (Box of Holy Scriptures; 6250 meters, 20,506 feet), up firm, steep snow to a 30-foot rock pinnacle at the summit. On August 15, Samant and Kolyu Ram climbed "Stos" (Ibex; 6005 meters, 19,700 feet) to the east of Chong Kumdan I, traversing below the slopes of Chogam. The next day Devjani and Yog Raj climbed "Skyang" (Wild Ass; 5770 meters, 18,931 feet) up the southeast slopes from Advance Base to the summit pinnacles. Our mules arrived on time and we had a quick passage to Sasoma (August 22) and to Leh the next day. The area northeast of the Saser La is absolutely barren. Weather in July was atrocious with rain and clouds. August was better but colder.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Rimo II and IV.* An Indo-International expedition, led jointly by Sonam Palzor and Doug Scott, climbed Rimo II (7373 meters, 24,190 feet) and Rimo IV (7169 meters, 23,520 feet). The Indian members were Sonam Palzor, Tsewang Smanla, Kanhaiya Lal, Mohan Singh, a radio operator, a doctor and Liaison Officer Rajiv Kakkar. The "foreigners" were Britons Doug Scott and Nick Kekus, Canadians Rob and Laurie Wood, Austrian Robert Schauer, American Stephen Sustad and Indian Sharavati Prabhu. There were interminable administrative delays and it was 19 days before they could leave Leh on June 16. Schauer was so distressed that he left the expedition at Panamik on June 18. On June 22, they arrived at Base Camp at 4200 meters on the North Terong Glacier. The original objective was to have been first to climb the unclimbed west ridge of Rimo III with fixed ropes and then for the "foreigners" to climb the also unclimbed south buttress alpine-style. Advance Base was set up at 4750 meters on June 28. Altercations had developed with some of the student porters who quit but the liaison officer and Sonam Palzor got supply going with local men. Rob Wood had severe chest pains and was obliged to leave. There was some dissension when the Indians wanted to cross Ibex Col to repeat the Fotheringham-Wilkinson route on the east of Rimo III, but the conditions for crossing the col were bad. Camp I was placed at 5300 meters. There was much new snow and it seemed preferable to the "foreigners" to switch to the west ridge