

Preston and Robin Thomas set off to fix rope in the initial couloir. After 150m of easy ground, they reached a narrow, steeper section and fixed 100m up terrain of Scottish II. They returned to camp, where it snowed for most of that evening.

By 1:00 a.m. on the 5th the weather improved, and by 2:30 a.m. we were away, climbing in three ropes of two. Ben Gibbison and Emma Read left another long rope at the fixed section, enabling 100m rappels on the descent, but they retreated from this point. We continued, climbing seven 55m pitches (50° maximum) to reach a level section on the summit ridge. We circumvented a final prominent rock tower by an elegant snow ridge on the northeast flank, and Preston and Fry reached the summit at 7:42 a.m. They spent 45 minutes recording a GPS altitude of 6,165m. Thomas and I arrived just after they left.

With the help of two HAPs, we cleared all equipment and were down at base camp on the 6th. We felt the grade of the climb to be about AD+ and have proposed the name Saravsati for the peak.

In the meantime Marc Booyesen, Steve Foster, Stuart Irving, and our liaison officer explored up-glacier toward the Jankar Billing Range. Here they found peaks of ca 5,500–5,600m, all likely unclimbed.

DAVID BINGHAM U.K.

*Lower Karcha Parvat (6,060m).* A three-member Japanese team, led by Tsuneo Suzuki, established base camp in the Karcha Nala at 4,420m. They made Camp 1 at 4,700m and Camp 2 at 5,200m, from where Ritsuyu Matsubara and three high-altitude porters climbed the northwest face, reaching the summit on July 18. They propose that this previously unnamed peak be named Lower Karcha Parvat. It is not clear where this summit is situated in relation to the higher and popular Karcha Parvat (6,271m), north of the Karcha Nala.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

## WESTERN GARHWAL

### GANGOTRI

*Bhagirathi IV (6,193m), III (6,454m), and II (6,512m).* During autumn, Slovenians Rok Blagus, Luka Lindic, and Marko Prezelj blitzed the Bhagirathi Group, making three significant first ascents. The trio was reasonably lucky with the weather; during a month in the area, only the first week was poor. When conditions improved, they set off for their first objective, Bhagirathi IV, a small summit, with no recorded ascent, on the ridge between two grander neighbors, Bhagirathi II and III.

The west side of Bhagirathi IV is characterized by an elegant rock pillar leading to summit shale bands, this shale forming an infamous obstacle on most Bhagirathi peaks. The pillar had been attempted several times in the past, notably by Slovenians. To the left, a broad, moderately angled snow couloir leads up the south-southwest face of Bhagirathi II, to a shelf that can be traversed right to the ridge just north of Bhagirathi IV. Gaining this shelf has sometimes