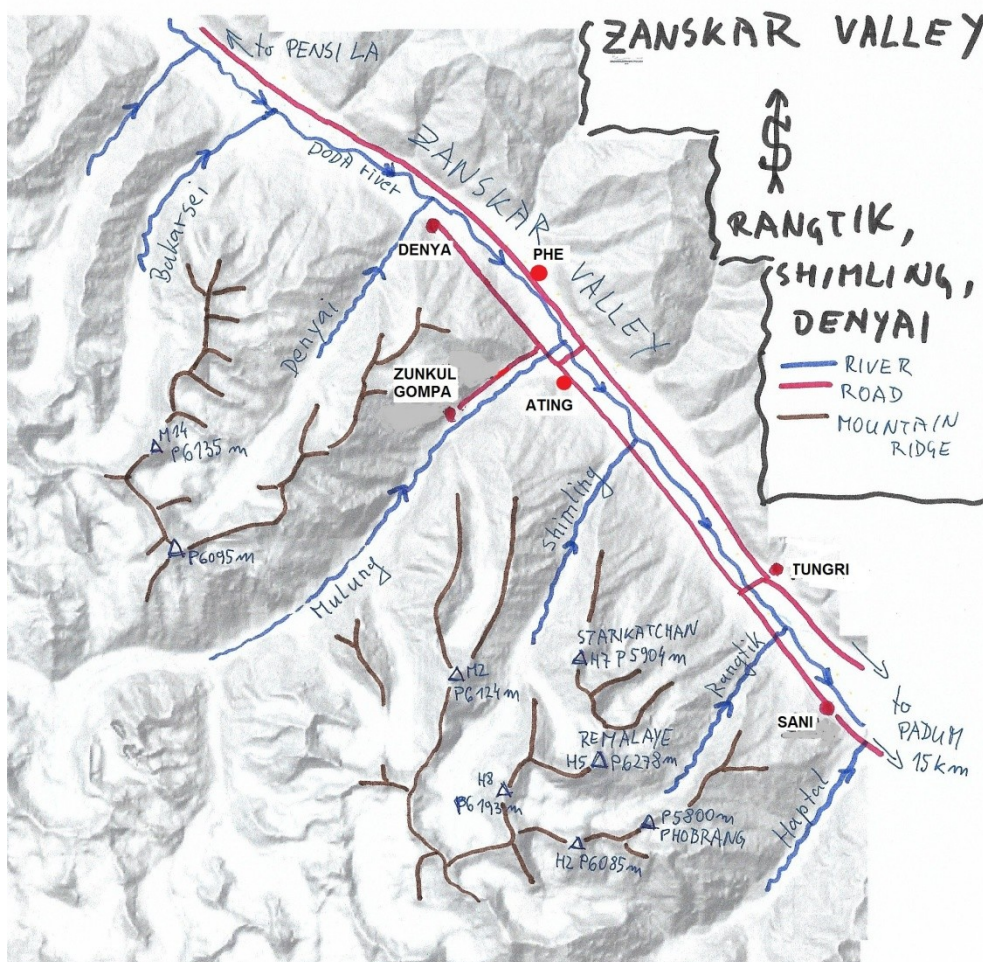


Haptal mountains 2016 Slovenian expedition

Exploration of RANGTIK TOKPO and SHIMLING TOKPO – alpine climbing potentials in Zanskar

In summer 2016 Anastasija Davidova – Nastja and I (Matija Jošt – Matic) spent some nice time exploring and trekking in the Haptal mountains massif. Idea to travel back to beautiful Zanskar arises in 2015 when we spent nice time in Raru Mountains and Tetleh Nala. At that time we realize that mountain area southwest of the Doda river (also refer as Stod river) is very rarely visited by mountaineers and may be hiding some nice alpine climbing potentials. From mid July to beginning of September 2016 we visit Rangtik Tokpo, Shimling Tokpo and Denyai Tokpo. In this report I will cover exportation of Rangtik and Shimling Tokpo, Exploration of Denyai Tokpo is covered in separate report.

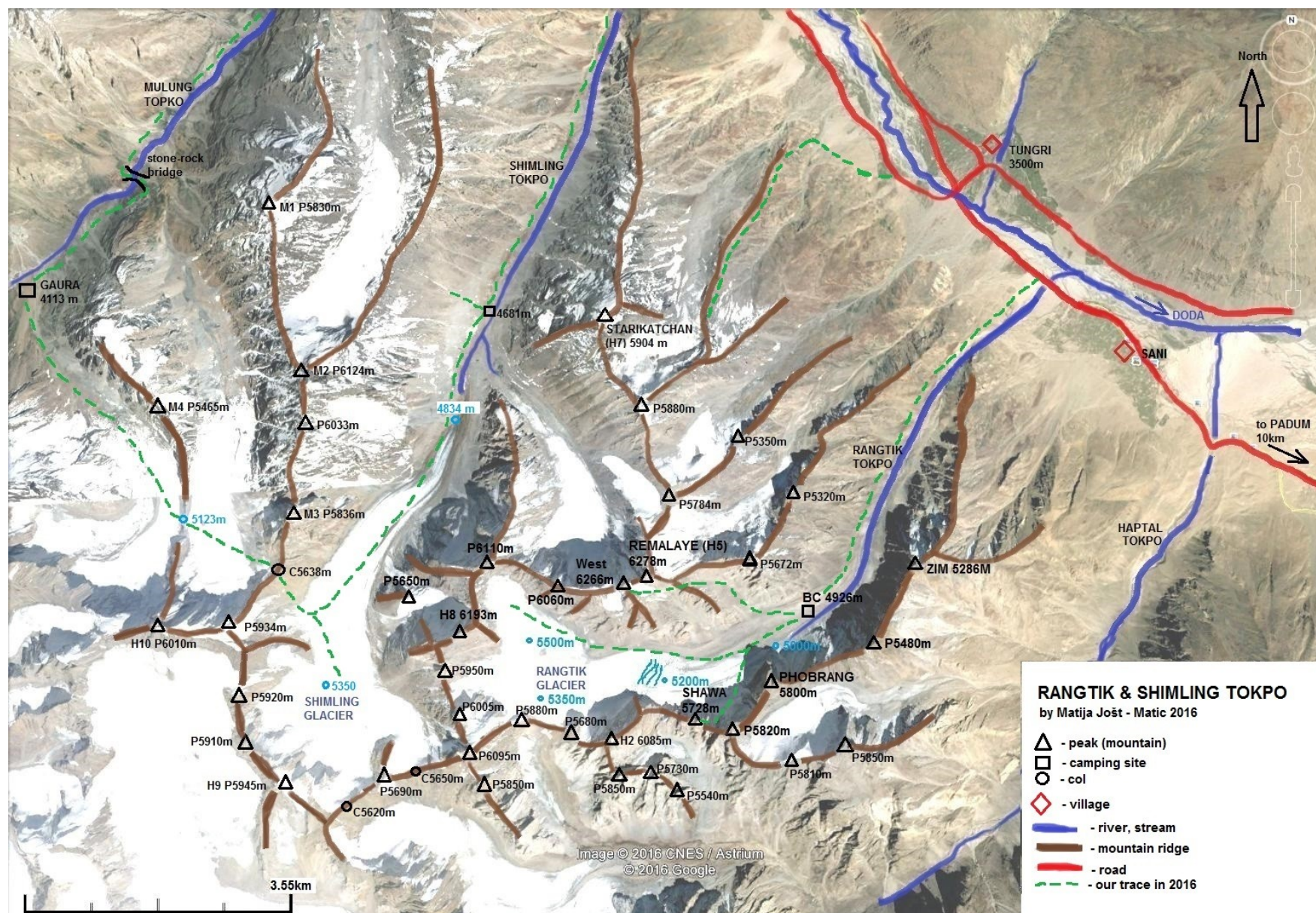


Main Doda river valley (Zanskar valley) running from Darung-Drung glacier near Pensi La to southeast direction towards Padum where after confluence with Tsarap river they form Zanskar river, a tributary of the Indus river. Along the river is main Kargil – Padum road witch passes villages of Akshow, Abran, Kushol, Phey, Tungri. Southwest of the Doda river is Great Himalayan range, there

