

# Headlines Himalaya

January 5-11, 2015

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Editorial Team – Yogesh Rana Magar & Raju Chouhan

For the 336<sup>th</sup> issue, we reviewed 28 news reports from eight sources and selected 16 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, disadvantaged communities in Nawalparasi districts are getting free electricity to be distributed by Nepal electricity authority while in India leopards stray into settlements as a result of encroachment of forest areas by humans. Similarly, in Tibet, China, number of tourists has increased to a record level and delay in monsoon has affected the rice production in Bhutan. Likewise, people using electricity illegally are nabbed in Peshawar, 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!

**NEPAL**      *Four-Horned Antelope Captured at Bardia*  
*Poachers Arrested*  
*Free Electricity to Disadvantaged Communities*  
*NTNC to Continue Management of ACAP*  
*Chandrapur Road Widening*  
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**INDIA**      *Leopard Captured Inside Residence*  
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**CHINA**      *Tibet's Ecosystem Upgrading*  
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## Nepal-Himalaya

### FOUR-HORNED ANTELOPE CAPTURED AT BARDIA

A rare wildlife species, four-horned Antelope has been captured for the first time in Bardia, mid western Nepal. According to a research in India, the estimated 95 per cent of this species in the world is found in India while only about five per cent in Nepal but they were not spotted earlier in Nepal. International Union Nature Conservation (IUCN) has enlisted this species in the vulnerable category.

January 5

<http://m.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Chausingha+in+the+lens+first+time+in+Nepal+&NewsID=331781#.VKofDiuUeYg>

#### POACHERS ARRESTED

Poachers are being arrested in different part of the country in efforts to control trade of endangered species. A police team of Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) has recently arrested a poacher with three feet long skin & four teeth of endangered, clouded leopard from Kathmandu, central Nepal while one more was arrested by armed police force in Parsa, central Nepal with a rhino horn on 5 January.

January 7

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/01/07/national/2-held-with-animal-parts/400005.html>

#### FREE ELECTRICITY TO DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Disadvantaged communities of Nawalparasi district, western Nepal are deprived of electricity since long. Thus Nepal Electricity Authority has decided to distribute free electricity to those communities. At present the distribution center of the district is collecting application from the target beneficiaries under the 'Distribution Line Extension Meter Installation Incentive Project for Dalit and Disadvantaged People.

January 9

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Free+electricity+to+Dalit%26sbquo%3B+disadvantaged+communities+&NewsID=440281>

#### NTNC TO CONTINUE MANAGEMENT OF ACAP

Management of Annapurna Conservation Area had become a matter of debate since last few months as the tenure of National Trust for Nature conservation was coming to an end and local communities have asked to handover the management to the community led bodies. But recently the debate has come to an end and the law makers and the community representatives from five districts of the region have proposed a five year extension of the project's management authority to NTNC again.

January 11

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/01/11/capital/mps-community-reps-seek-ntncs-tenure-extension/400180.html>

#### CHANDRAPUR ROAD WIDENING

Widening of Gaur-Chandrapur road has started in Gaur, Rautahat district central Nepal as the call to clear the encroached area went unheeded. About 15 meter was encroached by local people on both sides of the road. The widening was done by demolishing all the infrastructures build in the encroached area with the support of Nepal Police force.

January 11

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/1696>

#### HERBS COLLECTED FROM COMMUNITY FOREST

About 40 tons of Jatamasi (*Nardostachys jatamansi*) and 10 tons of Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) was collected from Bagjale community forest of Jumla, far western Nepal. With this, the community forest users' committee has raised nearly one million in revenue. NPR 10 was imposed as tax for one kg of Jatamasi while it was NPR 50 for one kg of Kutki.

January 11

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Herbs+worth+Rs.+30mln+collected+from+community+forest+&NewsID=440535#sthash.yZz4EVdU.dpuf>

## India-Himalaya

### LEOPARD CAPTURED INSIDE RESIDENCE

People are destroying and encroaching forest area for the sake of settlement or agriculture and this has compelled the wild animals to stray into the human settlement due to space constraints or in search of prey. Due to such reason, leopards are being captured live or dead in several part of the country in India. Recently, an adult leopard was captured wounded from Santipur Hillside area in Guwahati of Assam while another leopard was found dead in Rajouri city of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India.

