



सत्यमेव जयते

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
TOURISM & CULTURE DEPARTMENT
UT SECRETARIAT, LEH, LADAKH
ईमेल/Email: comsecytourismutl@gmail.com

NOTICE

Subject: Inviting comments/ suggestions/ objections from the stakeholders/ public on the draft 'Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024'.

In order to regulate the mountaineering and trekking activities in Ladakh and to make organizers and participants of such activities more responsible and accountable towards the fragile ecosystem of Ladakh, the Department of Tourism, UT of Ladakh has drafted 'Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024'.

In this connection, it is hereby informed that the Department of Tourism, UT of Ladakh hereby places the draft 'Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024' in public domain for inviting comments/suggestions/ objections from the stakeholders/ public.

Comments/suggestions/objections, if any, are invited within a period of 28 days from the date of publication of the notice on the official website of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh (ladakh.nic.in) and official websites of Leh District (leh.nic.in) and Kargil District (kargil.nic.in).

The comments/suggestions/objections may be sent by e-mail at ladakhtourism.guidelines@gmail.com or by post to the following address:

Under Secretary/OSD, Tourism and Culture Department, UT Secretariat Ladakh, Leh-194101.

Issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

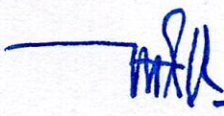
Sd/-
(Vikram Singh Malik) IAS
Secretary,
Tourism and Culture Department,
UT of Ladakh

No.: LA(Trm)(LMP)/UTL/2024(223)/1124-30

Dated: 22.07.2024

Copy to the:

1. Director, Tourism Department, Ladakh for information.
2. Technical Director, NIC, Ladakh for uploading the notice along with the draft copies of the Guidelines on the official website of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh and official websites of Leh District and Kargil District.
3. Joint Director, Information & Public Relations Department, UT of Ladakh for wide publicity through electronic, print and social media.
4. OSD to the Hon'ble LG, UT of Ladakh for kind information of the HLG.


22.07.24

5. Private Secretary to Advisor to the Hon'ble LG, Ladakh for kind information of the Advisor.
6. PA to the Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department, UT of Ladakh for kind information of the Secretary.
7. Office File.



Muhammad Ali Tak, 22.07.24
Under Secretary/OSD,
Tourism & Culture Department
UT of Ladakh



Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024

(for sustainable expeditions)

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh

Background

Ladakh, with its stunning array of high-altitude peaks, has long captivated adventurers and mountaineers from around the globe. Iconic mountains such as Nun Kun, Kang Yatse, Mentok Kangri and Saser Kangri offer unparalleled challenges and breath-taking vistas, making the region a premier destination for mountaineering enthusiasts. The challenging topography and beautiful landscapes of Ladakh intrigue and motivate climbers globally, by providing an array of mountains to climb which ranges at different altitude levels. The altitude level for mountains specifically for mountain climbers in Ladakh is ranging from 5,000 mt. to 7,800 mt.

As mountaineering gains popularity, it is essential to establish a comprehensive framework that ensures safety, sustainability, and preservation of Ladakh's pristine environment. The Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024 will address the need for standardized regulations, proper training and accreditation for Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs), guides, mandatory environmental conservation practices, permits and emergency response protocols. Through the implementation of this policy, the Department of Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh aims to promote responsible mountaineering, protect its natural heritage, and enhance the overall experience for both climbers and the local community.

Vision

To foster a thriving, sustainable mountaineering economy in the Union Territory of Ladakh that benefits the local communities first and preserves the natural environment.

Mission

To promote responsible mountaineering expeditions in Ladakh by empowering the local communities, upskilling the local guides, and recognizing the contribution of Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs) to ensure environmental preservation and economic growth for the long-term benefit of the region.

