

southeast from Pathibara East and reached the crest of the summit ridge on April 17. On April 19, Camp II was placed just four pitches below the summit of Pathibara East (Sphynx; 6824 meters, 22,388 feet). We made the first ascent of this peak on April 20 and continued on along the northeast ridge of Pathibara. On April 22, we extended the fixed line to the col between the northeast top and the main summit. On April 24, Japanese Hiroshi Iwazaki, Nobuhiro Shingo and I and Indians Jot Singh Bhundari, Sunder Singh Martolia, Lopsang Sherpa and Purba Lepcha climbed to the summit of Pathibara (Pyramid; 7123 meters, 23,369 feet), followed on April 26 by Japanese Masanori Suzuki, Kazuaki Hirata and Indian Hira Ram. The route from Camp II was a mixture of steep ice slopes and a traverse along a knife edge that demanded technical skill. We climbed along the Changsang Glacier side of the knife-edged summit ridge. The seven pitches from the northeast peak to the top were the crux of the climb. Also on the 26th, Harbhajan Singh, A.S. Rawat, Chhodda Tshering, Durban Singh and Perna Kumar Gurang followed the first three but due to a sudden change of weather, they could not continue to the main peak. They climbed the northeast peak (c. 7000 meters, 22,966 feet). A photograph and a map appear in *Iwa To Yuki* of August 1993.

YOSHIO OGATA, *Himalayan Association of Japan*

Kangchenjunga, Indo-Ukrainian Expedition. Our expedition of three Indians and 16 Ukrainians reached the roadhead at Lachen in northern Sikkim on April 8 and established Base Camp at Green Lake at 4935 meters on April 14. We were Vadim Sviridenko, co-leader, Mikail Sitnik, Vladimir Alperin, Alexei Kharaldin, Vladislav Terzeoul, Sergei Klovanych, Pavel Zaid, Sergei Prodan, Vadim Dudko, Ibragim Zade, Aleksander Perkhomenko, Valentin Boiko, Aleksander Serpak, Yuri Ditiuk, Pavel Serenkov, Aleksander Vlassenko, *Ukrainians*, and Suhas Kharde, Ramesh Chandra Koranga and I, co-leader, *Indians*. We placed Camps I at 5700 meters on the south face of the east spur (200 meters of fixed rope), II at 6300 meters at the bottom of the northeast spur (800 meters of fixed rope), III and IV at 6800 and 7300 meters on the snow slope of the east spur (each 600 meters of fixed rope), V at 7600 meters near the junction of the east spur and the north ridge (800 meters of fixed rope) and VI at 8100 meters on the north face on the Nepalese side. At 2:40 P.M. on May 23, Sitnik, Kharaldin, Serpak, Boiko and Terzeoul reached the summit. Perkhomenko and Zade got to the top at 6:30 P.M. on May 26 in misty weather.

PRAJAPATI BODHANE, *Holiday Hikers Club, Bombay, India*

Gemmigela II (Twin II) Ascent and Tragedy. From Lachen to Base Camp at Green Lake (4930 meters), it was a strenuous five days of trekking up and down mountain paths. We had to cross dangerous rapids by using log bridges with ropes stretched between the banks as a safety measure. My personal target, Green Lake, was a paradise with Kangchenjunga and the other peaks rising above. I believe

that I am the only person over 80 years of age to reach the lake. The climbers crossed to Nepal Gap Glacier, on which they placed Camps I and II at 5200 and 5800 meters on September 25 and 27. Camp III was on the ridge between Gimmigela II and Sugarloaf at 6500 meters. Camp IV was placed just below the top of Gimmigela II at 6900 meters on October 9. Japanese Hideo Koike, Masanori Sato, Taroh Tanigawa and Indian Sherpas Phurba, Chuldin and Pasang Nima reached the summit of the east peak, Gemmigela II, (7005 meters, 22,982 feet) on October 13. At five A.M. on October 18, the final assault team left Camp V on the ridge between the main and east peaks for the main peak, Gemmigela I (7350 meters, 24,144 feet). A 7:30 A.M., the climbing leader, Masanori Sato, fell 35 meters into a hidden crevasse and was instantly killed. Despite all efforts, the others could not recover the body. Out of consideration for our lost friend, the expedition was terminated. The expedition leader was Tsuguyasu Itami.

KO YOSHIDA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Kokthang Attempt. An Indian team led by Dilip Kolhatkar had the dubious distinction of being the first Indian expedition to run into trouble with the new Government of Sikkim rules for mountaineers. They were stopped at a local police check point and extra payment was demanded even though they had full clearance from the Government of India and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. The authorities in Sikkim were highly uncooperative and they lost too many days there to make progress.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Nepal

Kanchenjunga Attempt. Jean Troillet and I set out to climb the world's third highest peak by the southwest ridge to the south summit and then to traverse northwards on the long, high ridge to the main summit. We arrived at Base Camp at 5350 meters after a 14-day approach, during which I was seriously bitten by a dog. Unfortunately, both of us fell sick and did not recover until the beginning of October. We made our first real sortie on October 7. The condition of the snow was very bad and it took us 12 hours to climb 700 meters. We gave up the attempt.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Kumbhakarna East Attempt. To make the first ascent of the extremely steep east face of Kumbhakarna (Jannu) has been a Slovene project since 1991. This autumn's three-man party was the fourth Slovene group to plan its ascent. But Dušan Debelak and Tomaž Zerovnik could get no higher than 6800 meters before frequent stone avalanches drove them down to safety. The 7468-meter east summit of Kumbhakarna remains untrodden.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY