

India—Garhwal

Nanda Devi. After many years of closure to allow the Nanda Devi Sanctuary to recover its more pristine state, an Indian expedition of the Army Corps of Engineers was allowed to return in the pre-monsoon period of 1993. The team led by Lieutenant Colonel V.K. Bhatt consisted of 25 climbers, 10 eco-scientists, five foresters, two doctors, two nurses and a camera crew. It was primarily an ecological expedition. Studies were made on the effect of littering on the environment and on the impact of the ban. They found it to be “a grand spectacle of rare flora and fauna” and have prepared check lists. They listed more than 305 species of fauna, including endangered mountain flying squirrels, snow leopards, Himalayan musk deer, Himalayan red foxes and black bears. They cleared up trash, left behind by countless visitors. The porters were not happy to carry back over a ton of garbage. They reached Base Camp on May 15. There were four high camps, Camps II and IV at 20,300 and 23,000 feet. The summit was gained on June 13 by Major Amin Naik, Captain Anand Swaroop, G.K. Sharma, Lance Havildar Didar Singh and Naik S.P. Bhatt.

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

Nanda Devi East. A team from the Indian Border Security Force, led by S.C. Negi, approached via the Milam valley and Longstaff Col. On October 5, S.D. Thomas and six others reached the summit.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Panwali Dwar. On October 3, George Healey, Winky O’Neale and I made the third ascent of Panwali Dwar (6663 meters, 21,860 feet), which we approached from the Pindari valley to the south. The peak lies on the rim of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary. We climbed the southeast ridge alpine-style with camps at 5200 and 6100 meters. Both previous ascents, in 1980 and 1991, were made with much fixed rope, but the heavy late monsoon plastered the mountain in snow and we saw few traces of old rope. The heavy snow cover let us climb directly up the lower ridge from the Buria Glacier with relative ease whereas earlier parties made a steeper rocky approach from the Bauljuri col. The final 500 meters followed a diagonal line across the upper edge of the south face at a sustained angle of 45° to 50°. The route is without serious objective danger.

MARTIN MORAN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Kamet. Kamet (7756 meters, 25,447 feet) was climbed by an Indian Army Armored Corps team led by Captain S.P. Malik. The summit was reached on October 5 by N.S. Raval, Dhama, S. Chand and Captain M.C. Jaykrishna.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*