Objective

The Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024 aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Encourage Sustainable Mountaineering:** Promote mountaineering activities in the Union Territory of Ladakh while ensuring the preservation of region's natural beauty & ecological balance through sustainable practices.
- Recognition of Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs):** Professional execution of mountaineering activities through recognized MTOs and involving them in the value chain.
- Economic Elevation:** Leverage mountain tourism to stimulate the local economy by creating job opportunities and supporting the local businesses like MTOs, guides, porters, accommodation units, equipment rental services, etc.
- Inclusive Community Development:** Extension of direct benefit to the local communities, especially the ones in remote mountain regions, from mountaineering activities through fair wages, skill development programs and community-based tourism initiatives.
- Enhance Safety and Training:** Establish robust safety standards and training programs for climbers, MTOs & guides to ensure safe mountaineering practices, reducing risks and enhancing the overall experience for adventurers.

Policy Validity

The Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024 will remain valid for five (5) years, from the date of its notification.

Registration of Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs)

Any entity who intends to operate as a Mountaineering Tour Operator (MTO) in the Union Territory of Ladakh must mandatorily register with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh fulfilling the following criteria:

S. No.	Criteria	Support Document	Remarks
1.	Applicant's proof of identity	Aadhaar card or any other Government of India issued photo identity card	Mandatory
2.	Applicant must be a resident of the Union Territory of Ladakh	Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) issued by the Competent Authority	Mandatory
3.	Business incorporation details	Incorporation certificate (under the Companies Act 1056/2013, the Partnership Act 1932, Partnership Deed or Proprietorship Firm	Mandatory

4.	Applicant must own essential equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running mountaineering operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh (listed below)	Self-certification detailing all available equipment with its specifications and quantity	Mandatory
5.	Minimum one technically qualified staff/ guide with first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration	CV of the staff/ guide along with all certifications	Desirable
6.	Office space in the Union Territory of Ladakh, equipped with necessary technology for smooth operations with accessible & clean toilet facility	Office address proof in form of incorporation certificate, utility bill, lease agreement/ rent agreement or ownership documents	Desirable

Lead Guide & Instructor

Lead guide & instructor who are leading mountaineering activities shall, as a minimum, hold the following experience and valid certificates:

1. A minimum 16-hour (2-day) first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
2. Completed the mountaineering course, preferably the 'Advanced Method of Instructions' from JIM&WS Pahalgam, or any of the national mountaineering institutes, or carry a certificate duly recognized by the UT Administration or an operator stating that the individual "has experience of 3 years in assisting mountaineering expeditions at altitudes of 6,000 mt. and minimum 3 climbs above 6,000 mt. clearly reflected in a logbook duly authenticated/ validated by the operator and the clients".
3. Maintain a logbook containing authenticated records of mountaineering experience.
4. All guides have a comprehensive understanding of altitude sickness, recognizing its symptoms, treatment, and knowledge of appropriate medication is essential to work at high altitudes.
5. Sound knowledge of cold weather problems like hypothermia/ frostbite.

Essential Equipment

Equipment, especially safety equipment should be of the highest standard available and preferably certified by ISI (Indian Standards Institute) or an international body like CE (Conformité Européenne) or UIAA (Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme). Registered MTOs shall have the following necessary equipment in sufficient numbers for organizing mountaineering expeditions:

1. Climbing boots along with covers
2. Ice-axes
3. Windproof suits
4. Down jackets
5. Sleeping bags
6. Carry mats
7. Rucksack
8. Socks
9. Climbing harness
10. Head gear
11. Gloves
12. Goggles
13. Two men tents
14. Safety helmets
15. Woolens - Vests, leggings, pullovers, trousers and shirts
16. Other essential items

The correct use and proper maintenance of climbing equipment are essential for conducting mountaineering activities and should never be taken lightly.

1. Rope: There are many different types of ropes. The operator and leader must have sound knowledge of the specifically designed climbing rope, including the different types and applications. Climbing rope comes in different diameters and specifications but the basics are dynamic, semi-static, and static. A safe working load of 25KN (2.5 tons) and CE approval is the internationally recognized standard for climbing ropes.
2. Hardware (anchors, carabineers, belay devices, etc.): There is a wide range of climbing aids and devices, and the operator and instructor must have sound knowledge of their applications including which devices are

necessary to conduct mountaineering activities safely. These devices are also a “link” in the safety chain. As per all other climbing equipment items, a safe working load of 25KN (2.5 tons) and CE approval is the internationally recognized standard for climbing hardware and devices.