are many valleys originate from it and converge to Zaskar. Some of them are (from north to south): Haskira Tokpo, Kange Tokpo, Hangshu Nala, Panding Tokpo, Bakarsei Tokpo, Denyai Tokpo, Mulung Tokpo, Shimling Tokpo, Rangtik Tokpo, Haptal Tokpo, Chhogo Tokpo, Gompe Tokpo. All these valleys are surrounded by many mostly unclimbed peaks. The altitude of the peaks vary from 5200 m to 6400 m. Local Ladakhi people (and early explorers) use some of the valleys for connection with Kisthwar in the south. Main "trekking" passes are: Muni La at the head of Haptal Tokpo, Umasi La at the head of Mulung Tokpo and Hagshu La at the head of Hangshu Nala. Most "popular" for climbing is Hangshu Nala with famous and beautiful peak Hagshu (6515 m). All the other valleys get very little or no attention from climbers, but popularity of the area is increasing in recent years. The main reason for that are two reports. In 2009 Spanish climber Sergi Ricart who spent several months in Ladakh and Zaskar also visit the Haptal area and report in AAJ. At that time he visited Rangtik Tokpo and Kange Tokpo. In 2012 Japanese senior expedition (leader Kimikazu Sakamoto) explore in the area. They report about their activity and also made better mapping of the area and identification of many peaks. So the best map of the area so far is Sakamoto map, he marked peaks with H1, H2 etc for Haptal Tokpo, and M1, M2, etc for peaks in Mulung Tokpo.

With cooperation of local agency Skitpo Travel (<http://www.skitpotravel.com/>) we first visit Rangtik Tokpo, where we spent some 20 days climbing and exploring. Skitpo Travel employs local people mostly from Tungri village and they provide us really with excellent service and very nice cultural experience as we were introduced well to their traditional way of life. First we made acclimatization climb on south slopes of Remalaye (H5, 6278 m) and we reached prominent point on west ridge of the mountain (Remalaye west, GPS: 6266 m, 33°28'50" North, 76°43'33" East). It was obvious that main summit is higher and also some ridge gendarmes leading to the main summit looked higher than our standing point. After this weather turn to very unstable with mostly more than one shower per day. We made some attempts on Phobrang and P6193 m (aka H8). Every time we were forced to retreat quite low from their faces. Despite not so good weather we managed to climb route "Rolling Stones" to the summit of Shawa Kangri. First ascent of peak was made 16th August 2008 by Spanish climbers Luc Pellissa and Sergi Ricart via approximately 500 m high route "Rolling Stones" and graded it D+, ice 65°, rock UIAA V+. They also named peak itself. The summit block looks like horn so they named it Shawa (Shawa means horn in Ladakhi language). Climbing was on nice ice and very good quality rock. It took us 8 hours roundtrip from our BC (GPS: 33°28'30" North, 76°45'13" East, 4926 m) to repeat this real nice alpine route. At summit we did GPS reading so the coordinates of Shawa Kangri are: 5728 m, 33°27'46" North, 76°44'07" East. Because no improvement in weather we evacuated our BC and went for trekking. We stated up the Shimling Tokpo, trekked almost to the very head of Shimling glacier, then turned back and passed 5638 m col to Mulung Tokpo and ended it at Zunkul Gompa. After some days in Tungri village we did also trek to Denyai Tokpo but I will report that in separate report. In first days of September weather improves and we hiked again in Rangtik Tokpo. We made strong attempt on P6193 m (aka H8). We climb to small col (between P6110 m and P6193 m) from the east and then move to icy north flanks but we stop at some 6100 m and returned safe back down to our high cam at Rangtik glacier.

During our trip we see and identify some very attractive peaks. Almost all peaks we see are unclimbed and unnamed but they provided great potential for alpine style ascents of all sorts and of all grades.





