

The route on the south pillar of Purbi.  
Max Bolland

*Trisul II, attempt.* An 11-member expedition from Calcutta, led by Amitava Roy, attempted Trisul II, a 6,690m peak situated above the Bidalgwar Glacier. This peak was first climbed by a former Yugoslavian expedition in 1960 (by the Japanese in 1978 and for a third time by former Yugoslavs in 1987) and has probably not been attempted for 15 years. From the glacier the team established two camps (almost certainly on the south ridge, the route of the first ascensionists and probably not attempted again since that date) and were in position for a summit attempt, when an avalanche destroyed the site of Camp 2 at 5,600m (their high point) and buried lots of equipment.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor,*  
*The Himalayan Journal*

## CENTRAL GARHWAL

*Devban, second ascent?* An Indo-Tibet Border Police Expedition led by Y.S. Sandhu made what was probably the first ascent of this 6,852m peak south east of Kamet since Frank Smythe climbed it in 1937, although in the meantime several false claims have been made. The strong ITBP team reached the top on September 19. The summiters were Mohammed Ali, Tashi Motop, Jyot Singh and Vijender Singh. Approaching from the east, they climbed the south ridge.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Editor's note:* Peter Oliver and Frank Smythe climbed Devban (formally Deoban) from the Bank Plateau to the south. Unconfirmed repeat ascents via this route were reported in 1980 and 1997, both by Indian Military expeditions.

*Arwa Tower and Arwa Spires, various new routes.* A French expedition led by Antoine de Choudens (with 11 members) climbed the recently discovered Arwa Tower (6,352m) by two different routes. First they established base camp on May 4 at the foot of this peak, and climbed the south face. Then another team climbed the northwest face. The East Summit of the Arwa Spires (6,132m) was also climbed in a three-day push via the original British route. (See "Arwa Tower, Spire, and Crest," earlier in this Journal for a more complete report.)

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Arwa Spires, first ascents of north face and the central and west summits.* The 6,193m-high granite top of the Arwa Spires was first climbed in 2000 by two Scotsmen, Andy and Pete Benson. They reached the East Summit via the east ridge, but three attempts to ascend the north face of the Spires failed. In 2002 three Swiss mountain guides, Bruno Hasler, Stephan Harvey, and Roger Schäli, climbed the north face of the Arwa Spires by two independent routes to the central and

west summits. They were the first to reach either of these summits and were nominated for the "Piolet d'Or 2002." for their two first ascents. See "Arwa Spire" lead story earlier in this Journal for a more complete account.

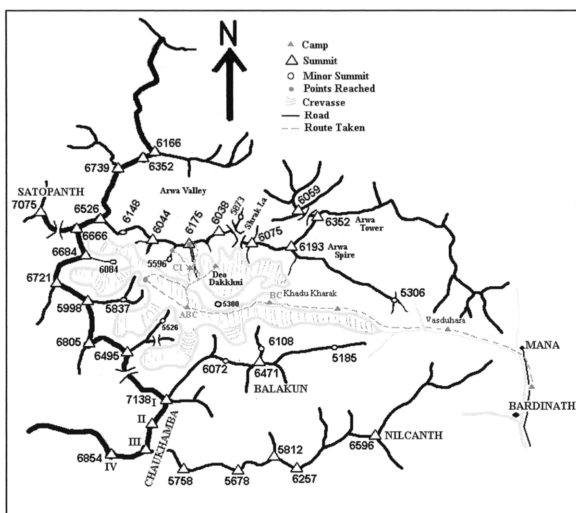
HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Arwa Tower, new route.* A Swiss expedition led by Frederic Roux climbed the north face and the east ridge of Arwa Tower in 17 hours on October 7. The summit was reached by the leader with Gabriel Basson and Benoit Jean-Paul Darbellay. They had excellent weather and climbed in the best style.

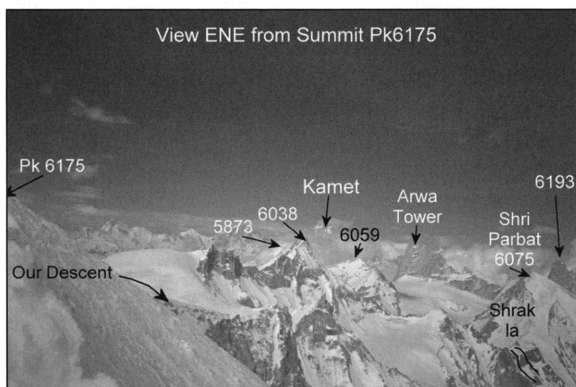
HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Peak 6,175m, first ascent, medical research, map errors, and documentary.* The aims of our expedition were threefold: to complete a first ascent; to carry out medical research into the prediction of altitude sickness; and to make a documentary of the climb with a local Northern Irish media company. Information and photographs of the Bhagirath Kharak valley were scarce. The valley lies immediately south of the Arwa valley, made famous by Mick Fowler's ascent of the Arwa Tower (AAJ 2000). Our reference sources were Shipton's 1934 expedition and Harish Kapadia's 1997 crossing of the Shrak La (pass).

After setting up base camp and overcoming the usual logistical problems, we established an advance camp on the glacier and attempted to identify our peak. It became clear that there was an error in one of the accounts, in particular the published location of the Shrak La. Harish Kapadia identifies the Shrak La as lying between Pk 6,044m and Pk 6,175m. His published photograph (*Himalayan Journal* Vol.54) does not match this pass in any way. In fact, high vertical cliffs and a hanging glacier defend the col. It



A preliminary map of the Bhagirath Kharak valley and region.  
Roger McMorrow



The view from near the summit of Peak 6,175. Roger McMorrow