

In fact, the "Nameless Peak" provides ideal geography for alpine style.

Leaving BC at 6 p.m., we passed 60-degree snow slopes with some effort because of some solid icy sections. Furthermore, the fatigue we had gotten in the Main Tower also slowed down my climbing. As a result, we reached the crest at 10 a.m., spending more than 15 hours to reach it. For the summit, we dealt with a final three or four pitches of rock (V A2). My first sight of the Biafo Glacier flowing like a highway and the scenic Baintha Brakk strongly impressed me.

At this moment, we should confess that we didn't reach the real summit. About 45 feet beneath the it, cracks disappeared in the darkness. We were not so discouraged. However, Daisaku was snoring, hanging from a rope, and Taeko was listening to someone who was not even there. I had also spent more than 30 minutes putting up the anchors. It was about time to descend. It was 42 hours of restless work before we made a landing on the safe earth.

The Sosbun Towers could be climbed despite the rock quality. The climbing would basically be the same as that in the Alps and Patagonia. I hope many climbers will visit and try the exciting work in such a "nameless" land.

YASUSHI YAMANOI, *Japan*

INDIA

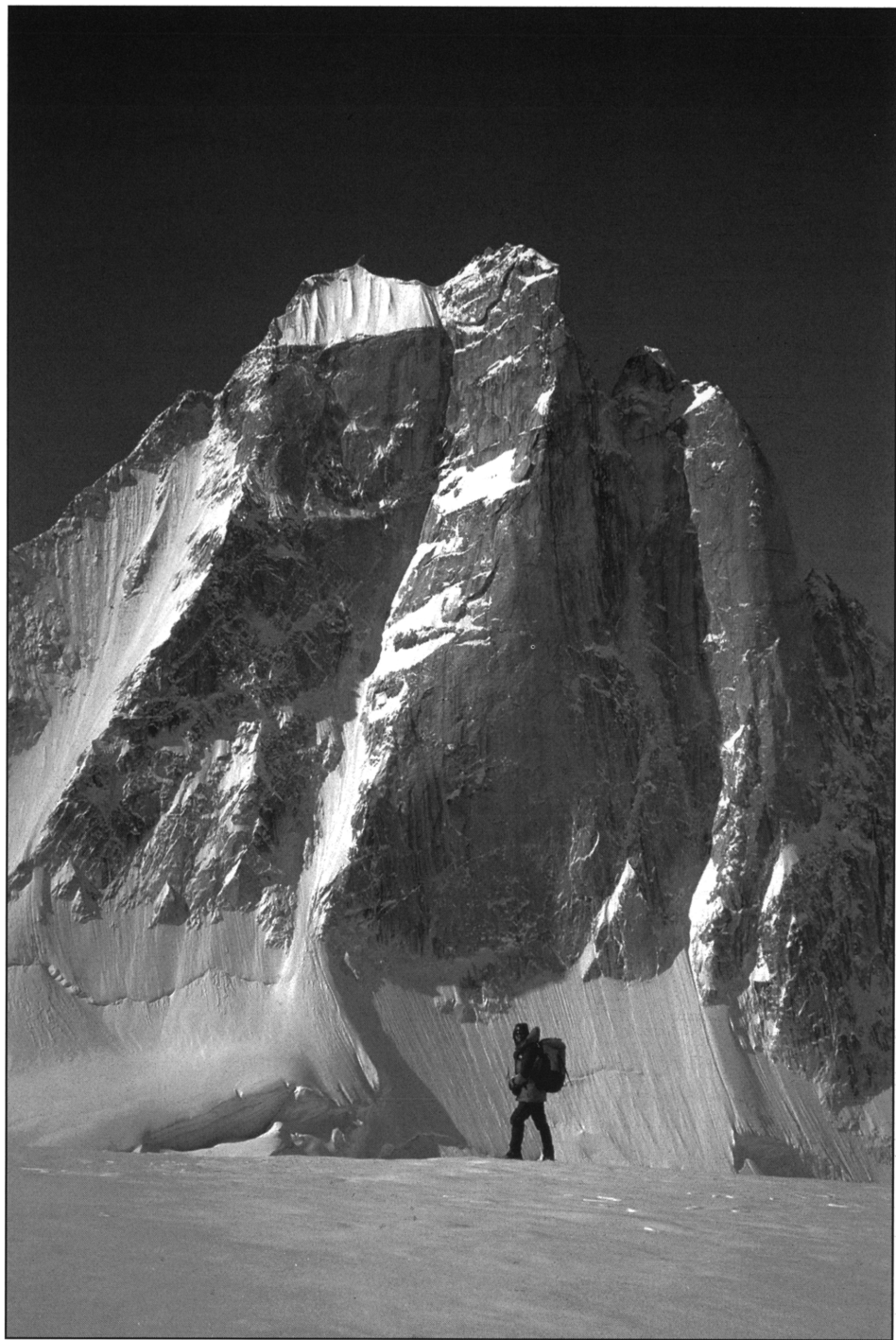
GARHWAL

Mukut Parvat East, Correction, and First Ascent. The 1998 expedition from South Korea led by Oksun Hong (see 1999 AAJ, p. 355) claimed the first ascent of Mukut Parvat East (7130m) in the Garhwal. The expedition claimed to have reached the summit and provided photographs and details that were published in various journals. In 1999, an Indian team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering led by Col. Ajit Dutt attempted the same peak by an almost similar route in June and July. They found a Korean snow stake on a dome below the summit. The Indian team proceeded further and climbed another higher snowy point which was at least 80 meters higher; it took them almost one hour. From this higher snowy peak they could view the main peak of Mukut Parvat I and the Korean high point below them. Thus, they concluded that the point they climbed was the true main summit of Mukut Parvat East and the Korean team had reached a subsidiary point 80 meters below.

The photographs, route details and timings from the Korean ascent and the Indian team were compared by J. C. Nanavati, adviser to the IMF. All the pictures, reports and details were sent to the Korean leader for their studies and comments. The Korean leader in a letter confirmed that they were on a lower summit and had mistaken the true summit as Mukut Parvat I and not proceeded to it. Thus the Koreans had not climbed the main summit of Mukut Parvat East. Hence it is now placed on record that the first ascent was made by NIM-Indian team in 1999, while the Korean made the first ascent of Mukut Parvat East II.

DR. M. S. GILL, *President, The Indian Mountaineering Foundation*

Arwa Tower, First Ascent and Arwa Spire, First Attempt. From May 7-14, Britons Mick Fowler and Steve Sustad climbed the Northwest Face (VI 5b A3 Scottish V/VI, 1000m) of the Arwa Tower (6352m), making the first ascent of the peak in the process. An account of their



The unclimbed Arwa Spire. MICK FOWLER