View of Rangtik and Shimling mountains from north-east from slopes above Tungri village. V is Zim (5286 m), L is P5480 m, F is Phobrang (5800 m), M is P5820 m, G is Shawa Kangri (GPS: 5728 m, 33°27'46 North, 76°44'07" East), H is P6085 m (aka H2), E is Remalaye (H5, 6278 m), A is P6193 m (aka H8), B is P6110 m, S is P5880 m, P is Starikatchan (aka H7, 5904 m) and R is P6124 m (aka M2).



foto: Anastasija Davidova - Nastja

Base camp site in Rangtik Tokpo (GPS: 33°28'30" North, 76°45'13 East, 4926 m) and mountains on the south side of Rangtik glacier. F is Phobrang (5800 m), G is Shawa Kangri (GPS: 5728 m, 33°27'46 North, 76°44'07" East), H is P6085 m (aka H2), I is P5680 m, J is P6095 m and K is P6005 m. Route of first ascent of Shawa Kangri is marked in red. First ascent of peak was made 16th August 2008 by Spanish climbers Luc Pellissa and Sergi Ricart. They named their approximately 500 m high route "Rolling Stones" and graded it D+, ice 65°, rock UIAA V+. They also named peak itself. The summit block looks like horn so they named it Shawa (Shawa means horn in Ladakhi language).



Mountains on the south side of Rangtik glacier as seen from upper Rangtik Glacier. L is P5480 m, F is Phobrang (5800 m), M is P5820 m, G is Shawa Kangri (GPS: 5728 m, 33°27'46 North, 76°44'07" East).



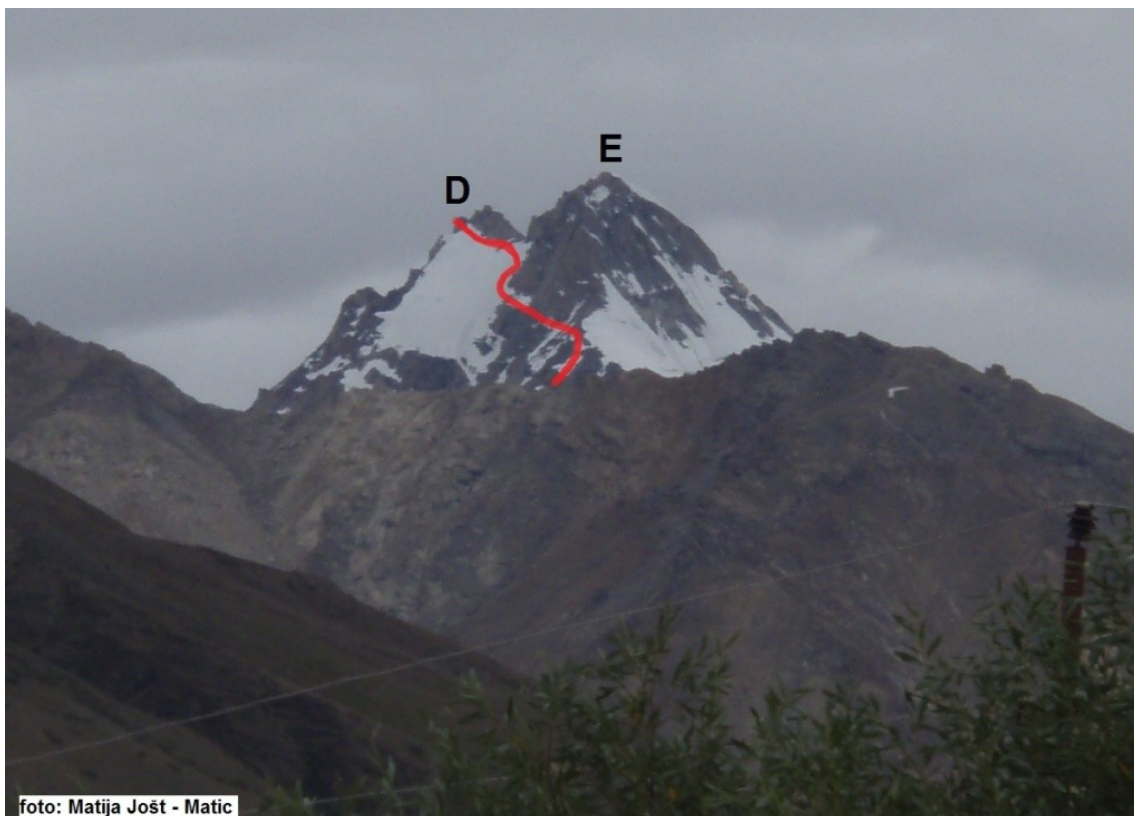
Mountains on the south and west side of Rangtik glacier as seen from upper Rangtik Glacier. G is Shawa Kangri (GPS: 33°27'46 North, 76°44'07" East, 5728 m), H is P6085 m (aka H2), I is P5680 m, O is P5850 m, J is P6095 m, K is P6005 m, N is P5950 m and A is P6193 m (aka H8).