- All equipment is subject to wear and tear and must be checked before every use. Incorrect storage, use, and monitoring of rated and approved equipment is usually the cause of equipment failure. Operators and leaders must have sound knowledge of this and have systems in place to control and manage their equipment.

MTO Registration Validity & Fee Structure

The validity & fee structure for the registration and renewal of MTO is listed below:

S. No.	Application Type	Entity	Validity Period	Fee
1.	New Registration	Mountaineering Tour Operator	5 years	Rs. 5,000
2.	Renewal	Mountaineering Tour Operator	5 years	Rs. 5,000

Note: The registration of the eligible MTO shall be valid up to the end of the fourth succeeding financial year i.e., up to 31st March of the fourth succeeding financial year. Example: If a new registration is made on 10th July 2024, it is valid up to 31st March 2028.

MTO Registration Application Process

The Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh shall invite application from the eligible MTOs through the office of Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh & Kargil. Until the facility for submission of application is made online, eligible MTOs shall submit the application in hardcopy.

Note: The registration & renewal are subject to submission of complete application form (Annexure 1), prescribed fee, supporting documents, fulfilment of T&Cs of these guidelines and inspection (wherever required). The inspection process shall be completed within 30 days from the receipt of complete application form. Action shall be taken against the prescribed authority if the registration process is not completed within the defined timeframe of 30 days.

Mountaineering Expedition Permit & Fee Structure

All registered MTOs shall obtain permit for every mountaineering expedition in the Union Territory of Ladakh from the office of Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh & Kargil in the prescribed format (Annexure 2) at least 30 days before the start of the expedition. The permit shall be granted within 10 days from the receipt of complete application form, with the following conditions:

- Maximum 30 climbing members shall be permitted per expedition.
- Maximum 10 mountaineering expeditions shall be permitted per peak in a calendar year.

S. No.	Permit Type	Fee	Remarks
1.	Foreign Expedition Team	USD 60 per member	Up to a maximum of 30 members per expedition
2.	Domestic Expedition Team	Rs. 1,000 per member	
3.	Local Expedition Team	Rs. 200 per member	

Note: Until the facility of procuring mountaineering expedition permit is made online, eligible MTOs shall submit the application in hardcopy.

Governing Committee

A ‘Governing Committee’ shall be constituted with specific functions for safe and sustainable operations of mountaineering expeditions in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The composition of the committee shall be as under:

Committee Functions	Members
<p>The ‘Governing Committee’ shall meet at least once a year before the start of the mountaineering season in the Union Territory of Ladakh, and shall be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Address the carrying capacity of the mountaineering peaks to avoid mushrooming/ over-crowding, keeping in view the ecological sensitivity. ➤ Ensure that the MTOs & guides follow all safety procedures indicated in their rules. ➤ Capacity building measures. 	<p>The ‘Governing Committee’ shall comprise of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary Tourism, UT Ladakh Deputy Commissioner, Leh Deputy Commissioner, Kargil Representative of LAHDC, Leh Representative of LAHDC, Kargil Representative of DDRF, UT Ladakh Representative of Ladakh Police Representative of CMO Director (Tourism), UT Ladakh

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure implementation of a risk management matrix, and emergency & evacuation plan. ➤ Utilization of permit fee collected towards waste management & sanitation of the peaks & basecamps. ➤ Surprise inspections to ascertain adherence of the guidelines, asses the quality & condition of equipment being used and asses the ecological impact, to help develop adaptative management strategies. ➤ Grievance redressal. ➤ Any other functions concerning mountaineering operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh 11. Assistant Director (Tourism), Kargil 12. Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports 13. Deputy SSO, Leh, Youth Services & Sports 14. Deputy SSO, Kargil, Youth Services & Sports 15. Tourist Officer, Zaskar 16. Representative of the concerned operators' association/s of Ladakh
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Note: The committee can co-opt any expert with sector specific expertise for suggestions or guidance.

Joint Expedition

MTOs shall ensure that joint mountaineering expeditions are encouraged in the Union Territory Ladakh to promote goodwill, inclusivity among group members and to minimize the ecological impact on the pristine ecology. Any group of expedition members, their clubs/ associations/ sponsors/ organizers shall check with their MTOs to prioritize joint expedition to peaks in Ladakh. The leader of the expedition shall be an Indian national, while the foreign team leader shall be the deputy leader.

