

# Headlines Himalaya

November 24- December 01, 2015 No. 380

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For the 380<sup>th</sup> issue, we reviewed 25 news reports from 12 sources and selected 20 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, there has been shortage and crisis of agro chemicals while in Shimla; Himachal Pradesh India fisheries show success. In Tibet, China, solar buses operate in Lhasa and the rate of unemployment decreases in Bhutan. The flow of tourist increases in Swat valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Pakistan.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

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### CRISIS OF AGRO-CHEMICALS

Farmers are bound to leave their land barren in Kathmandu, central Nepal due to the shortage of fertilizers resulting from border blockade between India and Nepal. Farmers were paying almost double the price to get fertilizers in black market. Hundred of farmers visit the District Agricultural Development Office everyday hoping for some new remedies but unfortunately the situation seems to be worsening.

November 24

<http://www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/17043>

### SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTED

Australian group including mountaineer had spent altogether NRs 8 lakhs to construct temporary buildings of two schools which were destroyed by earthquake in kakani, Nuwakot district of central Nepal. The group has been actively supporting the earthquake victims till date and also promises to make a new kinder garden for schools in the district.

November 27

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2015-11-27/20151127180356.html>

### SHORTAGE OF IMMUNIZATION

Strike and blockage have deprived thousands of children from being immunized in Mahottari district of eastern Nepal. There has been a shortage of medicines and vaccinations in all the government hospitals operated in rural areas of the district. The delivery of vaccines and medicines including BCG, DPT, Polio Drops, Vitamin A and de-worming tablets has been blocked and around 110,000 children have been affected.

November 27

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/thousands-of-children-deprived-of-access-to-vaccination-service/>

### COMMUNITY FORESTS UNDER PRESSURE

A majority of community forests have allowed the people to collect firewood while facing shortage of cooking gas for the past two months in Parbat district of western Nepal. People are facing problems and many people are now dependent on forest to manage firewood. Local residents, including businessmen and professionals, have started collecting firewood from community forest.

November 27

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-11-27/community-forests-in-parbat-allow-locals-to-collect-firewood.html>

### PADDY PRODUCTION DECLINES

According to Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), the paddy production and cultivation area is down by 10 percent this year due to late monsoon as well as shortage of chemical fertilizers in Nepal. The production has declined from 4.79 million tonnes to 4.31 million tones whereas cultivated land area fall to 1.37 from 1.43 million hectares. A significant decline in paddy production will hit the overall economic growth of the country in this fiscal because paddy and maize contribute about 95 per cent in the total production of summer crops.

November 28

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/business/paddy-production-likely-to-drop-10pc-this-fiscal/>

### TEMPORARY BRIDGE IN OPERATION

A temporary Bailey bridge has been constructed over the Dudhkosi River which was removed in rainy season due to the high level of water in the river in Khotang district of eastern Nepal. Vehicles can now directly travel from the district headquarters to the capital as well as other districts in the Terai. Transportation of goods and movement to the area has become easier with the operation of the bridge.

November 30

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46715-temporary-bailey-bridge-comes-into-operation-at-jayaramghat>

### ETHNIC MUSEUM OPENS FOR TOURISTS

The Pun Magar Museum which is the showcases of the art, culture, costumes and the tradition of the Pun Magar community, an indigenous people of the area at Ghorepani, Myagdi district of mid western Nepal has been opened for tourists visiting the Annapurna region. Various utensils unique to the community, household articles, jewelry, clothes and handicraft items are the treasures preserved at the museum. The entry is free.

November 30

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46713-pun-magar-museum-continues-to-draw-tourists>

### SUGARCANE FARMERS PROTEST

The sugarcane farmers in Nawalparasi district of western Nepal have stopped the supply of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) to the sugar mills. The four big sugar mills in the district have not yet paid last year's dues to the farmers so the farmers started the strike. It is said the mills have owe the farmers millions of rupees for the sugarcane they purchased from them in the past few years.

November 30

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46712-sugarcane-farmers-in-protest-movement>

## India-Himalaya

### CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS SNOW LEOPARD

The Gangotri National Park in Uttarkashi and the Nanda Devi National Park in Chamoli are some of the potential snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) habitats in the area. According to the recent report of wildlife conservationist, more than a third of its habitat in snow leopard range states across the globe could be rendered unsuitable for the endangered big cats due to the climate change.

November 27

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/climate-change-may-hit-snow-leopards/163777.html>

### HEART DISEASE IN BORDER RESIDENTS

The border region of Jammu, northern India is slowly becoming a heart disease-prone zone due to the existing tension in the area which is the main cause of high blood pressure. The record of hospitals is evidence of the fact that the number of patients suffering from heart diseases especially in border areas are increasing.