Mountains on the west and north side of Rangtik glacier as seen from Shawa Kangri summit. A is P6193 m (aka H8), B is P6110 m, C is P6060 m, D is Remalaye west (GPS: 33°28'50" North, 76°43'33" East, 6266 m), E is Remalaye main (aka H5, 6278 m). Red line indicates line of first ascent via south slopes by Anastasija Davidova - Nastja and Matija Jošt - Matic in 2016.



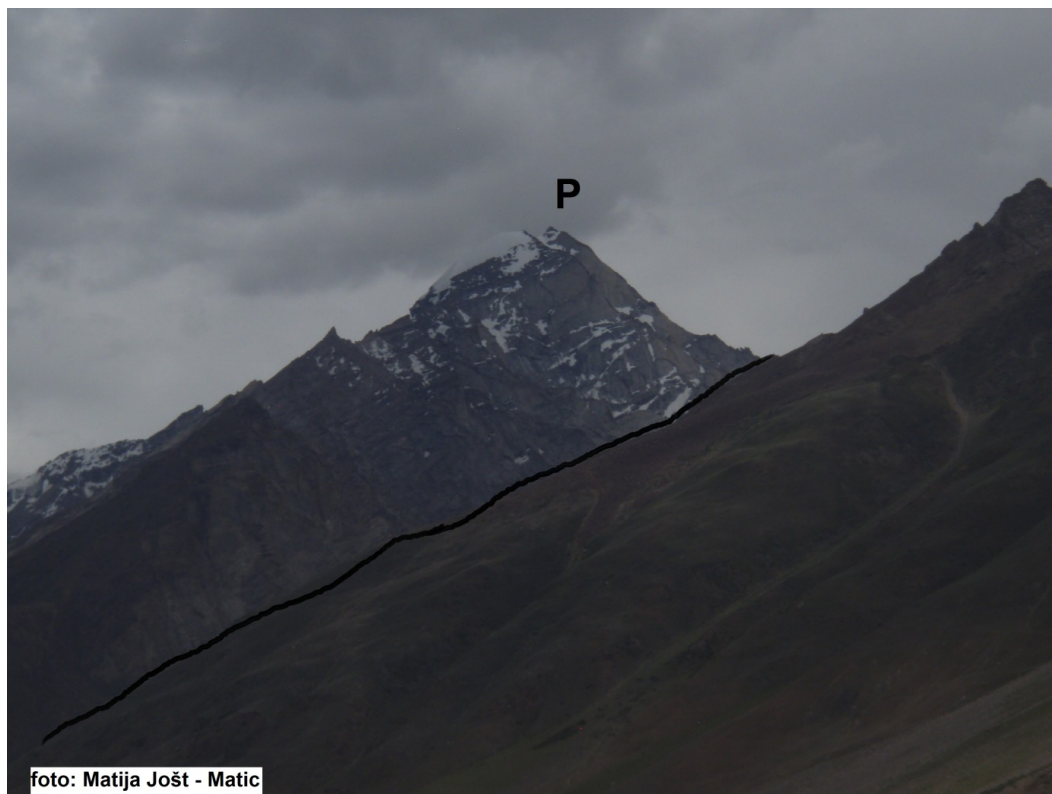
East face (in shadow) and southeast face of P6193 m (aka H8) marked with A as seen from the summit of Ramalaye west. N is P5950 m and B is western part of P6110 m



View of Remalaye from town of Padum. E is Remalaye main (H5, 6278 m), D is Remalaye west (GPS: 6166 m, 33°28'50" North, 76°43'33" East). Red line indicates line of first ascent by Anastasija Davidova - Nastja and Matija Jošt - Matic in 2016.



View down the Shimling glacier towards south west face of Starikatchan (H7, 5904 m) marked with P.



