

Dasgupta's 12-member team (again from West Bengal) climbed Manirang (6,593m) on the Kinnaur–Spiti divide. Indian teams also attempted Purbi Dunagiri and Shivling. Twenty-six expeditions visited Himachal Pradesh, and, despite additional peak fees imposed by the state government, 20 expeditions visited Uttarakhand. Ladakh and its surroundings received six expeditions, but all to routine peaks.

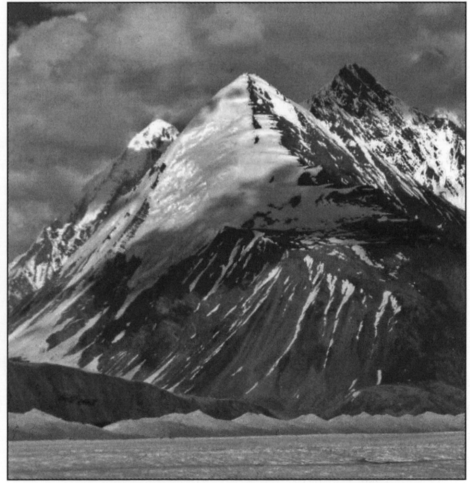
HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

EAST KARAKORAM

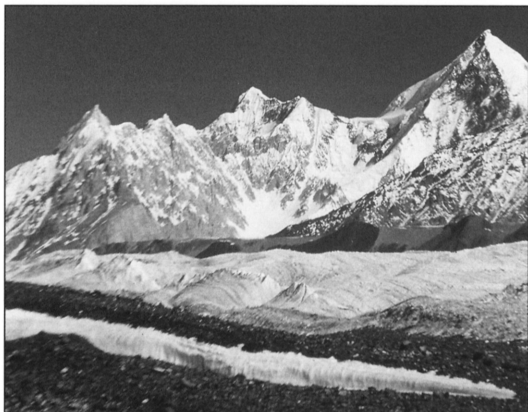
Junction Peak, ascent; Singhi Kangri, south face, attempt. An Indian Army expedition led by Col Ashok Abbey visited the Siachen Glacier from August 31 to October 7. Moving relatively swiftly up the glacier, the expedition established base camp on September 12 at the "Oasis," the junction of the Siachen and Teram Shehr glaciers. Climbers immediately set about making an ascent of Junction Peak (6,350m), a fine vantage point first climbed in 1912 by American Fanny Bullock-Workman and her Italian guides. The team established Camp 1 at 5,320m on the 14th and began opening a route on the west face. They eventually reached the summit a little after 1 p.m. on the 18th, after an eight-and-a-half-hour ascent from the final camp. The ascent, only the third of Junction Peak, was made in avalanche-prone conditions.

The expedition then made only the second-ever attempt to climb 7,202m Singhi Kangri near the head of the Siachen on the border with China. They established a new base camp on September 16 at 5,100m and Camp 1 at 6,325m on the 21st, having climbed the west face. It appeared that the hardest part of the climb was over, and they deemed only one more camp necessary before making a summit attempt on both Singhi Kangri and Pt. 6,850m. However, poor weather and dangerous snow conditions prevented further progress, and they abandoned the route on the 29th.

Singhi Kangri was climbed in 1976 by a Japanese expedition, in what was a remarkable climb. The Japanese, under the leadership of Haruo Sato, approached up the Bilafond Glacier in what is now Pakistan, crossed the Bilafond La and descended the Lolofond Glacier to the Siachen. They then moved up the Siachen to attempt the south face of Singhi Kangri, but finding it too difficult, crossed another pass (Staghar La) in the wall dividing the Siachen from the Staghar Glacier in China. They established their Camp 2 (an advanced base) on the Staghar and from there climbed the northwest ridge to the summit with two further camps. The expedition left Kaphlu in Pakistan on June 9 with 137 porters, and the first summit party, Masafumi Katayama, Junichi Imai, and Shohei Takahashi, only reached the top on August 8.



Junction Peak (6,350m) above the Siachen Glacier. The first ascent of this fine vantage point was made in 1912 by Fanny Bullock-Workman and her Italian guides. In 2006, Indians made the third ascent via slopes facing the camera. *Harish Kapadia*



Singhi Kangri (7,202m) at the head of the Siachen Glacier seen from the west. The Indian Army expedition climbed the west flank to gain the south face, the triangular, sunlit snow face on the far right. They were thwarted at over 6,300m by bad weather. The peak has only been climbed once, in 1976 from the far side. *Harish Kapadia*

After their 2006 attempt, members of the Indian Army expedition reached the Sia La (leading over to the Kondus Glacier) at the western tip of the Siachen and also walked up Peak 36 Glacier to inspect the northeast faces of Saltoro Kangri I (7,746m) and II (7,705m) for a possible future attempt. The lower of the two summits is currently one of the highest unclimbed peaks in the world. A serious attempt on the Saltoros could not be mounted in 2006 because of the on-going Siachen war, but hopefully the climbs by the Army indicate relaxation regarding access permits in the future.

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Plateau Peak, attempt. A 15-member Indo-Italian expedition attempted unclimbed Plateau Peak (7,310m), which lies southwest of Saser Kangri I (7,672m) in the Saser group. Jointly led by M.S. Gomese and Marco Meazzini, the team established base camp at 4,700m and an advanced base at 5,400m on the Central South Phukpoche Glacier. During August they equipped the slopes leading to the crest of the west ridge with ropes and food dumps, but bad weather prevented progress above 5,800m.

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ZANSKAR

Kang Yissay, possible new route. It is reported that on July 17 Spanish climber Santiago Sagaste soloed what is believed to be a new route on the northeast face of this very popular 6,400m mountain above the Nimaling Plains in Zaskar. We have no further details, so it is impossible to know how the route relates to other lines on this side of the mountain.

JOSEP PAYTUBI *and the SERVEI GENERAL D'INFORMACIO DE MUNTANYA, Spain*

HIMACHAL PRADESH

MIYAR VALLEY

Goya Peak, first ascent. Our small multinational team of Jeremy Frimer (Canada), Sarah Hart (Canada), Michel van der Spek (The Netherlands) and I made two first ascents of alpine rock climbs in the Miyar Valley. We established base camp at the usual spot near the entrance to the