



Chanrasrik Ri, Spark Traverse, and Other Ascents

India, Ladakh, Zaskar, Rangtik Tokpo

From July 9 to August 15, our team of three ventured to Ladakh. After a three-day journey, we reached the small village of Tungri in the Zaskar Valley, where we were warmly welcomed. With the help of local porters, we ascended to a base camp at 4,925m and subsequently spent 28 nights above 4,900m.

After an acclimatization phase, on July 21 we repeated the route Rolling Stones (Pellissa-Ricart, 2008; AAJ 2010) on Shawa Kangri (5,728m) as a team of three.

On July 23–24, Hangweyrer and Goldberger climbed the southeast face (D+, Dušič-Jošť-Zerovnik; AAJ 2018) of Remalaye/H5 (6,278m). They then traversed west toward a previously unclimbed top, which was later named Maytsak Ri ("Spark Peak," 6,060m, 33°28'46"N, 76°43'18"E) after consulting with locals. After bivouacking at a col at nearly 6,000m between the two peaks, the duo reached Maytsak Ri on the second day of the traverse. From the top, they continued 300m to the west and descended through a couloir leading to the westernmost section of the Rangtik Glacier. The Spark Traverse was D, UIAA V 60° ice. [Editor's Note: The team did not summit Remalaye West (6,266m; AAJ 2018), which sits along the ridge between Remalaye and Maytsak Ri.]

Following a rest day in base camp, Schneider and Hangweyrer attempted the vertical to overhanging northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri (6,080m, 33°27'41"N, 76°43'17"E; this peak was formerly known as Chareze Ri; see AAJ 2024). After climbing an A3 pitch in a prominent crack, they realized their intended style was too light and retreated. Since it was still early in the day, they scoped out a chimney system 60m to the left for a potential subsequent attempt. After four pitches up to UIAA V+, they descended to base camp.

The northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri (a.k.a. Chareze Ri). Jullay Temù (Limongi-Martinelli-Mosetti-Secchi-Vallata, 2018) is on the left. On the right is Namyang MeJet (Hangweyrer-Schneider, 2024). At right are Vajrayogini, climbed earlier in 2024, and unclimbed Peak 6,005m. Photo: Elias Hangweyrer. On July 28, with a 3:30 a.m. start from their tent at the base of Chanrasrik Ri, Schneider and Hangweyrer repeated the route Jullay Temù (1,000m, UIAA V+ 70° ice, Limongi-Martinelli-Mosetti-Secchi-Vallata, 2018; AAJ 2020) and continued to the main summit of Chanrasrik Ri, completing the first ascent of the mountain. The Italian team in 2018 had climbed the ridge bordering the left edge of the northeast face, then traversed the sharp ridgeline southward, crossing over a central top before running out of daylight and bailing down the northwest face. Schneider and Hangweyrer were able to continue south past the central top to the previously unclimbed summit of Chanrasrik Ri. They rappelled the west face and reached base camp by 11 p.m. [Editor's Note: The Italian team's report in AAJ 2020 refers to the central top as the north summit (5,959m) of Chanrasrik Ri. In fact, there are three prominent tops along this ridge, so we are referring to the 5,959m spire, summited in both 2018 and 2024, as the central top. Both parties bypassed the northernmost pinnacle on the ridge.]

At the end of July, we made two attempts on the northwest side of Jamyang Ri (5,800m), climbing three new pitches as a variation to Cunka (Dušič-Jošť, 2017), but our efforts were halted by poor rock and bad weather. On August 3, all three of us repeated the route Treasure of Zaskar (750m, ED+, Dušič-Jošť-Zerovnik, 2017) on Chakdor Ri/H8 (6,193m).

With the northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri still in mind, Schneider and Hangweyrer made a second

attempt, this time in big-wall style. On the first day, August 6, they carried gear to the base of the wall and climbed the previously ascended chimney system. After a portaledge bivy in an overnight snowstorm, they started again at 10 a.m., climbing five technical pitches and fixing ropes for the next day. After another night at the same portaledge camp, they ascended the fixed ropes and climbed three additional pitches to reach the ridge on the left side of the face (the same ridge climbed by Jullay Temù). Having only planned to go this far, they rappelled their route and returned to base camp. They named the route Namyang MeJet ("Never Forgotten," 400m, 11 pitches, UIAA VII A2 60° ice). They placed a single anchor bolt.

The expedition exceeded all of the team's expectations. We thank the Deutscher Alpenverein and Österreichischer Alpenverein for support.

—Lea Goldberger, Elias Hangweyrer, and David Schneider, Austria and Germany

Images



Traversing toward Shawa Kangri to climb the first route of the 2024 trip. The rock quality in the valley is clearly on display on Jamyang Ri in the background.



Aid climbing on the new route Namyang MeJet (400m, 11 pitches, UIAA VII A2 60° ice) on the northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri North. The crack system was very thin and often closed, requiring birdbeaks and micro cams. Snowfall on the first morning left the wall completely wet, making free climbing impossible. They descended after reaching the ridge, but earlier in the trip summited Chanrasrik Ri's central top and made the first ascent of the main summit.



Schneider and Hangweyrer eying up the northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri. They later climbed a new route up the left side of the face in big-wall style, descending from the ridge. Earlier in the trip, they summited Chanrasrik Ri via the 2018 route Jullay Temù and a long ridge traverse to the south, making the first ascent of the main summit.



The team at the summit of Chakdor Ri (6,193m) after repeating the route Treasure of Zanskar (Dusic-Zerovnik-Jost, 2017, AAJ 2018). After they had reached the summit in good weather, a storm rolled in and halfway through the descent it began to hail, with lightning striking the glacier below. Having left their boots at the bottom of the route and climbing with rock shoes only, they were relieved to finally reach the base of the wall, change back into mountain boots, and return to camp after 23 hours on the move.



Basecamp below Jamyang Ri (Little Jamyang Ri is in the foreground), the expedition's home for almost 30 days. The massive pyramid of the northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri is seen directly over the tent, with Shawa Kangri directly to its left. On sunny days, the temperatures climbed up to almost 25°C, making it feel more like a beach vacation than an expedition, but with a much better view.



The northeast face of Chanrasrik Ri (a.k.a. Chareze Ri). Jullay Temù (Limongi-Martinelli-Mosetti-Secchi-Vallata, 2018) is on the left. On the right is Namyang MeJet (Hangweyrer-Schneider, 2024). At right are Vajrayogini, climbed earlier in 2024, and unclimbed Peak 6,005m.



The west face of Chanrasrik Ri (a.k.a. Chareze Ri, 6,080m), showing the traverse to the main summit

(Hangweyrer-Schneider, 2024) from the route Jullay Temù (Limongi-Martinelli-Mosetti-Secchi-Vallata, 2018, AAJ 2020). The earlier route climbed the northeast face to the summit of Chanrasrik Ri's central top (a.k.a. north summit, 5,959m).



The west face of Jamyang Ri (5,800m) showing all routes to date: Inshallah, Maybe (2017), Nelim Lam (2023), Variation Cunka Attempt (2024), Cunka (2017), and Dust-From Dusk Till Dawn (2017).



The southside of Remalaye/H5 (6,278m) and Maytsak Ri (6,060m), showing the Spark Traverse (Hangweyrer-Goldberger, 2024). After climbing the southeast face of Remalaye/H5 (D+, Matjaz-Tomaz-Jost, 2017, AAJ 2018), Elias Hangweyrer and Lea Goldberger bivied along the ridge to Maytsak Ri and then made the first ascent of that peak. They did not summit Remalaye West (6,266m), which lies between the two other summits.

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