



Singhi Kangri (7,202m) at the head of the Siachen Glacier seen from the west. The Indian Army expedition climbed the west flank to gain the south face, the triangular, sunlit snow face on the far right. They were thwarted at over 6,300m by bad weather. The peak has only been climbed once, in 1976 from the far side. *Harish Kapadia*

After their 2006 attempt, members of the Indian Army expedition reached the Sia La (leading over to the Kondus Glacier) at the western tip of the Siachen and also walked up Peak 36 Glacier to inspect the northeast faces of Saltoro Kangri I (7,746m) and II (7,705m) for a possible future attempt. The lower of the two summits is currently one of the highest unclimbed peaks in the world. A serious attempt on the Saltoros could not be mounted in 2006 because of the on-going Siachen war, but hopefully the climbs by the Army indicate relaxation regarding access permits in the future.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Plateau Peak, attempt. A 15-member Indo-Italian expedition attempted unclimbed Plateau Peak (7,310m), which lies southwest of Saser Kangri I (7,672m) in the Saser group. Jointly led by M.S. Gomese and Marco Meazzini, the team established base camp at 4,700m and an advanced base at 5,400m on the Central South Phukpoche Glacier. During August they equipped the slopes leading to the crest of the west ridge with ropes and food dumps, but bad weather prevented progress above 5,800m.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

ZANSKAR

Kang Yissay, possible new route. It is reported that on July 17 Spanish climber Santiago Sagaste soloed what is believed to be a new route on the northeast face of this very popular 6,400m mountain above the Nimaling Plains in Zaskar. We have no further details, so it is impossible to know how the route relates to other lines on this side of the mountain.

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MIYAR VALLEY

Goya Peak, first ascent. Our small multinational team of Jeremy Frimer (Canada), Sarah Hart (Canada), Michel van der Spek (The Netherlands) and I made two first ascents of alpine rock climbs in the Miyar Valley. We established base camp at the usual spot near the entrance to the

Dali (a.k.a. Thunder) Glacier and first spent time acclimatizing and reconnoitering a peak on the far (west) side of the main valley. We dubbed this “Himashanca” because of its resemblance to the famous Jirishanca in Peru’s Cordillera Huayhuash. However, we found the approach to the attractive north face problematic, due to heavy crevassing, and an inspection of the valleys to the south shed no light on a possible descent, were we to reach the summit. Instead, we returned to base camp, unaware that Catalans Oriol Baro and Oscar Cacho had climbed this 5,930m mountain in 2005, via a 950m route on the north face (Antiparques, TD M6 60°, see *AJ 2006*, pp. 382–384).

On September 23 van der Spek and I made the first ascent of a peak near base camp, directly above the north bank of the Dali glacier and between Lammergeier Peak (5,300m) and Pt 4,916m. Lammergeier is a fine pointed spire first climbed in 2004

by a British expedition (*AJ 2005*, p. 367). After several roped pitches up the southwest ridge, the third pitch crux being 5.9, we untied and climbed easier terrain to the ca 5,300m summit, which we named Goya Peak. We reached the top, where we built a small cairn, at 3 p.m. We graded our 600m route Alpine D-. We reversed the route, downclimbing and making four rappels, arriving back at base camp after nightfall.



Michel van der Spek climbing above the Miyar Valley during the first ascent of Goya Peak (600m, D- 5.9). The main valley descends southeast towards the 6,000m Gangtang Group in the far distance, before turning right and eventually dropping to Udaipur on the Chenab River. *Oliver Metherell*

OLIVER METHERELL, UK

Pt. 5,650m, Gateway Ridge, not to summit; Jangpar Glacier, reconnaissance. Hanging to the east of the greater Miyar Valley, the Chhudong (a.k.a. Tawa) Valley is predominantly flat, save for a slabby cliff situated just before the Chhudong Glacier. On September 14 Michel van der Spek (Netherlands) and I made an alpine-style first ascent of the 1,100m ridge that rises north from just below the glacier. The climbing was on what I believe to be metamorphosed granite, characterized by consistently solid rock, with many face features but few cracks.

We began just below the glacier, gaining the ridge by a 4th-class left-trending chimney/ramp. After crossing a snow gully, we climbed an easy 5th-class ridge before cutting left onto a second ramp. The sun rose as we roped up. After climbing one pitch to gain the upper crest, we simul-climbed for several pitches, before increasing difficulties slowed our progress. While inclined at moderate angles, the ridge’s challenge lay in its narrow and, in places, hammer-head crest. We climbed five pitches (to 5.9R), before traversing onto the right flank, where