

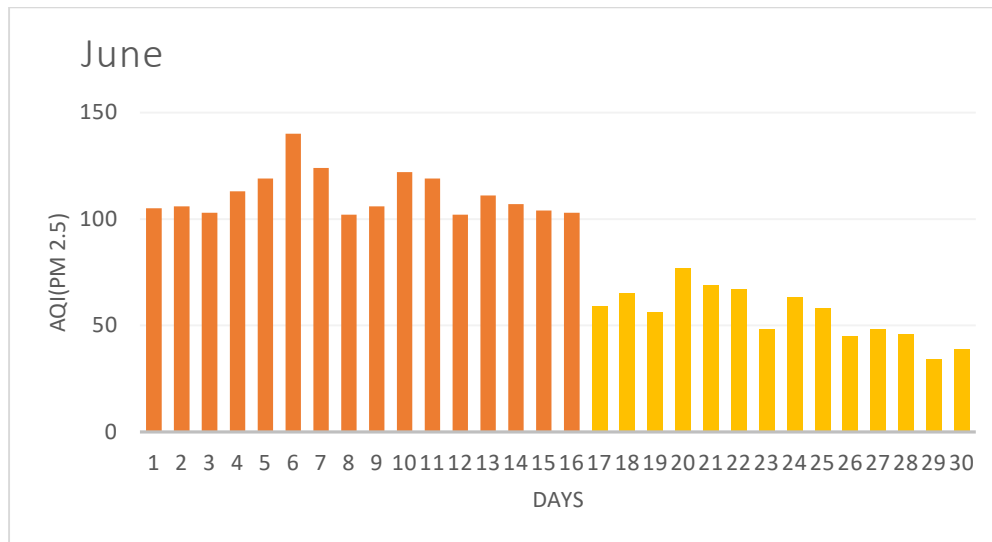
Our Concern



E-Newsletter June, 2022

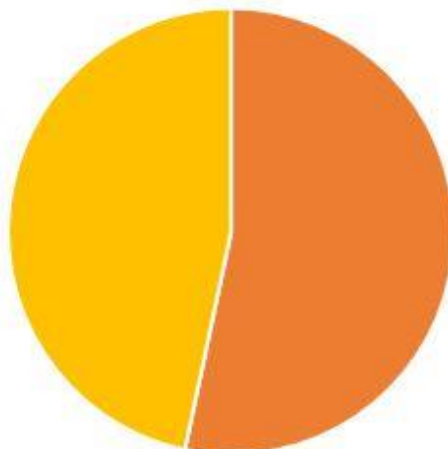
Our Concern, a monthly e-newsletter, is a compilation of news and views from local, and international, media coverage as an attempt to keep our readers abreast on the recent happenings on clean air, energy, and urban mobility and climate change issues.

Kathmandu Valley Air Quality overview (PM 2.5)



Data retrieved from: <https://aqicn.org/city/nepal/kathmandu/us-embassy/>

■ Unhealthy for sensitive group ■ Moderate



There are zero day on June with AQI values from 0 to 50 where air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.

- There are 14 days where AQI values reach 51 to 100. During such period, air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a moderate health concern for people sensitive to air pollution. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
- 14 days were unhealthy for sensitive group with AQI values reaching 101 to 150. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion during such period.

Dirty snow defrosts Nepal's mountains

Dust and soot in the air don't just kill people, but also cause Himalayan glaciers to melt faster says a new study in the Science Journal nature. Dust particles reduce the reflectivity of snow and ice making them absorb more sunlight and causing the Himalayan glacier to melt faster. The Nature study found that black carbon particles have a larger snow albedo darkening effect than dust because it is darker. But dust contributes more to melting because there is up to 1,000 times more of it than soot. Black carbon in soot from diesel exhaust, thermal power plants, brick kilns and wildfires are transported by wind to glaciers and snowfields, darkening them and making them absorb more sunlight.

Published on: June 18th, 2022

Source: https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/dirty-snow-defrosts-nepals-mountains/?fbclid=IwAR0Ut_tLg4bW9z0UgVUN7WcDWtrmkctCPswmtBkuO3GBB_9xJJ0OhrETl4g

Nepali farmers come together to preserve local seed varieties

Farmers are currently uncertain about when to plant paddy due to erratic monsoon and irregular rain that result in either too much or too little water due to the climate crisis. Locals have also seen a declining trend in the number of native rice breeds and fear they might be disappearing. Locals in the villages of the Kaski district are saving their local varieties of rice. They have set up a community seed bank to preserve seeds of local varieties that would last them several years with assistance from the Local Initiative for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD). Farmers have also been spreading awareness about planting local seeds over hybrid varieties which in their experience have a higher yield, but do not have the same capability to survive against diseases.

