

ous icefall on the north face but avalanches stopped their progress. They then attempted the west ridge but only reached the col at the start. One member was sick and they finally called off the expedition.

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Kamet (7756m), attempts and ascent. Jerzy Tillak's eight-member Polish expedition attempted the unrepeated west ridge. This team of strong climbers reached 7390m on August 26 having approached the peak from Gamsali and Niti. Camp 4 was placed at 6600m and Camp 5 at 7120m. The Poles encountered very high winds and loose powder snow, which forced them to give up the climb. An Indian expedition comprising senior citizens from retired police and other officers attempted the standard route in the autumn. The 67-year-old leader, Ashwini Kumar, is reported to have died on reaching the lower slopes. Debasashi Kanji's West Bengal team also failed on the same route. However, in early September an Indo-Tibet Border Police expedition was successful. The summiteers included Sange Sherpa, the only man to have climbed Everest from all three sides—south, north, and east (Kangshung).

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EASTERN GARHWAL

Dunagiri, local access problems and an ascent. A Korean expedition had full clearance from Delhi to climb this famous 7066m peak west of Changabang and the Nanda Devi Inner Sanctuary rim. Arriving in the area during August the Uttaranchal Forest Authorities denied them access on the grounds that the peak lay in the prohibited Nanda Devi Sanctuary. After much delay and failed negotiations, the team eventually had to accept Nilkanth instead (see above) but now much time had been lost. The Indian Army expedition that climbed Nanda Devi had no such trouble and were able to make a successful ascent of Dunagiri.

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Kalanka, attempt. We arrived in India on August 24 with permission to visit and climb the remote north side of this 6931m peak during the months of September and October. Although we had official permission from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation for the true north face, once in the region we came up against numerous and lengthy bureaucratic difficulties and delays instigated by the newly formed Uttaranchal State (particularly their Forestry Department). Kalanka lies on the border of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary and is thus a sensitive, environmentally protected mountain. There were some ongoing political power struggles between the federal and state governments in the administration of these lands. The delays cost us about four days in lost time waiting in the village of Joshimath. Given the situation in the region, our agents in New Delhi (Shikhar Travels) did everything they could to facilitate our expedition and succeeded in obtaining a safe passage for our small group. Our base camp was located at 4500m in the same place as the Russian-American 1998 north face of Changabang Expedition BC. Once situated at the foot of the face at our well-stocked advanced base camp (5100m), Jack experienced altitude-related health problems resulting in our only being able to