SOPs & Operating Instructions

All MTOs must maintain and update a standard operating procedure for their operations and get the same vetted by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh from time to time.

Besides covering the methodologies that are adopted by the MTO in organizing the expedition, such as assessing members' qualifications, medical conditions, and experience, procedures for obtaining various permissions, travel to the mountain, maintenance of base camp including hygiene, avoidance of high altitude sickness, safety precautions, communication, weather reports, the procedure for emergencies, casualty evacuation, incident and accident reporting, and feedback mechanism, the following must be included in the SOPs:

1. The guiding staff and porters on the mountain and the material supplied must be adequate for the aims of the party and the stated level of service offered.
2. An experienced doctor at the party is desirable but at the very least advance arrangements must be known for medical help. Advance arrangements must also be made for evacuation assistance in case of an emergency.
3. Advertising must give a true picture of all the difficulties and dangers involved and avoid promising the impossible. If an expedition is commercially launched by an operator, then the biographical information about the guiding team should be included.
4. The client must truthfully reveal his experience, supported by documentation/ photographs, medical history, etc. to the organizer so that the organizer can make an informed choice about the potential client.
5. Information supplied in advance will include a clear statement of the guiding, porters, and equipment which will be supplied by the organizer, together with details of the clothing and equipment to be supplied by the client. This is not in the context of the operators' assisting expeditions with logistics alone.
6. One-day acclimatization is mandatory before starting the expedition.

Documentation

1. Details of all guides and instructors including, copies of certifications, a record of experience, and feedback from clients.
2. Copies of all permits, permissions of current expeditions.
3. Copies of identification documents, insurance cover, medical concerns, and details of next of kin for all participants, guides & instructors.
4. Copy of SOPs.
5. Current list of emergency contact numbers.
6. Emergency action plan.

Risk Mitigation

1. Participants should be physically and medically fit.
2. To ensure that at least one or two members of the expedition have experience in high-altitude climbing.

3. To ensure that the operator has wireless sets for communication between camps on the mountain and the base camp.
4. To ensure that the operator bring radio receiving sets in case weather forecasts by AIR are required.
5. To ensure that environmental safeguards are implemented in their program so that the area and peak visited by them suffer no damage and are left clean for subsequent expeditions.
6. Environment guidelines by the competent authority shall be followed strictly.

Emergencies and Rescues

1. Adequate first aid medical equipment must be available. Pulse Oximeters are to be part of the first-aid kit.
2. Evacuation routes must identify and be known to participants, guides, and instructors of the team.
3. A detailed and documented emergency action plan must be available at the base camp along with the closest available emergency services which can be called upon as required.
4. Oxygen and OR Gamow Bag (PAC/ Cretic, etc.) to be at base camp for emergencies.
5. Walkie-talkies at base camp and with the group whenever they are out climbing and all the camps where climbers are.
6. Routes with high avalanche risks or a history of avalanche accidents should carry avalanche transceivers, shovels & probes also.
7. The MTO must declare the maximum group size up front.

Safety Briefing

The lead guide/ expedition leader must give a proper briefing to expedition members before starting from the base camp and this should include:

1. Exact route, campsites & places where ropes have been fixed. Hazards on the mountain & expected weather.
2. The protocol to be followed during the climb. Details on SOPs to be followed.
3. Role of the expedition lead guide and assistant guide.
4. Procedures to be followed in an emergency.