Publishes on: June 29th, 2022

Source: https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/climate-change-affects-himalayan-rice/?fbclid=IwAR1dPMzL0IN8nIAW2IxcSca4wSRMxA_JUc0tclfbolFGWzr4h0v1woFrY2c

Mount Everest: Plans to move base camp as melting glaciers puts it at risk

Plans are being made to move Nepal's Everest base camp due to global warming and human activity rendering it unsafe. A new site is being planned for a lower altitude, due to the Khumbu glacier rapidly melting. The southern base camp is currently located 5,400m above the mountain's snow line, but the new plans would shift it as far as 400m lower.

Published On: June 17th, 2022

Source: <https://www.itv.com/news/2022-06-17/mount-everest-plans-to-move-base-camp-as-melting-glacier-puts-it-at-risk>

UNDP and ICIMOD to partner in building resilience in Hindu Kush

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have agreed to collaborate to establish a joint framework for regional cooperation to develop and share knowledge, promote capacity development, develop policies and practices, and enhance collaboration in the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries. The partnership will also focus on transboundary climate risk reduction and adaptation to climate change through data sharing and a joint strategy to enhance resilience, socio-economic security, and food security.

Published on: June 10th, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2022/06/10/undp-and-icimod-to-partner-in-building-resilience-in-hindu-kush>

Air pollution is cutting lives shorter by 5 years in India

South Asia bears the highest burden of air pollution. India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal among the top five most polluted countries in the world. It claims certain parts of India receives so much pollutants in the air that the life expectancy of people living in those areas is predicted to decrease up to 10 years if the pollutants persist. 40% of Indians living in the Indo-Gangetic plains are on track to lose 7.6 years of life expectancy if the current pollution levels persist.

Published on: June 14th, 2022

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/air-pollution-is-cutting-lives-shorter-by-5-years-in-india-report-11655188728845.html>

Re-cycling' Kathmandu is not so easy

Hundreds of cycling enthusiasts marked World Bicycle Day and call for green, bicycle-friendly infrastructure in Patan Durbar Square on June 5th. Kathmandu Valley is naturally bicycle-friendly with relatively short distances between areas, moderate temperature, and few steep inclines in urban areas. But roads in the capital are unsafe since bicycles must navigate around cars, buses, and motorbikes that might not respect a cyclist's right of way. In 2019, Lalitpur introduced its first 4.7km cycle lane between Kupondole and Mangal Bazar. The city also planned to build 110 cycle stands. There are now plans for an additional cycle lane on 9km ring road. The future of Kathmandu Valley's bicycle lanes is not just a question of building infrastructure, however, but attitude.

Published on: June 9th, 2022

Source: <https://www.nepalitimes.com/latest/re-cycling-kathmandu-is-not-so-easy/>

Cycle City Network successfully completes pilot-scale intervention in Tulsipur

The development of the cycle lanes is the follow-up of the Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City's rapid assessment of sustainable urban mobility. The pilot aims to develop a cycling and pedestrian culture in the early development of the city to integrate non-motorized transport as a significant agenda in future expansion and developments. The project has further provided recommendations to the municipality to further invest in the neighborhood on sign boards, speed regulating mechanisms like medians, traffic lights and so on.

Published On: June 14th, 2022

Source: <https://theannapurnaexpress.com/news/cycle-city-network-successfully-completes-pilot-scale-intervention-in-tulsipur-6506>

City covers waste pile in plastic after rains damage road to Banchare Danda

Garbage has been piling up at Teku transfer station since the transport of Kathmandu's waste to Banchare Danda remains on hold after rains made the road leading to the landfill site impassable. The Kathmandu Metropolitan City used a 40,000 square feet of plastic tarp to cover the humongous pile of rotting garbage at Teku. Garbage has been a perennial problem in Kathmandu Valley. For years, locals of Banchare Danda and Sisdoile landfill sites have been protesting against the City's dumping of garbage in the areas.

Published On: June 11th, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/kathmandu/2022/07/11/city-covers-waste-pile-in-plastic-after-rains-damage-road-to-banchare-danda>

Dhankuta is the country's model in waste management

Living up to the slogan 'Mixed waste, separate seal', Dhankuta municipality has been earning good income from the waste collected from the Dhankuta market area for the last few years. The waste collected here is sorted by the municipality through traders and the collected solid waste is sold for between 3 to 700 rupees per kilogram. Landfills are also cleaned with income from selling recyclable waste. In the year 2074, it became the first in Nepal in Safa city.

Published on: July 25th, 2022

Source: <https://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/15956>

Good Reads:

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nea-requests-gandaki-govt-to-facilitate-power-projects/>

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/nepal-selling-india-electricity.html>

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/municipal-waste-survey-2020.html>

<https://english.khabarhub.com/2022/18/257469/>

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