

the Japanese route in its upper reaches. This was repeated in spring 1985 by Hungarians (the first Hungarian ascent of any major Nepalese mountain), while in autumn of that year Japanese appear to have repeated, more or less, the 1978 route. Yet more Japanese appear to have repeated the 1978 route in the autumn of 1986, the last time the mountain was climbed from the south.

Himalchuli West has been climbed twice since 1978: in 1989 by a multi-national, commercially organized expedition via the southwest ridge, which they found long and hard and on which they fixed 3,500m of rope, and on December 19, 1990, again by the southwest ridge, by Koreans who were making a winter attempt on the main peak. Lidanda Peak (6,693m) was first climbed in 1970 via a Dutch team via the south ridge, a route that was repeated again by two members of the 1978 British Himalchuli expedition.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, www.climbmagazine.com

GANESH HIMAL

Punchen Himal North, first ascent. After the expedition to Dolpo, reported elsewhere, Tamotsu Ohnishi's Osaka Alpine Club expedition returned to Kathmandu, and some members flew home. The remaining six left for a trek up the Buri Gandaki on October 7. Before Nyuk (Ngyak) they turned right and headed up the Shyar (or Shar) Khola valley, which runs north-east, behind and north of the Ganesh Himal. On the 18th they set up base camp at 4,124m, just north of the Shyar Khola. The following day Irisawa, Kato, Mizutani, Ohnishi, and Chhepa Sherpa placed a high camp at 4,850m (N 28°40'21", E 85°06'96") at the start of the northeast ridge of their chosen objective, the unclimbed Punchen Himal (6,049m, N 28°39'40", E 85°08'48"). This previously unattempted peak lies on the Tibetan border north of 6,247m Pashuwo.

On the 20th all started climbing up the ridge at 5 a.m. The ridge was mainly rock, with occasional icy sections, to 5,700m, where they moved onto the northwest face and fixed 250m of rope, reaching the crest of the northwest ridge at 5,900m. Above, a 60° slope, then breakable crust over deep soft snow that they however climbed without ropes in an hour, led to the north summit at 5,962m. It was only 11:30 a.m., but the way to the main summit led along a knife-edge ridge. There wasn't enough rope for all members to continue, so Ohnishi and others went down. After three hours on the saw-tooth ridge, the remaining members had gained no altitude above the north summit and were still half a kilometer from the main summit. Although not technically difficult, the route had been a tiring succession of loose rock and unconsolidated snow, and the team decided to retreat. On the way down they took a more direct route from 5,700m, rappelling straight down the face to a small lake above high camp. On the 21st they returned to base camp and left for a trek over the Larkya La and around the northwest side of Manaslu to inspect other peaks they hope to attempt in the future. They returned to Kathmandu in November.

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Gorilla Peak, Ganesh, first ascent. Ganesh V (6,770m) lies at the eastern end of the Ganesh Himal, visible from Kathmandu. The northern flanks, technically in Tibet, were climbed by a large Japanese expedition in 1980, while later the south face was climbed by a Slovenian team