Insurance

Insurance is crucial for mountaineers, guides, camp crews, porters, and animals due to the inherent risks associated with high-altitude expeditions. For mountaineers, insurance provides financial protection against accidents, injuries, and emergency evacuations, ensuring peace of mind and security. Guides and camp crews benefit from insurance as it covers medical expenses, loss of income due to injuries, and potential legal liabilities, fostering a safer working environment. Porters, who often carry heavy loads and traverse challenging terrain, require insurance to safeguard their health and livelihood. Insurance for animals, such as pack horses or yaks, is equally important as it covers medical treatments and compensation for loss, recognizing their vital role in expeditions. It is mandated that MTOs shall have the minimum insurance cover, as below:

1. Expedition members (mountaineers): Rs. 3 lakhs per person
2. Camp crews, including guides: Rs. 1 lakh per person
3. Porters: Rs. 50,000 per person
4. Animals: Rs. 20,000/- per animal

Search & Rescue

In the event of an accident or death of an expedition member, the MTO/ guide shall promptly inform the nearest police station, contact the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Deputy Commissioner Leh/ Kargil or the nearest civil, army, or police authorities for assistance. Should assistance from military or paramilitary forces be required, the MTO/ guide shall make the necessary arrangements. If a helicopter is needed for search, rescue, or evacuation of an injured or ill person, arrangements shall be made for transportation to the nearest hospital. The costs for helicopter rescue sorties, including any abortive ones due to adverse weather, must be paid at the prescribed government rates, which are based on flight time and other factors. These charges shall be borne by the MTO/ expedition team.

Penalty & Caution

If any MTO or guide is found operating in violation of the terms & conditions of the policy, which includes but not limited to the failure on the part of the MTO or its authorized representative to maintain the requisite standards, reports of un-hygienic conditions, unlawful activities, malpractices, misbehavior with customers, climbing or attempting to climb a peak without permit, violating environmental protection regulations, etc., the registration of the MTO shall be liable for cancellation by the Department of Tourism directly, or on the recommendation of any competent authority of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.

The Department of Tourism, or any other Department/ Authority of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh shall, in no way be responsible for any claims on account of any mishap.

Responsibilities of the Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs)

1. **Route:** Any approved mountaineering expedition shall follow the approved route and NO deviation shall be permissible, except in case of an emergency.
2. **Abandoning the Expedition:** Once the leader or guide decides to abandon the expedition, the entire team must return to the basecamp or the district headquarters and immediately notify the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
3. **Splitting the Expedition Team:** Splitting of expedition team into two or more sub-groups is NOT allowed for any purpose other than to climb the summit in the form of ropes/ sub-groups beyond the basecamp.
4. **Arms/ Ammunition/ Explosives:** Expedition members are not allowed to carry arms/ ammunition/ explosives, or any other prohibited item during the expedition.
5. **Walkie Talkie Sets:** Expedition teams are advised to use handheld walkie-talkie sets for inter-communication within the expedition ahead of the basecamp. Satellite phones are allowed to be used by registered MTOs for mountaineering expeditions subject to fulfilment all provisions laid down by the competent authorities.
6. **Professional Responsibility:** The MTOs shall extend the maximum possible assistance to the expedition team in custom clearance, making purchases, hiring porters, mules/ yaks, booking accommodation on the way to the mountains, hiring transport, maintaining liaison with the local civil, military and para-military authorities, to keep in touch with the meteorological authority for suitable dates for the expedition in accordance with the prevailing climatic conditions.
7. **Environmental Responsibility:** All members and the support staff must be thoroughly briefed and trained to be able to differentiate between biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste and its mode of disposal. At altitudes in excess of the snow line, natural decomposition processes are slowed, thus the waste pollutes the mountain for many years. It should be a conscious effort to leave the campsites and trails cleaner than they were found. The team shall follow these specific regulations related to the disposal of waste on the mountain:
 - Bio-degradable waste is a type of waste that can be broken down into its base compounds by micro-organisms, air, moisture or soil in a reasonable amount of time. It includes green waste, food, paper, bio-degradable plastics, human waste, etc. and it shall be suitably disposed of only below the snow line.
 - At basecamp, a deep toilet hole must be dug in soil and all human excretion produced must be dumped in it during the team's stay.
 - Bio-degradable kitchen waste has to be deposited in a deep hole at base camp which is to be covered at the end of the expedition.
 - Non-biodegradable waste is a type of waste that cannot be broken down into its base compounds by micro-organisms, air, moisture or soil. Unlike bio-degradable waste, non-biodegradable waste remains stable indefinitely. Because non-biodegradable waste cannot be broken down, recycling is the only option. Non-biodegradable waste includes rubber, Styrofoam, plastic, glass, metals, etc. and it shall be:
 - Collected in sacks and carried down from the camps to the road head.
 - Disposed at or below the road head.
 - Disposed of by submission to vendors and other local garbage collectors in the area or as directed by local authorities.

Mountaineering Expedition Report

The MTO shall mandatorily submit a comprehensive 'Expedition Report' for every expedition undertaken to the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, within 30 days from the conclusion of the expedition. This report shall include a detailed route itinerary specifying dates, times, heights, and locations of the climbs, details of the team members, waste management practices and images/ videos of the panoramic views from the peak, and that of team members at the summit or the highest point reached. The report shall also confirm adherence to environmental guidelines by leaving the mountain clean and bringing back all garbage.

Code of Conduct for Responsible Mountaineering in Ladakh

1. Conserve Ladakh's natural and cultural heritage:
 - Do not trample high-altitude vegetation; do not pick any flowers or medicinal plants.
 - Do not disturb wildlife or its habitats.
 - Do not allow clients to purchase endangered animal parts or antique cultural artefacts.
 - Support local conservation efforts and income generation activities.
2. Avoid the use of fuel wood; use alternative fuels:
 - Use kerosene, LPG (or other non-wood fuel) for all cooking, heating, and lighting including that by staff and porters.
 - Discourage campfires; encourage camp fun.

- Follow safety rules when carrying, storing and using kerosene and gas.
- 3. Leave all camps and trails clean:
 - Separate and properly dispose of litter: burn burnable, bury biodegradable, and carry out all other non-biodegradable materials for deposit at designated trash sites or for recycling.
 - Use toilet tents on all treks; set up and use toilet tents in an environmentally sound manner so as to avoid pollution of water sources (at least 100 mt. away).
 - Use established campsites and kitchen sites; avoid trenching around tents.
- 4. Practice conservation in the kitchen:
 - Avoid fuel-conservation menu items, e.g. baked foods and large menu selections.
 - Re-package foods into reusable plastic containers to reduce waste. Suggest clients reduce waste by de-and repackaging also.
- 5. Practice proper hygiene and sanitation:
 - Teach all staff about personal hygiene, sanitary kitchen and camp routines. Properly treat the drinking water and uncooked vegetables for clients.
 - Dispose of washing and bathing water well away from streams; use biodegradable soaps.
- 6. Take responsibility for staff and porter welfare:
 - Provide adequate warm clothing, sleeping cover, shoes, snow gear, food or cooking stoves and fuel, and take care of hired staff.
 - Periodically train staff in first aid, guide responsibilities, sanitation, etc.
- 7. Properly brief clients before leaving on a trek:
 - Address cultural do's and don'ts, environmentally friendly behavior, safety precautions, proper dress, and respect for local beliefs, peoples and religious sites. Plan days for proper altitude acclimatization when ascending; know how to identify and treat high altitude illness and how to provide emergency rescue.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh is committed to ensuring a safe and ethical environment for all mountaineers. In the event of any unethical practices by MTOs or guides like overcharging, harassment, misbehavior, flouting rules & regulations, non-compliance of any T&Cs by any competent authority, mountaineers are encouraged to report their grievances. These grievances shall be addressed with the utmost seriousness and dealt with strictly by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh. An escalation matrix has been established for the swift and efficient resolution of such issues, ensuring justice and maintaining the integrity of the mountaineering community in Ladakh.

Level	Authority	Turnaround Time
Level 1	Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh & Kargil	10 Days
Level 2	Secretary Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh	7 Days
Level 3	Governing Committee	7 Days

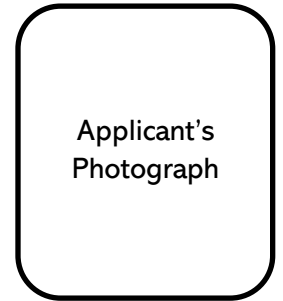
Note: The Department of Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh reserves the right to modify the terms & conditions of the 'Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024' from time to time, as deem appropriate.

