



## **Panbari, Second Ascent and First Ski Descent**

Nepal, Peri Himal

**Panbari (6,905m) was first climbed by a Japanese expedition in late September 2006 via the Fukan Glacier and the slightly rounded, snowy north ridge.** The lower Fukan had complex icefalls, unstable seracs, and hidden crevasses that took the team more than a week to negotiate. In 2011, aspiring to climb the north ridge of Panbari, Paulo Grobel's team avoided the lower Fukan Glacier via a cunning route on straightforward snow slopes to the right, reaching the upper Fukan plateau directly. In 2016 Jean Annequin used this line to try a ski descent of Panbari, but abandoned the attempt at just over 6,000m due to dangerous snow conditions.

Annequin returned in autumn 2021 with a team of around 15 members and established base camp on October 9 at 4,750m. Camp 1 (5,353m GPS) was established on the 12th and 13th. Unfortunately, while conditions were excellent, Annequin's forecaster in France predicted a huge storm on the 17th, with an estimated 1.5m of snow. They had to go for the summit right away.

On the 14th, Camp 2 was set up at 6,345m, and the next day only four of the team were sufficiently acclimatized to climb the north ridge to the summit: the guides Jean Annequin and Jean- Sébastien Knoertzer, along with Gilles Ciselet and Loïc Renard. Annequin recorded an altitude of 6,983m (+/- 7m). The route had not been demanding (35–40°) and the climbers ascended and descended on skis, without using crampons or axes. They also summited two "bumps" on the plateau, one of 6,480m, the other a little below 6,600m.

– **Information from Rodolphe Popier, Himalayan Database, France**

## Images



The north ridge of Panbari, seen from Athahra Saya Khola Himal in the autumn of 2011.

## Article Details

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