

year. The three reached the top via a route dubbed Fiamme Gialle on the southwest pillar, which rose above their advanced base on the Chhudong and gave 850m (14 pitches) of cracks and slabs on excellent granite. They climbed the line on-sight over two days, using removable protection except at belays, which they bolted. Maximum difficulties were 6c+.

On the 14th, after an odyssey, the last of our teams, Cristian Brenna and Massimo Da Pozzo, summited the previously unnamed Fiamme Gialle Peak (5,577m, N 33°05'30.30", E 76°50'24.05") in the remote Jangpar area. On the 5th, in a 12-hour round trip from base camp, they reached the Jangpar Glacier and left their haul bags under a conspicuous boulder in the middle of an oceanic moraine. When they returned a few days later, hoping to collect the bags and move to the upper Jangpar, they found that an enormous rockslide had buried their gear. After a cold night without equipment on the Jangpar moraine, they returned to base camp, picked up replacement gear and with a 35kg haul bag each, returned to camp close to the seracs of the eastern branch of the Jangpur, 7km of bouldery terrain up from its junction with the Miyar. Then in one day, starting at 4 a.m., they climbed Fiamme Gialle via its south-southeast face, which sits opposite the impressive north face of Three Peaks Mountain/Mahindra. They reached the summit after 14 roped pitches and 950m of climbing up to UIAA VI. A few bolts were placed at belays. They descended through the night, sitting out a snowstorm, and were back in the tent by 7 a.m. on the 15th. After the 16th bad weather prevented further climbing; during one night 40cm of snow fell at base camp and wrecked the tents at a high camp in the Chhudong. We eventually gave up and returned to Manali.

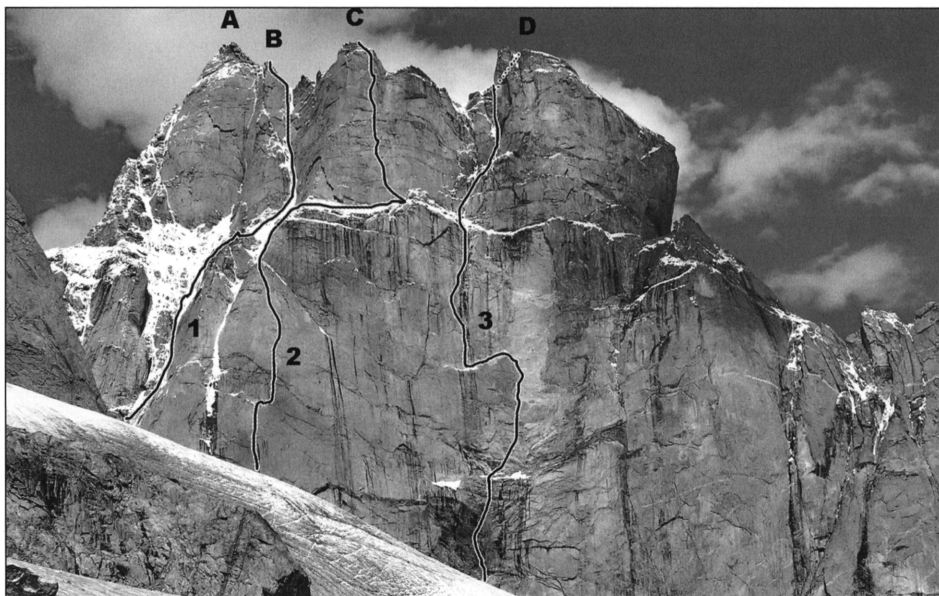
This activity might not have been possible without the help of our clever liaison officer Mr. Kaushal Desai and his Manali agency Above14000ft.com.

BRUNO MORETTI, *Italy*

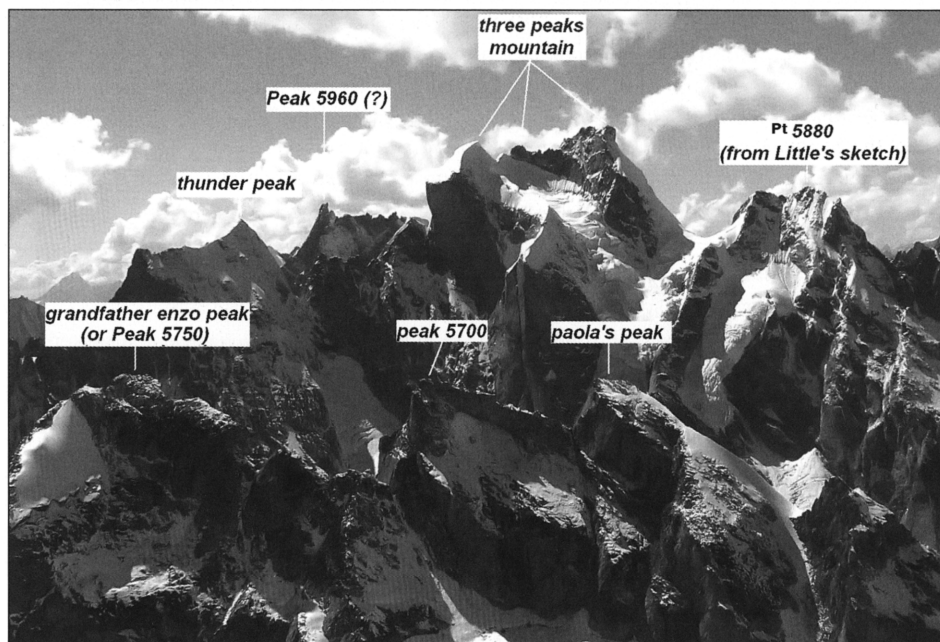
*Three Peaks Mountain (Mahindra), southeast summit, The Taming of the Shrew.* Our four-man Russian team, Eugene Korol, Alex Soshnikov, Dmitrii Vlaznev, and I, intended to climb a virgin mountain via a route of the highest grade of difficulty (6B in the Russian system). We chose Three Peaks Mountain because base camp can be reached easily in just two days with horses, and the southwest face is the biggest rock wall (700m) on one of the highest peaks (6,000+m) in the valley. Sharratt and Wilkinson climbed to the central summit in 2007, but the southeast summit remained unclimbed. We reached the valley on August 22, set up base camp, and began moving equipment up the Dali Glacier. The approach was hard: almost 1.5 km gain in altitude and 10km in distance. Halfway up we climbed a 400m rock wall, not so steep but still requiring us to fix two ropes. The right side of the southwest face features a long vertical crack attempted in 2003 by Slovaks Kopold and Stefansky. However, we thought we would climb it too fast, and as we wanted to prolong the pleasure, opted for the central and most difficult part of the face, directly below the southeast summit. This had the advantage of three big ledges splitting the wall into four almost equal parts. The ledges were large and had enough snow to allow us to avoid hauling a portaledge and water.

