

attempt, which took place on October 6 and 7, fared slightly better and a height of 6400m was achieved. Serious stone fall prevented them from completing the climb.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Shivling (6543m), first ski descent. Emmanuel Ratouis led a three-member team, which reached the summit via the west ridge in a 20-hour push from base camp over May 7-8. Ratouis then made the first ski descent of the mountain. Apart from an 80-meter section which he rappelled, he skied all the way, negotiating slopes up to 55 degrees. He took off his skis just 10 minutes walk above base camp. Two other expeditions also summited via the west ridge during the spring.

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Bhagirathi III (6454m), attempt. The four-man German team of Robert Jasper, Walter Hölzler, and Rainer Trepppe with cameraman Jochen Schmoll planned to climb the true crest of the south-west pillar, left of the 1982 Barton-Fyffe Route. The climbers established an advanced base during early May in the glacier bay below the west face. They then climbed the left (north) side of the lower crest to place a portaledge camp on the obvious snow patch at around half-height on the pillar. However, bad weather and an early monsoon dogged their efforts and they eventually had to give up in early June after Holzer and Trepppe had reached a high point of ca 5800m, just 100 meters or so short of the end of the major rock climbing difficulties.

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Chaukhamba I (7138m), attempts and tragedy. In May a 14-member team from Calcutta led by Brijes Dey attempted the north face of this high mountain, approaching from Badrinath and Mana. They found the huge face very avalanche prone, with many large crevasses barring their way. The attempt was given up. In September another Indian team led by Ujjwal Ganguly also attempted the normal route on the north face. On the 14th four members made a summit attempt from Camp 3 at 6350m. This failed and two members returned down the mountain on the following day when the weather turned bad. Palash Mukherjee and Serabjit Sadhu remained and made a second attempt on the 16th, when the weather improved. However, once again they decided to retreat and began descending at around 10:30 a.m., when the sun had already softened the snow slopes. Within an hour they were engulfed by an avalanche, which was witnessed from Camp 1. Although the Indo-Tibet Border Police sent in helicopters on the 22nd to search for the missing climbers, the two bodies were never located.

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CENTRAL GARHWAL

Shri Parvat, attempt and Bhagat Peak, ascent. Rajesh Gadgil's nine member team from Bombay planned to attempt the second ascent of the beautiful 6175m fluted snow peak, Shri Parvat, which rises from the Deo Dekhni Plateau west of Mana-Badrinath and has not been climbed since its original ascent in 1934 by Eric Shipton and Bill Tilman. Base camp was established at