



Indian eves race to the top, dwarf Everest

12 May 2011, 18:09



Indian eves on top of the world

Kathmandu: As new records began to be written on Mt Everest, the subcontinent's eves continued to dominate the ascent of the highest peak in the world with a second Indian woman climber reaching the 8,848m summit on Thursday.

Nearly three decades after Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to summit Mt Everest, a 25-year-old woman from India's Arunachal Pradesh state has become the first Indian to conquer the world highest mountain this spring. She has also achieved the feat of becoming the first woman climber from India's northeast region.

On Monday, 25-year-old Tine Mena from Arunachal, had become the first Indian to hoist the tricolour on the summit this season as well as the first woman climber from the North-East to bag the record.

Adding another feather to the glory of India's Arunachal Pradesh state - which had sent a climber to the peak on Monday - 32-year-old Anshu Jamsenpa from Bomdila reached the top of the world at 7 am on Thursday after an overnight journey.

Jamsenpa summited the peak with her Nepali Sherpa guides Lhakpa Rangdu Sherpa, Ngima Nuru Sherpa and Lhakpa Chhiri Sherpa, said Dawa Lama, general manager at Kathmandu's Arun Treks that has organised her climb.

The nine-member expedition to which Jamsenpa belonged has three more Indians: Amit Kumar, 30, from Haryana, Ganesh Chandra Jena, 39, from Orissa, and Jackie Jacks Khajuriya, 30, from Rajasthan.

Lama said Jena would begin the final onslaught on Friday while the other two were yet to complete their acclimatization.

The power of women climbers, not only from Nepal, began to be evident on Thursday with two of the four non-professional climbers being women.

Besides two Canadians and Jamsenpa, 27-year-old Nepali woman Churim Sherpa also summited on Thursday.

This week, the first Indian husband-wife duo of Vikash and Sushma Kaushik as well as a 14-member Indian Air Force Team that has eight women 'sky warriors' will also seek to ascend.

Also ready for the final push is Australian Sharon Cohrs, a 40-year-old breast cancer survivor, and a 67-year-old clinical psychologist from Melbourne. Janice Catherine Smith, who will become the oldest woman to conquer Mt Everest if she succeeds, and Suzan Al-Houby, who will become the first Arab woman to accomplish the feat.

(Agencies)

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