

domestic tourism



People visit Ikshakamana temple at Chandibhanjyang VDC of Chitwan district on Sunday. Located at an altitude of 1,800m, the temple has lately been attracting a significant number of domestic tourists. POST PHOTO: BIMAL KHATIWADA

Imported DAP fertiliser stuck in Kolkata



SHANKAR ACHARYA
PARSA, JAN 29

Nearly 20,000 tonnes of Diammonium phosphate (DAP) imported by Agriculture Inputs Company (AIC) has been stuck in Kolkata, India, for the past two weeks.

Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises had bagged the contract for shipping the chemical fertiliser to Nepal through Sisirya Dry Port.

According to a source at AIC Regional Office in Birgunj, the consignment has been stuck in the Indian city due to delays in paperwork.

AIC's warehouses in the region have gone completely empty. The regional office maintains seven warehouses in places like Bhutan Devi Temple and Birjung Sugar Factory with a combined capacity of 21,000 tonnes. But it now has only 50 tonnes of potash in the Bhutan Devi warehouse.

The office is responsible for distributing fertilisers to 19 districts in the central region and eight districts in the western region.

According to the AIC source, besides 50 tonnes of potash in Birgunj and 1,200 tonnes of urea in Kathmandu, all other AIC warehouses across the country have run out of chemical fertilisers.

"Apart from the stocks of urea in Kathmandu and potash in Birgunj, we don't have anything left," the source said. "Following Friday's rainfall, farmers have started to frequent out office looking for

fertilisers, just to return empty handed."

Of the 20,000 tonnes of fertiliser stuck in Kolkata, 2,500 tonnes will be dispatched to Biratnagar, 7,500 tonnes to Bhaiwahawa and the remaining will be mobilised in Birjung.

According to the AIC source, it will take at least two weeks for the fertilisers to arrive in Birgunj even if the procedures in Kolkata are completed within a couple of days.

Moreover, AIC does not have any plans to import additional fertilisers for the next six months. "There are no plans to issue an import tender in the near future. There will be a huge shortage of fertilisers next year," the source said.

With farmers facing fertiliser shortages now and again, lawmakers in January had urged the government bring private firms into fertiliser trade. A sub-committee of the Parliamentary Water and Agricultural Resources Committee formed last June to study issues related to fertiliser imports, distribution, quality, farmers' access to fertilisers and the government's current policy, had found the distribution of subsidised fertilisers was "very low", holding down farm productivity.

The sub-committee's report has suggested drafting Fertiliser Act to properly manage and monitor its supply, use and consumption. Due to the lack of awareness, the report said, farmers have been using excessive amount of urea that has been destroying the soil.

Hi-Aim 2017 meet to be held next month

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, JAN 29

Hi-Aim 2017, a two-day conference and exhibition on the hospitality sector, is slated to be held in Kathmandu next month. According to Hi-Aim, the sixth edition of the event will take place at the Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza from February 21-22.

The event aims to be a common knowledge sharing platform to confer and exchange ideas on key issues and emerging trends in the hospitality industry, the organiser said.

The forum will offer a unique platform to discuss and interact with industry experts who participate in the panel discussions and address pertinent issues of the hospitality trade through presentations, brainstorming sessions and case studies. The conference also has networking evenings for delegates, speakers, exhibitors.

"There will not be only technical discussions. The discussions will lead to finding solutions," said Anil Sharma, joint managing director of Hi-Aim.

The event will bring together 250 delegates from the United States,

The event aims to be a common knowledge sharing platform to confer and exchange ideas on key issues and emerging trends in the hospitality industry

the United Kingdom, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand besides South Asian countries.

According to the organiser, the resilience exhibited by the Nepali people during the recent earthquake and political turmoil and the country's natural beauty give

immense scope for Nepal's tourism sector to help create a thriving and strong economy.

Likewise, the United Nations has declared 2017 as International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

"The Hi-Aim team concluded that better opportunity would there be than to hold this year's conference in the hub of regional tourism—Kathmandu," Sharma said.

Joint Managing Director Romesh Koul added that the event would be an opportunity for those involved in the hospitality and tourism sector

to analyze trends and move on accordingly.

"Not just hoteliers, even those involved in tours and travel can benefit by accumulating information about the sector," Koul said.

The event will also have an Honour Ceremony where Hi-Aim will honour industry stalwarts for their contribution to the hospitality sector. "This year, the Hi-Aim secretariat will be honouring the stalwarts of Nepal's hospitality industry," Sharma said.

The first four conferences were held in India, and Hi-Aim 2016 was held in Colombo.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

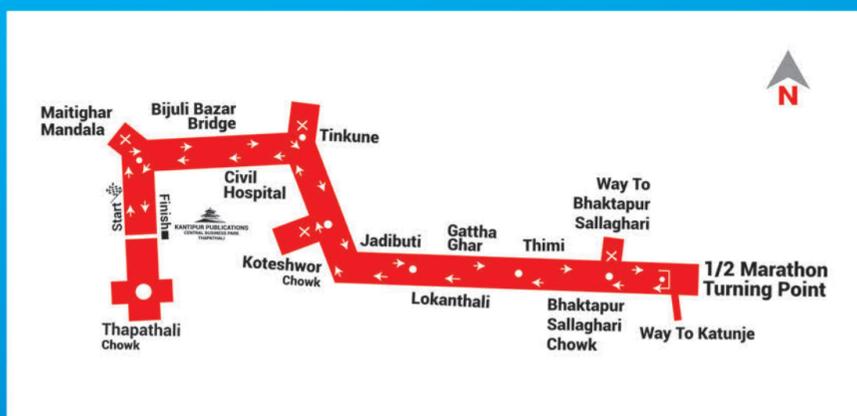
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EVENT DATE : FALGUN 7, 2073 (FEBRUARY 18, 2017)

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ROUTE MAP Half Marathon 21.1 KM



LOCATION MAP



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