Then the weather got bad. We waited through more than a week of rain and snow before realizing that another long spell of fine weather might not materialize. We either had to opt for a route climbable in one or two days or attempt the wall in poor weather. We chose the latter.

We started the face on the first sunny day, September 3, reaching the first ledge after 14 hours of hard free and aid (up to A4). Over the next few days we managed no more than two pitches a day. The aid was often hard, and we had to make extensive use of the drill and skyhooks.



The southwest face of Three Peaks Mountain (a.k.a. Mahindra). (A) Northwest summit (above 6,100m). (B) Small foresummit reached by Slovaks in 2003, named Mahindra, and quoted as 5,845m but seemingly more like 6,000m. (C) Central summit (above 6,000m). (D) Southeast summit (6,080m GPS). (1) Last Minute Journey (ED1, c900m of climbing, Kopold-Stefansky, 2003). (2) Ashoka's Pillar (5.11 R, 700m, Sharratt-Wilkinson, 2007). (3) The Taming of the Shrew (Russian 6B, F5c A4, 800m, Korol-Muryshhev-Soshnikov, 2008). *Andrey Muryshhev*



The view west from Om Shanti Peak (5,770m GPS) over the upper Takdung Glacier. Little's sketch refers to a sketch map made by Graham Little, who visited the Jangpar in 2004. *Bruno Moretti collection*

The weather was harsh; it snowed every day and little avalanches hit us while we climbed. It was not what we'd expected; we only brought summer clothing to India (the locals told us that the weather during 2008 was the worst for 30 years in Lahaul and Spiti). Particularly unpleasant was our poor supply of gloves, and as we couldn't climb in rock shoes, the maximum free climbing difficulty was limited to F5c. The aid proved to be the hardest of our lives, much harder than our 2007 route on Shipton Spire. When we reached the third ledge, the weather began to improve. However, Dmitrii caught a cold and had to remain in the tent. With time a consideration, we decided to avoid a direct line up the last section, instead moving left into a gully between the southeast and central summits. The terrain was much easier and we reached the col between the summits in little more than a day. From there we climbed a straightforward 100+m snow ridge to the southwest summit, arriving on the 12th. The top is a large snow plateau, where we stayed in perfect weather for half a day, taking photos and having fun. During the descent we experienced the disadvantages of good weather. The sun loosened rock on the ledges and one shot through the tent hitting Vlaznev on the head. By the time we got off the wall there were seven holes in the tent. His injuries, though, were not bad and once on the glacier the party was helped by a team of Koreans who had just arrived to attempt the wall, and, in base camp, by the doctor from the large Italian expedition. Our new route, the Taming of the Shrew, gave over 800m of climbing (22 pitches) and was graded Russian 6B. While we doubt it is free-climbable, it could be completed alpine style in good weather.

Finally, we want to speculate about the altitude of the summit. Using a barometric altimeter we measured the height of the southeast summit as 6,080m, making the central summit a little lower but still above 6,000m, and the northwest summit, still unclimbed, over 6,100m. These figures seem to be confirmed by photos taken from other high peaks in the area, and we feel the foresummit reached in 2003 by Kopold and Stefansky is higher than their quoted 5,845m.

ANDREY MURYSHEV, *Russia*

*Editor's Note: The formation was originally named Three Peaks Mountain by one of the first explorers of this region, Massimo Marcheggiani. The southwest face received several attempts before 2003 when Slovaks Dodo Kopold and Ivan Stefansky climbed an ice/mixed corner system on the left side of the wall and continued up the ridge toward the northwest summit, reaching a foresummit at 5,845m before descending. They named this foresummit Mt. Mahindra. Subsequently, most visitors to the valley have now taken to calling the whole peak Mahindra. The name Three Goats Peak is also occasionally used, and the Russians discovered the local name Jungpada—jung meaning a high place with no grass, pada being a word for mountain. Jungpada could be translated "Lifeless Mountain."*

*Three Peaks Mountain, southwest face, attempt.* Six young Koreans led by Lee Jae-yong attempted a new route on Three Peaks Mountain/Mahindra. By September 10 they had established Camp 2 on the upper Dali Glacier below the peak, hoping to make a completely free ascent of the southwest face of the central summit. Accompanying them was filmmaker Lim Il-jin, who was awarded a special prize at the 2008 Trento Film Festival. The proposed line was a direct approach to the upper section of the 2007 Sharratt-Wilkinson route, Ashoka Pillar, following the prominent black streaks on the smooth wall well right of Ashoka Pillar's lower section. However, the weather was so bad that Cho Kyung-ah could only climb two pitches, through the arch (5.10a and 5.11b).

CHRISTINE PAE, *Director Korean Alpine Federation*