January 5, 7

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/community/wild-cat-found-dead-in-rajouri/26135.html>

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan0815/city050>

### FOG DISRUPTS TRANSPORTATION

Dense fog in Jammu, northern India has created problems for rail and air traffic operations leading to difficulty in transportation of local people in the area. As for now, about half a dozen trains have got affected due to foggy condition and it is expected that both the rail and air traffic continues to remain disrupted for some more days.

January 7

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/community/fog-disrupts-rail-air-traffic/27404.html>

### COMPENSATION AGAINST DEFORESTATION

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Shimla, northern India has started to allocate compensation for illegal felling of the trees. It has directed Parminder Kaur residing in the area to deposit about 32000 dollars for illegal felling of about 477 trees in his own land without intimation to the concerned authority. The amount thus collected is to be deposited with the forest department as initial payment for re-forestation and restoration of environment. Further, the NGT has directed DFO of Shimla to submit a restoration plan.

January 8

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/governance/land-owner-ordered-to-pay-rs-20-lakh-compensation/27822.html>

## China Himalaya

### TIBET'S ECOSYSTEM UPGRADING

Ecosystem in Tibet, southwestern China is moving in a positive direction according to the latest assessment report released on January 4 on the environmental situation of the plateau. At present, Tibetan Plateau is the third cleanest area in the world in terms of its environment, after the South and North poles. China has invested almost one million dollars annually in the protection and rehabilitation of Tibet's ecosystem.

January 7

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150108\\_2202340.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150108_2202340.html)

### INCREMENT IN TOURISTS' NUMBER

Number of annual tourists visiting Tibet, China has exceeded 15 million in 2014 for the first time. This is an increase of more than 20 per cent over that of the previous year. However, this number is expected to rise with the promotion of tourist service management and integrated development of tourism, culture and ecology in the year 2015.

January 8

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150108\\_2202509.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150108_2202509.html)

#### INCREASED GDP IN TIBET

Regional gross domestic product of Tibet Autonomous Region, southwestern China has reached 14.89 billion dollars in 2014. According to a news agency Xinhua, this was the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year of double-digit growth since 1994. Statistics says that the total values of Tibet's primary industry, secondary industry and tertiary industry reached 1.51 billion dollars, 0.58 billion dollars and 7.97 billion dollars respectively, an increase of 4, 13.4 and 12.6 per cent from the same period last year.

January 9

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150109\\_2204890.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150109_2204890.html)

### Bhutan-Himalaya

#### RICE PRODUCTION DROPPED

Rice production has dropped in Radhi village, Trashigang district of eastern Bhutan in 2014 unlike last few years. Four chiwogs of the village Jonla, Pakaling, Kadam and Tongshingmang harvested 20 per cent less paddy in 2014. Lack of irrigation water is blamed to be the cause of production decline. According to the farmers, one used to harvest up to two tons of paddy every year but in 2014 only about 1.5 tons was harvested. Locals say late monsoon has delayed the transplantation and thus affected the rice production.

January 5

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/rice-production-drops-in-radhi/#.VK4g6dKUeSo>

#### FENCING BENEFITS FARMERS

With the installation of solar fencing covering 27 ha of land, villagers of Pangthang in Nanong village Pemagatshel district, eastern Bhutan no longer have to spend sleepless nights guarding their fields. The solar fencing was installed last year by Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) centre following high incidence of human-wildlife conflict. Similarly, Bhutan has planned to have more than 1000 kms of electric fencing installed in human- wildlife conflict prone areas across the country by 2015.

January 8, 10

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/solar-fencing-benefits-farmers-of-pangthang/#.VLD0WdKUeSo>

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/1000kms-of-electric-fencing-by-2015/#.VLDzvtKUeSo>

#### TRADITION AT RISK

Tradition of weaving bura (raw silk) ghos and kiras is at risk in Radhi, Trashigang district, eastern Bhutan with the older women quitting weaving and young women leaving for big cities looking for job. Most of the weavers now are middle aged and that number is also decreasing day by day. Radhi is known for exquisite bura textiles and traditional dyes in the country.

January 9

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/tradition-at-risk/#.VLD0BNKUeSo>

### Pakistan-Himalaya

#### ELECTRICITY PILFERAGE IN PESHAWAR

Peshawar Electric Supply Company in collaboration with the police, has nabbed 11 more persons for using direct hooks to get electricity in Peshawar, northern Pakistan. The arrested people are sent to the Central Prison Peshawar on judicial remand and will be punished as per the rules and regulations. Additionally, the company once again has warned electricity stealers to stop such illegal activities.

January 6

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-294311-Electricity-pilferers-held>