

Our Concern

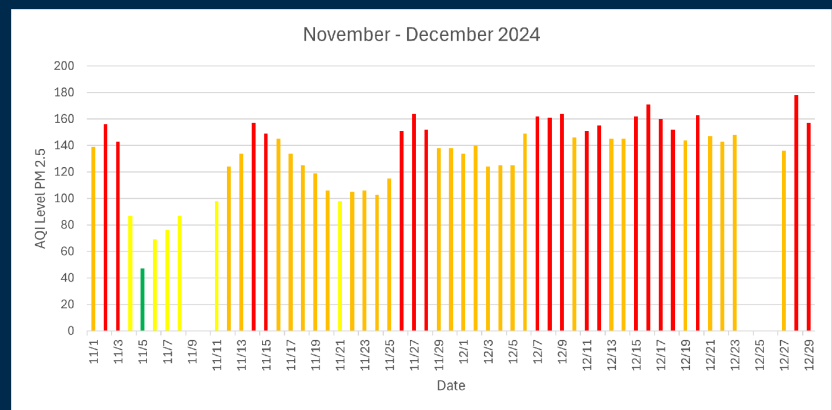


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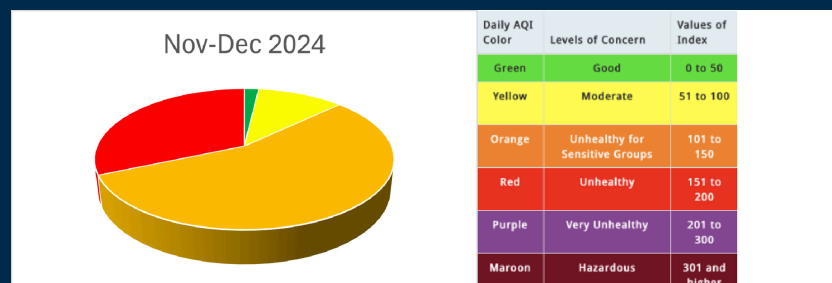
The year 2024 is set to be the warmest on record, capping a decade of unprecedented heat fueled by human activities, according to the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)).



- 1- Air Quality Index
- Nepals Call for unified global action on climate change
- Smog shrouds Kathmandu skies, obscuring hills and mountains
- A New Year surprise: Choppers banned for Everest sightseeing
- Over 1,500 children in Banke found malnourished
- Disasters claim 750 lives, cause economic loss of Rs 4 billion in 2024
- Rice production may decline this year: Ministry of Agriculture
- Floods, landslides incur loss over Rs 13 billion in energy and irrigation sector
- Where are we heading towards?: Petroleum exploration in Dailekh progresses; merely 70 meters of drilling left



Source: US Embassy Kathmandu Air quality



November and December AQI seems more unhealthy in the Kathmandu Valley



Prez Paudel calls for unified global action on climate change

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, President Ramchandra Paudel called for unified global action to combat climate change, emphasizing its shared nature as a challenge that requires collective understanding and cooperation. He highlighted Nepal's vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, such as the recent glacial lake outburst and floods that have caused significant loss of life and economic damage. Paudel stressed the importance of developed countries fulfilling their climate commitments and providing financial support to those most affected. He urged the collaboration between mountainous and coastal nations to create joint programs for climate resilience and called for the inclusion of loss and damage in the global climate finance agenda. In conclusion, Paudel invoked a traditional Shanti prayer, appealing for peace and global cooperation in nature conservation.

Smog shrouds Kathmandu skies, obscuring hills and mountains

November 28, 2024: Smog has engulfed Kathmandu, severely reducing air quality to hazardous levels, with PM2.5 concentrations reaching 155 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This pollution is mainly attributed to construction dust, vehicle emissions, and agricultural practices like stubble burning. Such environmental degradation raises significant concerns for



public health, especially for individuals with respiratory conditions. Addressing this issue requires urgent action to promote cleaner energy sources, reduce vehicular emissions, and shift towards sustainable practices to improve air quality and ensure public health in the Kathmandu Valley.

For more details, visit [Kathmandu Post](#).