Annexure 1
Application Form
New Registration & Renewal of Mountaineering Tour Operator

To,

Assistant Director
(Tourism), Leh
Tourist Reception Centre
Near GPO, Leh 194101

Assistant Director
(Tourism), Kargil
Tourism Office
Kargil 194103



Ma'am/ Sir,

I/ We request that I/ we may be registered as Mountaineering Tour Operator with the Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh, to conduct mountaineering operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The other particulars are as under:

1. New Registration Renewal (Registration No.) _____
2. Name of the entity:
3. Details of the entity:

Registered Address			
Website		Mobile Number	
Email		Office Number	

4. Entity incorporation status (sole proprietorship/ partnership/ private/ public limited):
5. Year and month of establishment of entity:
6. Name of Director/ Directors/ Proprietors:

S. No.	Name	Designation	Mobile Number	Aadhaar Number

7. Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) details:
8. Details of staff with required certification details:

Name	Role	Certifications	Mobile Number	Aadhaar Number

CV of the staff along with all certifications to be enclosed.

9. Proof of insurance:
10. Details of equipment:

Equipment	Specifications	Quantity	Purpose

Copy of the equipment purchases invoices, equipment specifications, warranty and photographs to be enclosed.

Annexure 2
Application Form
Permit for Mountaineering Expedition in the Union Territory of Ladakh

To,

Assistant Director
(Tourism), Leh
Tourist Reception Centre
Near GPO, Leh 194101

Assistant Director
(Tourism), Kargil
Tourism Office
Kargil 194103

1. Name of the peak:
2. Altitude of the peak:
3. Period of expedition (start date & end date):
4. Proposed route:
5. Name of the Mountaineering Tour Operator (MTO):
6. Registration number of the Mountaineering Tour Operator (MTO):
7. Details of the expedition leader (Name, nationality, certifications, mobile number & Aadhaar number):
8. Details of the expedition group (mountaineers, guides & crew):

Name	Nationality	Certifications	Mobile Number	National ID Number

Note: Expedition itinerary, proof of permit fee for each member, national identification proof for each member (passport for foreign national and Aadhaar card for Indian nationals), copy of valid visa for foreign nationals, copy of applicable permit or environment fee for each member to be enclosed.

Declaration: It is hereby certified that the information provided is true to the best of our knowledge and we agree to abide by all the terms and conditions laid down by the Department of Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh for undertaking the proposed mountaineering expedition.

Signature:

Name of the MTO:

Authorized Representative:

Designation:

Annexure 3
Declaration by Mountaineer

I, the undersigned, hereby declare and undertake the following in connection with my participation in the mountaineering expedition to (Name of the peak) _____ scheduled from (start date) _____ to (end date) _____ :

1. Personal Information:

- Full Name:
- Date of Birth:
- Nationality:
- Passport / National Identification Number:
- Contact Information:

2. Expedition Details:

- Name of the Expedition:
- Duration of the Expedition:
- Route/ Trail:

3. Health and Fitness:

- I declare that I am in good health and physically fit to undertake this expedition.
- I have undergone a medical examination and obtained a fitness certificate from a registered medical practitioner.
- I have no medical conditions or disabilities that could impede my ability to safely participate in the expedition.

4. Experience and Training:

- I have sufficient experience and training in mountaineering to safely participate in this expedition.
- I am familiar with the equipment and techniques required for the expedition.

5. Risk Acknowledgment:

- I understand and acknowledge the inherent risks and dangers associated with mountaineering, including but not limited to extreme weather conditions, avalanches, falls, altitude sickness, and other natural hazards.
- I accept full responsibility for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur to me or my property during the expedition.

6. Compliance:

- I agree to comply with all rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth by the expedition leader, organizing body, and relevant authorities.
- I will follow all safety protocols and instructions given by the expedition leader and guides.

7. Insurance:

- I have obtained adequate insurance coverage for the expedition, including medical, evacuation, and repatriation expenses.
- Details of the insurance policy: _____

8. Liability Waiver:

- I release and hold harmless the expedition organizers, leaders, guides, and any associated entities from any liability, claims, or demands arising out of my participation in the expedition.

9. Emergency Contact:

- Name:
- Relationship:
- Contact Information:

I hereby declare that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information or failure to comply with the above declarations may result in my disqualification from the expedition and potential legal consequences.

Signature:

Name:

Date: