

*Chaukhamba II Tragedy.* An Italian expedition hoped to climb Chaukhamba II (7077 meters, 23,220 feet). The group, led by Mauro Farina, was composed of Alberto Tegiacci, Domenico Chindamo, Giovanni Pensa, Ruggero Gheller and Pietro Carboni. At the end of August, after having fixed rope above Advance Base Camp, the group was descending. One of the sections of fixed line pulled out and Tegiacci fell to his death.

*Nilkantha.* A 37-member multinational army expedition was led by Indian Lieutenant Colonel H.S. Chauhan. There were 25 Indians and three each from Britain, United States, France and Italy. The peak was climbed by a new route, the northeast ridge gained from the east face. Despite heavy snowfalls and avalanches, on May 31 the summit of Nilkantha (6596 meters, 21,640 feet) was reached by seven Indians, two Britons and three Italians. They were followed on June 2 by 24 climbers in two batches: 18 Indians, three Frenchmen, two Americans and a Briton. The peak had been first climbed by the west ridge on June 3, 1974 by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

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

*Nilkanta Tragedy.* On September 30, six members of the Japanese expedition of Obihiro Bisutari Club of Hokkaido died on the northeast ridge of difficult Nilkanta. They were leader Yuichi Sasaki, Yuzuru Kobayashi, Yoshinori Wakabayashi, Haruo Takano, Gen Masuda and Takeshi Namba. They were swept away by an avalanche. A seventh member, Akira Matsuyama, had stayed in Camp II and survived.

*Satopanth.* A 7-member team of the Toyama Sansoh Alpine Club of Japan led by Shigeyoshi Kido climbed Santopanth by the north ridge. On August 16, Shigeo Yoneda, Hiroyuki Fujimura and Shigeyoshi Saeki reached the summit.

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

*Sri Kailas.* Nine Indians under the leadership of Basanta Singha Roy set up Base Camp on the Raktvarn Glacier on September 6 and Camps I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII at 16,000, 16,700, 18,000, 18,500, 18,800, 20,000 and 20,800 feet on September 7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19. The weather was adverse throughout the expedition. They were confined to their tents at Camp II for 30 hours due to heavy snowfall. On September 20, Basanta, high-altitude porter Raj Bahadur and cook Dharamraj reached the summit (6932 meters, 22,742 feet).

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

*Bhagirathi III, Southwest Face, New Route and Repeat of Scottish Route.* Our expedition reached Base Camp at Nandanban on August 2. We were Pavel

Trefil, leader, Leoš Chwistek, Štefan Danko, Zdeděk Michalec, Bohuslav Mrozek and I. After acclimatization, Michalec and I made the fourth ascent of the Scottish Pillar in two days of alpine-style climbing. We left Advance Base at four P.M. on August 13 and reached the bottom of the pillar at 5:30. We used aid only twice. In the evening, we bivouacked on the top of the flake pillar. The next day we started at seven A.M. and were on the summit at 5:30 P.M. The good weather ended for a few days. Then, from August 20 to 23, Mrozek and Trefil made the fifth ascent of the Scottish route, followed on August 21 to 24 by Chwistek and Danko. On August 22 and 23, Michalec and I climbed a new route on the right side of the Scottish Pillar, starting 200 or 300 meters to the right of the other route. The route followed a buttress in the center of the southwest face. The first 24 pitches were excellent free climbing on gray granite slabs. We bivouacked 16 pitches up. There were three pitches of UIAA difficulty of VII and 16 had a difficulty of V or higher. The last 400 meters were on loose rock or 50° snow or ice of I to III difficulty, which we climbed unroped.

ZDENĚK ŠLACHTA, *Czech Republic*

*P 6193, Bhagirathi Group, and Manda II Attempts.* From August 20 to September 30, six Slovenes led by Marko Vrevc attempted two unclimbed faces in the Gangotri region. They split into two parties. Matjaž Jamnik and Miha Kajzelj tried to complete the 1100-meter-high ascent of the west face of P 6193 (20,319 feet), which had been attempted in 1992 by other Slovenes. (See AAJ, 1993, page 244.) The peak lies between Bhagirathi II and III. On September 2, they climbed the easy lower 400 meters and two pitches on the steep 700-meter wall. During a bivouac, avalanches ran over them all night. In the morning, when the heavy snowfall stopped for a while, they descended. The other party, Miha Vreča and Marko Vrevc, hoped to climb the huge northeast face of Manda II (6568 meters, 21,550 feet). The conditions were very bad this year with much less snow and consequently more rockfall. Because of the objective danger, they hardly entered the route.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Shivling Attempt, Direct North Buttress, Alpine-Style.* Christoph Hainz and I arrived at Base Camp at 4150 meters below Shivling on May 22. We spent the next seven days acclimatizing. On May 30, we moved up to bivouac at 4700 meters. At four A.M. on May 31, we began the first ascent of the north buttress. We climbed to the right of the Japanese route and climbed 1100 vertical meters with UIAA difficulty up to VII. This wonderful climb was on solid granite. The buttress is very steep and offers no spot for a bivouac. It would have been sensible to descend the normal route, but because of a violent snowstorm which began 300 meters before we reached the summit (6543 meters, 21,467 feet) at four P.M., we could not locate it and descended the route we had ascended. We got back to Base Camp at 4:30 A.M. on June 1. Both of us were snow blind.