



Government of Nepal
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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Press Release

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Khumbu Icefall Route Established to Camp II; Summit Rope Fixing to Proceed

The Department of Tourism (DoT), in coordination with the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), Expedition Operators' Association (EoA), Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), and Local Authorities, provides the following update regarding the Mt. Everest Expedition, 2026:

Route Status

- The climbing route from Everest Base Camp through Camp I to Camp II has been successfully established by SPCC in coordination with EoA.
- A major obstruction-a large unstable ice serac in the Khumbu Icefall-has been safely addressed following detailed assessment and adherence to safety protocols.

Operations Timeline

- DoT and SPCC signed a route-setting agreement on January 20, 2026.
- Logistics and equipment were deployed to Base Camp in February; Icefall Doctors were mobilized on February 29.
- Route opening commenced on March 16 following the Puja ceremony.
- Progress was delayed by a huge ice serac, adverse weather conditions, including strong winds and persistent snowfall in the rockfall and icefall section.

Critical Section Secured

- On April 26-27, a joint team of SPCC Icefall Doctors and EoA Sherpa climbers fixed the most critical section of the route from Base Camp to Camp I, enabling safe passage which was the result of previous frequent attempts of the team.

Next Phase

- The EoA, which signed an agreement with DoT for rope fixing from Camp II to summit has been directed to proceed the task at the earliest feasible time, by mobilizing additional human resources and logistics in full compliance with safety standards.
- Expedition members, along with guides and support personnel have already commenced their summit progression following acclimatization at designated camps.
- Temporary Field office established by DoT at Everest Base Camp on April 26, 2026, deploying Everest Summiteer Liaison Officers for on-site coordination and facilitation throughout the season.

The Department of Tourism acknowledges the expertise and commitment of the Icefall Doctors and renowned Sherpa guides. All climbers and expedition personnel are urged to strictly follow safety protocols throughout the expedition.