November 29

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/community/border-residents-prone-to-heart-diseases-doctor/164516.html>

## SUCCESSFUL FISHERIES

There has been increase in fish farming in Shimla, Himanchal Pradesh, northern India. During the last three years, about 21,793.53 tonnes of fish worth IRs 19,646.87 lakhs was produced from all fisheries resources in the state. As many as 491.37 tonnes of table size trout fish was produced from government farms and private trout units. Under the Fish Farmers Development Agency programme, 30.46 hectares of land was brought under aquaculture and 29.50 hectares old ponds were renovated in the state.

November 29

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/fisheries-industry-booming/164562.html>

## UNMANAGED WASTE AFFECT RESIDENTS

The unmanaged waste generated from the Guest House in the posh Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu has turned into a health hazard for residents. The polluted smell and flies breeding in the garbage dump were a constant source of headache for residents. Though the municipal corporation has been launching a cleanliness program, the participation of citizens is lower. Tons of garbage were seen in many areas like Bakshi Nagar, Ware House and old city areas etc which has caused threats to people health.

November 30

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/fisheries-industry-booming/164562.html>

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/story/202941.html>

## China Himalaya

## TIBETAN PLATEAU HOTTER

A report on environment change in the region publicized by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research revealed that the Tibetan plateau has gotten warmer and moister mainly over the past 50 years. The average annual temperature in the region rose by 0.3 to 0.4 degree Celsius every ten years from 1960 to 2012. Precipitation in the north increased while it decreased in south. The report said that natural disasters are on the rise due to global warming and increased human activity.

November 24

[http://english.chinatibetnews.com/hb/News/201511/t20151124\\_936833.html](http://english.chinatibetnews.com/hb/News/201511/t20151124_936833.html)

## SOLAR POWERED BUS

A solar powered bus with photovoltaic panels in the roof has been operated in the road of Lhasa, the capital city of the Tibet autonomous region. Electricity is converted from solar power to support the engine of the bus through the panels. Drivers can monitor the charging status on the dashboard located at the driver's cabin at any time.

November 25

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201511/t20151125\\_3981266.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201511/t20151125_3981266.html)

## INVESTMENT IN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

There has been total investment of 130 million yuan RMB in 101 drinking water source protection projects, covering 74 counties in the Tibet region. The six drinking water source protection projects with daily water intake of 3,280 tons benefits over 46,800 people and ensures the safety of people's water supply. It is reported that Tibet has set up 47 various nature reserve areas.

November 25

[http://english.chinatibetnews.com/hb/News/201511/t20151125\\_941013.html](http://english.chinatibetnews.com/hb/News/201511/t20151125_941013.html)

## ENDANGERED TIBETAN ANTELOPE SAVED

A protection center for Tibetan antelope has protected over 300 Tibetan antelopes (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) against poaching. There used to be millions of Tibetan antelope on the plateau, but hunting and human encroachment on their habitat caused their population to fall. Poachers hunt the antelopes for their hide as it can be sold and made into a luxury item that requires three to five antelope skins to make just one shawl.

November 29

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xw/201511/t20151130\\_3984367.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xw/201511/t20151130_3984367.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES

According to the 12th National Labour Force Survey (NLFS) 2014, the national unemployment has decreased by 743 from 9,916 in 2013 to 9,173 in 2014 in Bhutan. The youth unemployment has decreased from 4,282 to 3,631 from 2013 to 2014 and the female unemployment figure was recorded 1.6 percent higher than the number of male unemployed. It was found that the higher rates of unemployment are in the age group 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 years for both male and female groups.

November 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/9173-youth-unemployed-labour-force-survey/>

### SOMETHING FISHY

Fish were found dead near the treatment plant in Samdrupjongkhar of Bhutan and a sample were sent to test and to confirm the cause behind the death. The treatment plant is located near the meat shops below the vegetable market and is connected to the area where the fish were found dead.

November 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/test-to-confirm-wastewaters-toxicity/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### FLORICULTURE THRIVES IN PESHAWAR

A large number of floriculturists in Suleman Khel, Bazid Khel and Shahab Khel of Peshawar of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Pakistan are growing a variety of flowers which are exported to other cities. The farmers continue to grow shabo (carnations), marigold, jasmines, among other flowers. One farmer has set aside two acres of land just for his precious roses.

November 26

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/998519/roses-and-red-blood-volatile-villages-keep-fragrance-of-flowers-alive/>

### TOURIST FLOW IN SWAT

The flow of tourist increased in Swat valley in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in the summer season. The tourist can enjoy the natural beauty, pleasant weather and serenity offered by the valley. The most popular areas for snowfall and winter tourism are the Malam Jabba, Miandam and Kalam resorts where heavy snowfall attracts a huge number of tourists.

November 29

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1223097/snowfall-beckons-tourists-to-beautiful-swat>