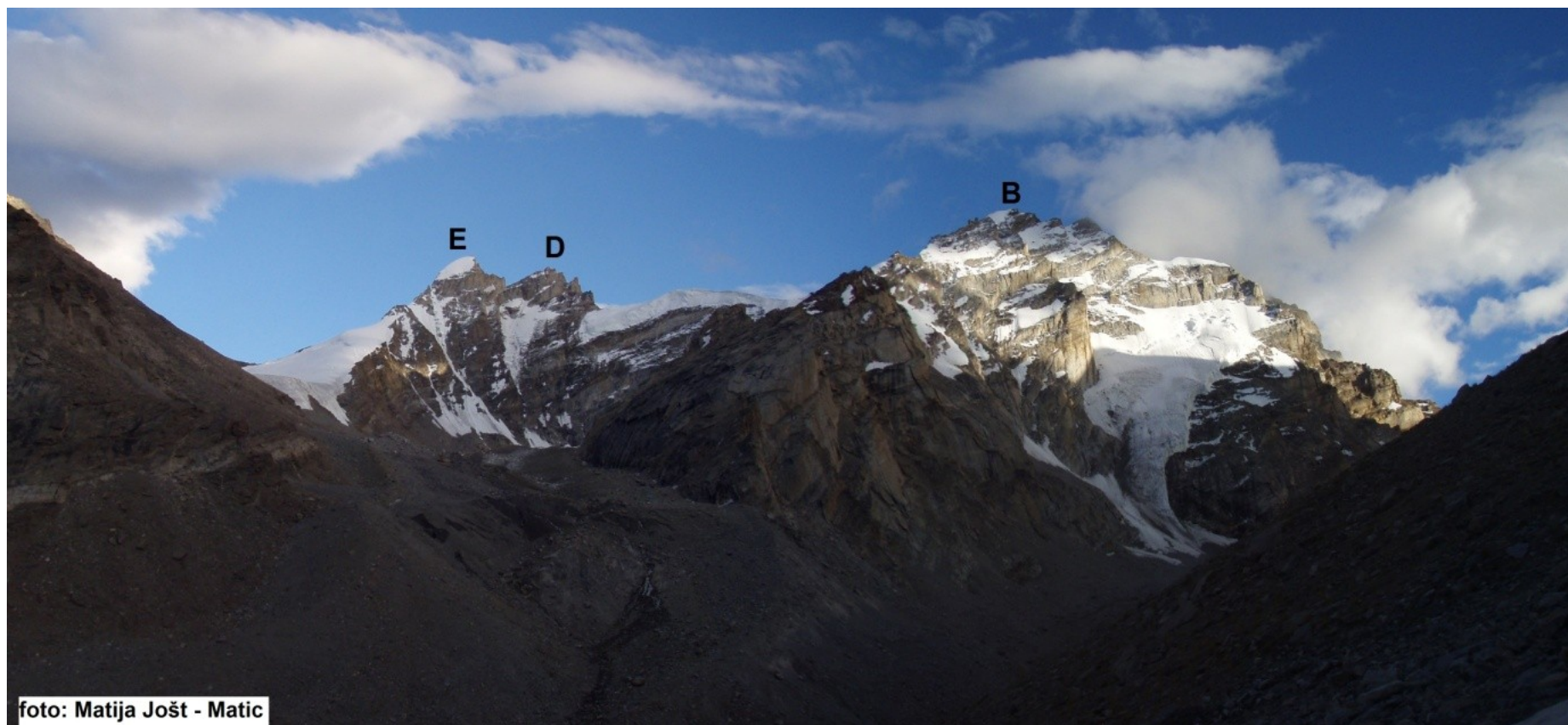
West face of Starikatchan (H7, 5904 m) marked with P as seen from main Kargil – Padum road. Photo was taken near Phe village.



