

Bauli Khad. We made the first crossing (on July 3) of a 5,600m col to the Dibibokri Valley. Proceeding west we finally reached the Parvati Valley, thus creating a new route linking the Debsa and Parvati.

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KINNAUR

Rangrik Rang, west ridge. In October three French aspirant guides, Sylvain Audibert, Odilon Ferran, and Jeremy Rumebe, made the second ascent of Rangrik Rang (6,553m) by a new route up the west ridge. On the only previous attempt, in June 1994, Chris Bonington, Muslim Contractor, Jim

Fotheringham, Graham Little, Jim Lowther, Divyesh Muni, Paul Nunn, and Pasang Bodh reached the summit by the northeast ridge, after fixing ropes up a steep snow face to the col at the base of the ridge separating Rangrik Rang from Mangla (5,800m).

The three French drove to Lambar, then following the footsteps of the 1994 team, walked for four days to arrive, on September 21, at base camp (4,200m) close to the start of the Racha Khad valley. The following day they established an advanced base on the Racha Khad Glacier at 5,000m, finding one meter of unconsolidated snow. They spent the next week at base camp trying to acclimatize, while hoping conditions would improve. The north face had been a possible objective, but it proved unfeasible, so on October 1 they set off from advanced base for the west ridge. Following the crest, which at first rises south before turning east, they camped on a small subsidiary summit, which they mistakenly referred to as 5,800m Mangla. Next day they abandoned some of their gear, including the tent, by throwing it down the north face. This set off an avalanche. The three continued up the crest, over a rocky buttress (UIAA III), and on to the summit, where they arrived at 5 p.m. They stopped here for the night.

On the morning of the 3rd the team made a cautious descent of the original route and reached base camp that day. Realizing that the mountains were too laden with snow for other ascents, they descended to Lambar and put up two rock routes on the surrounding granite cliffs: Taffonies (six pitches, 6c and A1), and a five-pitch route of 7b and A2, which terminated below the summit of a fine aiguille.

Adapted from www.kairn.com and notes provided by HARISH KAPADIA, Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal

WESTERN GARHWAL

Obra Valley, Pt. 5,760m attempt; Pt. 5,165m. In the autumn a four-member team from the Alpine Club became the first climbers to explore the head of the little-known Obra Valley, an area of sub-6,000m peaks west of the Bandarpunch-Swargarohini group in far western Garhwal. After driving to the roadhead at Jakhol via Mussoorie, Derek Buckle, Toto Gronlund, Bill Thurston, and I made a three-day trek to a scenic, grassy base camp at 4,055m, arriving in early



The French expedition on the Racha Khad Glacier with (A) Mangla (5,800m), (B) Rangrik Rang (6,553m), and (C) Pt. 5,800m. The new route up the west ridge over Pt. 5,800m, and the descent of the northeast ridge via the 1994 Indo-British route (the only previous ascent of the mountain) are marked. *Jeremy Rumebe*