

Our Concern

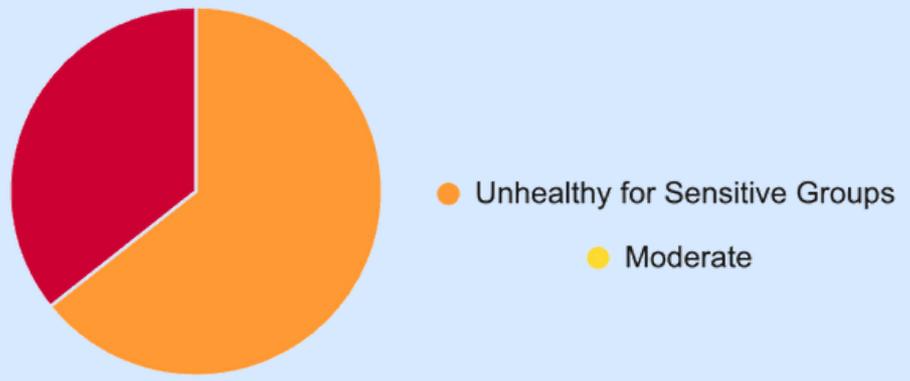
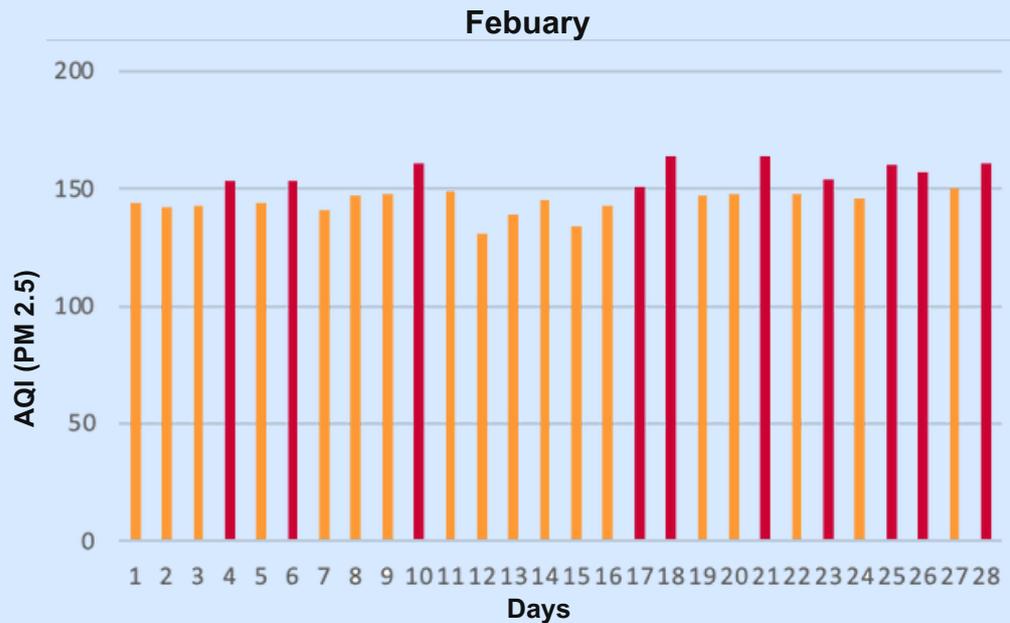


E-Newsletter February 2023

Our Concern, a monthly e-newsletter, is a compilation of news and views from local, and international, media coverage as an attempt to keep our readers abreast on the recent happenings on clean air, energy, and urban mobility and climate change issues.