climb appears earlier in this journal. Meanwhile, Crag Jones and Kenton Cool attempted two lines on the north side of the unclimbed Arwa Spire (6193m) in May. Firstly, an attempt was made via the icefield leading up to the left of the summit tower, but deep powder on very hard ice caused a retreat. An alternative mixed line further left was then tried. Deep powder overlying steep smooth rock slabs again led to a retreat.

CARADOC "CRAG" JONES, *Wales*

Panch Chuli III, Attempt. The virgin Panch Chuli III (6314m) was attempted from May-June by a young IMF team selected from all over India. The leader, S. Bhattacharya, was an experienced mountaineer from Delhi. They attempted the peak from the eastern approaches through Meola Glacier. After overcoming the icefall they reached the final ridge directly from the icefall instead of traversing to the col between Peak II and III. They had to stop about 80 meters before the main summit due to steep ice. A second attempt was not made.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Shivling, East Ridge, Third Ascent. When my boss, Captain Bolo, asked us to suggest an expedition for the spring, I immediately remembered a picture of Shivling and proposed to him the east ridge. Our small team was made up of Doctor Pascal Urbain and four climbers: Frédéric Gentet, Laurent Miston, Philippe Renard and myself. On April 30, a bus brought us from Delhi to Gangotri. Two days of trekking were necessary to reach Base Camp (4300m). The East Ridge of Shivling, a.k.a. the Ganesh Ridge (VI 6 A3), was climbed for the first time in 1981 by Doug Scott, Greg Child, George Bettembourg and Rick White. It was considered, at that time, to be one of the most technical routes ever climbed in alpine style.

On May 14, we decided to try the original South Ridge route of Bhagirathi III. We had the authorization and moreover it would improve our acclimatization for Shivling. The day after, we walked seven hours around the Bhagirathi range to pitch a camp at 5300 meters. The South Ridge contains grade 4+ climb and 55-degree slopes. On May 16, after seven hours, we reached the icy and sharp summit ridge.

On the 19th, good weather incited us to leave for Shivling's East Ridge. Philippe and Laurent stayed at BC. An easy beginning was quickly followed by the crenellated part of the ridge. Some very old fixed ropes reminded us that Doug Scott and his friends were here 18 years ago. We stopped before the night, having climbed 1300 meters from BC. The next day, we encountered the first hard part of the ridge. The weather changed very quickly and the snow came. We had not worn our rock climbing shoes for a long time! At 4 p.m., Frédéric climbed up to fix a rope for the morrow. He put a 40-meter Tyrolean traverse across a little pass beneath us. May 21 was cloudy; above the Tyrolean, we free climbed an A1 pitch. With climbing shoes, it's 6b.

The fourth day, I climbed a strenuous pitch with large cracks and arrived at the first pendulum. The haulbag made a nice flight! Then we climbed a difficult chimney; it was snowing a lot. May 24 was summit day; it was snowing and the wind was strong. Frédéric climbed three pitches and I did the last rocky pitch. The wind was always strong when we did the 200 meters of the ice cap in deep snow. After a small serac, we reached the summit. We went down on an icy 45-degree ridge. Approaching the great serac of the normal route, the fog was still present. So, we preferred to make a sixth bivouac.

ANTOINE DE CHOUDENS, *Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne*