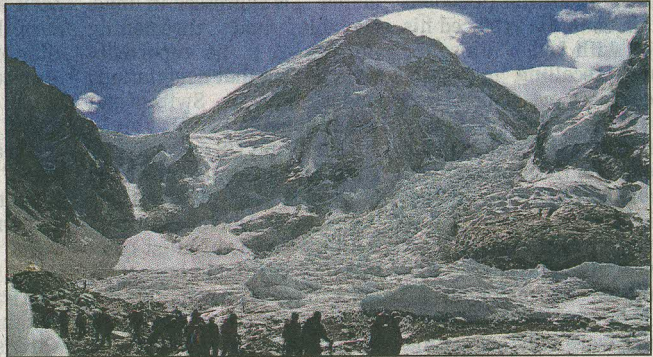


Mountain of human poo plagues Everest

Kathmandu: Human waste left by climbers on Mount Everest has become a problem that is causing pollution and threatening to spread disease on the world's highest peak, the chief of Nepal's mountaineering association said on Tuesday.

The more than 700 climbers and guides who spend nearly two months on Everest's slopes each climbing season leave large amounts of faeces and urine, and the issue has not been addressed, Ang Tshering told reporters. He said Nepal's government needs to get the



Reuters

PEAK POLLUTION: More than 700 climbers and guides spend nearly two months on Everest's slopes each climbing season

climbers to dispose off the waste properly so the mountain remains pristine.

Hundreds of foreign climbers attempt to scale Everest during Nepal's mountaineering season, which began this week and runs through May. Last year's season was canceled after 16 local guides were killed in an avalanche in April.

Climbers spend weeks acclimatizing around the four camps set up between the base camp at 5,300m and the 8,850m high summit. The camps have tents and supplies but no toilets. AP