



The story of Tsetan Angmo and the LADAKH MARATHON 2017

In 2010, Ladakh was ravaged by devastating flash floods. An already challenging environment, which could only be tackled by a hardy people like the Ladakhis, was rendered even more hazardous. People lost their, livelihood, their lives.....

One such unfortunate couple was Tsetan Angmo's parents. Of modest means, they struggled to earn to pay for surgery for their daughter, Tsetan Angmo.

As a one year old, Tsetan Angmo got involved in a horrific fire that burnt her head and face and left her with terrible scars. Her scalp was singed and her nose was destroyed, her lips burnt and her eyes remained open as her eyelids had been damaged.

11 years later, plastic surgeons visiting SNM hospital in Leh from the US did her first surgery and reconstructed her eyelids. For the first time in eleven years she was able to shut her eyes.

The following consecutive 3 years, the doctors returned, this time repairing her upper lip and then her lower lip.

Then fate struck once again. The flash floods of 2010 left Tsetan an orphan.

Gradually, life limped back to normal as the hardy Ladakhis rebuilt their lives. To celebrate their recovery and show the world that Ladakh was on its feet once more, the first Edition of Ladakh Marathon was organised in 2012, offering a tough challenge to marathon runners while beguiling them with the starkly beautiful landscape that they have to cover in the course of their run. It has been held every year since then, with participants arriving from all corners of the globe. This year, the Ladakh Marathon will be run on September 10, 2017 and the Ultimate Race -72km Khardungla Challenge on 9th September.

Registrations for this year's marathon are closed. However, there is a way in for those who still want to participate. You may register – but the fees is Rs.5000/-. You will definitely not begrudge the extra cost when you know what your money will pay for - the reconstructive face surgery of Tsetan Angmo in phases. She wears a wig, but does not cover her face, even when she encounters stares and unkind remarks. This will cost an estimated Rs. 6 lakhs or a little more to cover her travel and accommodation.

Besides the late registrations, any contributions from the already registered runners are welcome. A little drop will fill the bucket and 24 year old Tsetan Angmo's dream to recover her looks and lead a normal life.

The organisers will stop accepting contributions once the target amount is collected.

To register – Please download the application form from our website and email to us with required documents. Please ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria for 42km full marathon.

Registration fee can be transferred to the below bank account of Rimo Expeditions, promoters and organisers of Ladakh Marathon.

NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY: **RIMO EXPEDITIONS**

BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER: **23698620000256**

NAME OF THE BANK: **HDFC BANK LTD**

ADDRESS OF THE BANK BRANCH: **GROUND FLOOR, BASEMENT, SKYABU COMPLEX, MAIN BAZAR, LEH – 194 101, LADAKH, J&K**

RTGS / NEFT / IFSC CODE OF BANK BRANCH: **HDFC0002369**

PURPOSE OF PAYMENT: **Ladakh Marathon registration fee**