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- None of the days in February were satisfactory with AQI values from 0 to 50 where air pollution poses little or no risk.
- 18 days in February were unhealthy for the sensitive group with AQI values reaching 101 to 150. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion during such periods.
- There were 10 days where AQI values reached 151 to 200 where everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

Prolonged dry spell leads to acute water scarcity

Since the end of September last year, the country has not witnessed significant rainfall, giving rise to a host of problems and occupations such as the hit agriculture and animal husbandry have taken. There is a good deal of evidence that springs are drying up or yielding lower flows, threatening local communities who depend on spring water for their lives and livelihoods, according to the United Nations report titled 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.' Experts say climate change has impacted multiple sectors—health, agriculture, drinking water, hydropower development, and tourism among others. Nepal has been experiencing changes in temperature and precipitation at a rate faster than the global average, according to studies.



Source | February 8th

Nepal imported 2,000+ electric four-wheelers in first 7 months of FY

The records with the Department of Customs (DoC) show that the figure was in excess of around 200 units compared to the import in the same period of the last fiscal year. During mid-July and mid-February of 2021/22, Nepal imported 1,807 units of electric four wheelers.

In the review period this year, the country spent NPR 5.63 billion to purchase EVs from abroad. The government collected customs revenue worth NPR 1.39 billion from the transaction.



Source | February 22nd

Three hydropower projects govt approved to produce 29.72 MW electricity

According to the Department of Electricity Development (DoED), three private sector-promoted projects were given licenses after they completed all the preliminary requirements. Of these, the 4.9 MW Pikhua Khola Hydropower Project to be built in Bhojpur is promoted by Sumnima Hydropower Company. Similarly, the 11.52 MW Small Bheri Hydropower Project will be built in the Small Bheri River in Rukum district. Expert Hydro Investment is the developer of the project. Likewise, the 9.30 MW Shiva Khola Hydropower Project is Taplejung-based project to be constructed by Mewa Developers Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of CE Group of Companies.



Source | February 22nd

India assures to supply 50 MW electricity generated from Nepal's hydropower projects to Bangladesh

In the meeting of the Nepal-India Energy Secretary-level joint steering committee, India has agreed to submit a proposal for exporting 50 megawatts of electricity generated from Nepal's hydropower projects to Bangladesh with certain conditions.

Neighboring country Bangladesh is also willing to buy the electricity produced in Nepal, but the electricity cannot be exported until India provides an inland transmission line on Indian land to deliver Nepal's electricity to Bangladesh. However, India has set the conditions in a roundabout way even in the Secretary-level meeting.



Source | February 22nd

Nepal to ask India to buy 1,200 MW of locally-produced electricity



According to the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI), a 15-member Nepali delegation on Thursday left for a meeting being organized in India. The Nepali team will also be requesting the Indian side to upgrade the transmission of the amount of electricity that flows through the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line. The proposal will include upgrading from the existing 600 MW at maximum to 800 MW through the cross-border transmission line, according to the MoEWRI.

Source

February 16th

86-megawatt of electricity connected to national grid

Electricity generated from the Solukhola Dudhkoshi Hydropower Project has been connected to the national grid. The private project has been generating 86-megawatt electricity since last week in the testing phase.

The electricity has been generated by channelizing water from the Solu rivulet of Solududhkunda municipality-11 to Maikubesi of Thulung Dudhkoshi rural municipality-3. The river-based hydropower project has been connected to the 132-KVA Solu corridor of Lammane sub-station.



Source

February 11th

SAARC level Climate Change Journalist Forum formed



South Asian Climate Change
Journalist's Forum

The South Asian Climate Change Journalist's Forum (SACCJF) elected an 18 members Executive Committee representing all SAARC countries last Sunday after rounds of consultations among the member countries. The forum has also finalized its constitution and working procedures. The South Asian Climate Change Journalists' Forum made its debut with journalists from South Asia at the World Climate Conference (COP 27) held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November last year. The forum will organize its general assembly later this year.

[Source](#)

February 6th

Good Reads

Some supplemental readings if you are interested in diving deeper into contemporary environmental issues in Nepal and beyond. Take a peek for a broader array of topics.

[Embracing EVs for Sustainable Future](#)

[Wetlands: Mitigating Climate Change thru Carbon Sequestration](#)

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