A New Year surprise: Choppers banned for Everest sightseeing

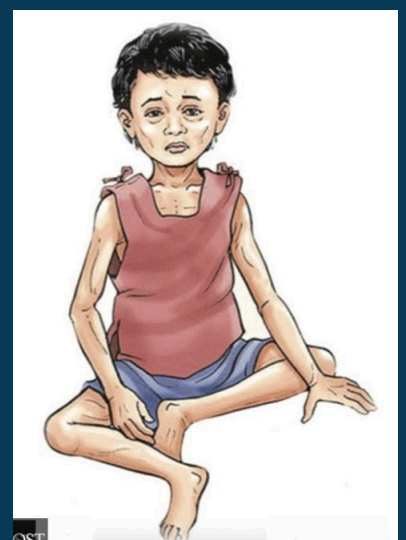
Sagarmatha National Park authorities have announced a ban on helicopter sightseeing tours in the Everest region starting January 1, 2025, aiming to reduce noise pollution and its harmful effects on the area's delicate wildlife and ecosystem. The ban also includes restrictions on cargo transport by helicopter above Pangboche, except for emergency rescue operations. From an environmental perspective, the move is significant for conserving

biodiversity in this UNESCO World Heritage Site, as noise from helicopter flights disrupts natural behaviors of wildlife and threatens the serene environment crucial for both the ecosystem and local communities. While the decision has raised concerns among helicopter operators regarding its economic implications on high-end tourism, it underscores the urgent need for sustainable tourism practices that prioritize environmental protection over short-term financial gains.

Over 1,500 children in Banke found malnourished

Over 1,500 children in Banke, Nepal, have been diagnosed with moderate to severe malnutrition in recent months, highlighting an alarming health crisis. Contributing factors include poverty, inadequate sanitation, and limited health awareness. Experts stress the need for a multisectoral approach, including health interventions, improved education, and economic support for families, to address the root causes of malnutrition and achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The situation underscores the urgency of enhancing nutrition programs and poverty alleviation efforts to safeguard children's health and development.

For details, visit the [Kathmandu Post article](#).





Disasters claim 750 lives, cause economic loss of Rs 4 billion in 2024

In 2024, disasters in Nepal resulted in 750 deaths, more than double the fatalities of the previous year, and caused economic losses of NPR 4 billion. Landslides were the deadliest, alongside floods, fires, and lightning strikes, while 1,510 people were injured, 66 went missing, and thousands of houses and animal sheds were destroyed or damaged. The government revised the

Disaster Victims Rescue and Relief Standards, introducing compensation for displaced individuals, financial assistance for the next of kin of deceased persons, and support for landless victims. Enhanced search and rescue operations, including standby personnel and pre-positioned materials, were mandated. However, challenges in timely execution remain, as evidenced by unresolved cases of missing persons. These events highlight Nepal's urgent need for improved disaster preparedness and response systems.



Rice production may decline this year: Ministry of Agriculture

Rice production in Nepal is expected to decline by up to 2% in 2024 due to adverse weather conditions, particularly heavy rains on September 27-28, which affected rice crops in the Madhesh and Bagmati provinces. The storms impacted around 57,000 hectares of rice fields in Madhesh and caused soil erosion in Siraha and Saptari, further damaging crops. Despite this setback, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has reported a slight increase in rice production for the fiscal year 2023/24, attributing it to a lack of flooding in 2023 and early fertilizer supply. This situation highlights the vulnerability of Nepal's agricultural sector to climate variability, underscoring the need for effective adaptation strategies to safeguard food security.

Floods, landslides incur loss over Rs 13 billion in energy and irrigation sector

In September 2024, Nepal experienced severe floods and landslides that inflicted over NPR 13 billion in damages to the energy and irrigation sectors. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) reported that 27 hydropower projects, including 19 under construction, suffered losses totaling NPR 6 billion. Additionally, transmission and distribution lines incurred damages of approximately NPR 160 million. The irrigation and river control infrastructure faced damages amounting to NPR 4.98 billion at the federal level, with Bagmati Province alone accounting for NPR 2.43 billion. Rural electrification projects also experienced losses of around NPR 207.1 million. In response, the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation has pledged to implement measures to prevent future damages from such disasters.

Where are we heading towards?



Petroleum exploration in Dailekh progresses; merely 70 meters of drilling left

Petroleum exploration in Dailekh district, Nepal, has reached its final phase, with 3,930 meters of drilling completed and only 70 meters remaining. Initiated on May 10, 2024, in the Jaljale area of Bhairabi Rural Municipality-1, the project is funded by a NPR 2.5 billion grant from the Chinese government. A team of 80 Chinese and Nepali personnel is conducting the work, which includes seismic, geological, magnetotelluric, and geochemical surveys. The Department of Mines and Geology, in collaboration with the China Geological Survey and Cibu Drilling Engineering Company, aims to complete the drilling by the end of December 2024.

Machhapuchhre Himal’s Snow Cover Decline Raises Climate Alarm



Good Reads

[Household air pollution: Key Facts 2024](#)
[State of Air in Focus to Kathmandu Valley](#)
[2024 to become the hottest year on record](#)

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