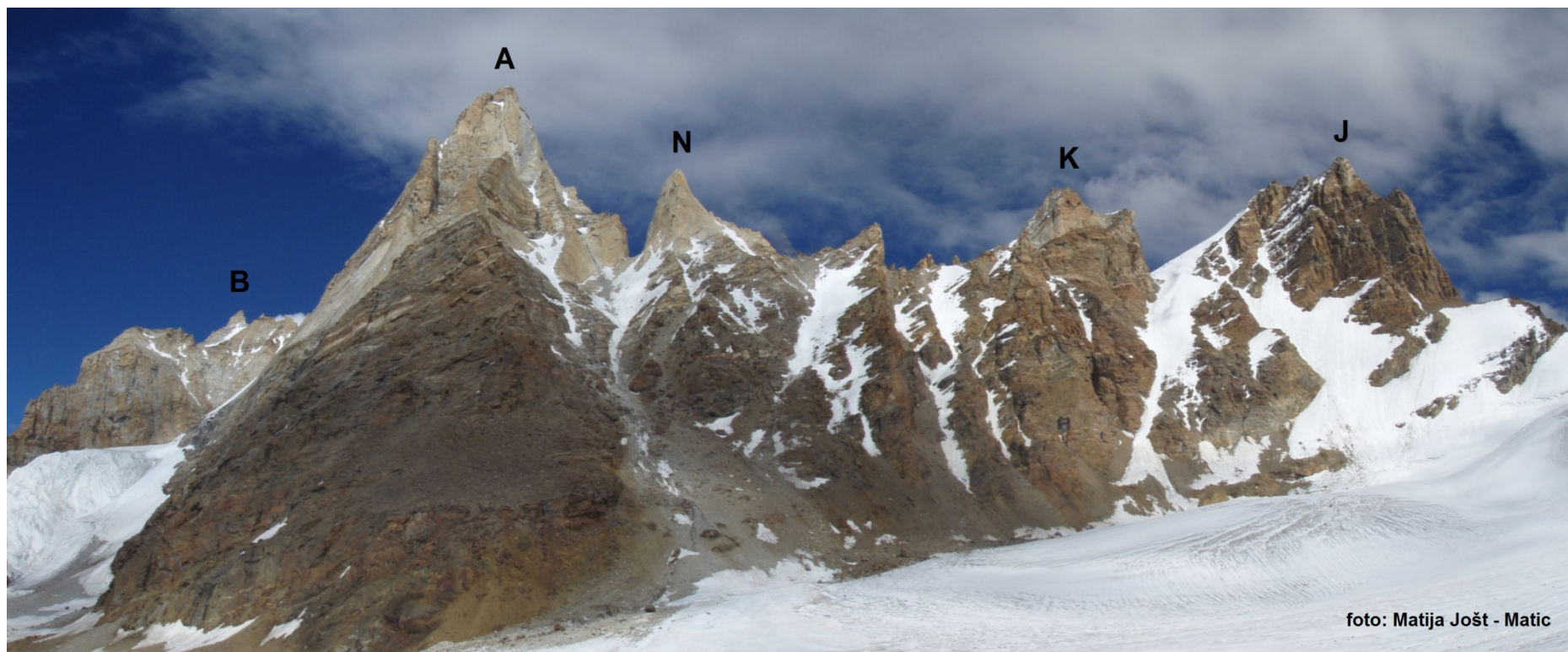
East face of Starikatchan (H7, 5904 m), highest point of the mountain is marked with P. Photo was taken from ridge just east of the mountain (GPS: 5227 m, 33°30'40" North, 76°44'25" East).



P6124 (aka M2) marked with R as seen from lower Shimling Tokpo.



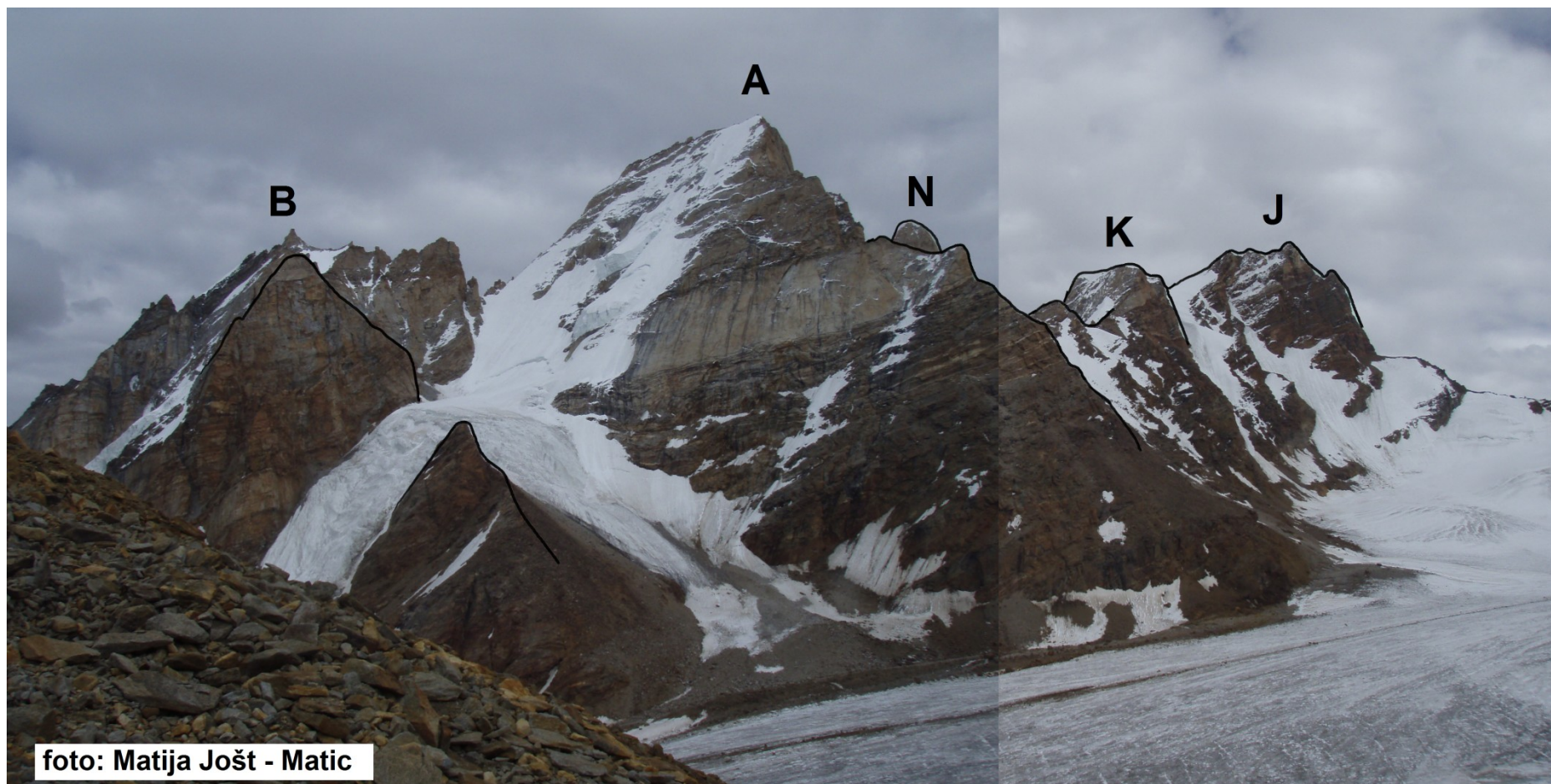
E is Remalaye main (H5, 6278 m), D is Remalaye west (GPS: 33°28'50" North, 76°43'33" East, 6266 m), B is P6110 m. Photo showing west and north slopes of the peaks. Photo is taken from viewpoint above campsite in lower Shimling Tokpo.



Panoramic view of the peaks on the east side of the upper Shimling glacier showing their west slopes. B is P6110 m, A is P6193 m (aka H8), N is P5950 m, K is P6005 m, J is P6095 m. On the far right of the photo is col C5650 m.



Panoramic view of the peaks on the west side of the upper Shimling glacier showing their east slopes. X is P5945 m, W is 5910 m, Z is P5920 m. On the far left of the photo is col C5620 m.



Panoramic view of the peaks on the east side of the upper Shimling glacier showing their west and north slopes. B is P6110 m, A is P6193 m (aka H8), N is P5950 m, K is P6005 m, J is P6095 m. Photo was taken from the pass connecting Shimling Tokpo with Mulung Tokpo (GPS: 33°28'58" North, 76°40'32" East, 5638 m). On the far right of the photo is col C5650 m.



Panoramic view towards east from the viewpoint at glacier junction in Mulung Tokpo (GPS: 33°29'25" North, 76°39'42" East, 5123 m). R is P6124 (aka M2), T is P6033 m, U is P5836 (aka M3) and A is P6193 m (aka H8). Just in front and right of P6193 m on very right edge of the photo is pass connecting Shimling Tokpo with Mulung Tokpo (GPS: 33°28'58" North, 76°40'32" East, 5638 m).



North slopes of P6010 (aka H10) marked with Y.