

Headlines Himalaya

June 19– May 26

No 410

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For the 410th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 33 news from 17 sources and selected 31 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, population of Bengal Tiger and Black buck increases. In India, invasive species increase in Himachal Pradesh. In China, poaching activities in Tibet raises concern. In Bhutan, electric fencing prevents human-wildlife conflict. In Pakistan, residents demand royalty for trees.

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

Scientific Forest Management for Timber Extraction
Electric Wire Fencing to Stop Elephant Terror
Draining the Imja Lake
DOE to Set up Three Air Monitoring Stations
Wild Buffalo Injures Pedestrians
Snow Leopard Collared
Cardamom Production Hit With Saplings Shortage
Blackbuck Population on the Rise in Bardia
Health Test Carried On Dead Animals
Minerals Discovered
Two Arrested With Leopard Hide
Bengal Tiger Population Increases
Ews Out of Order in Seti

INDIA

Kaziranga National Park's New Step to Protect Rhinos
Animals Are Not To Be Hunted Inside Forests
Nine More Houses Demolished In Tenga Pani Reserve
Elephant Poaching In Assam
Invasive Species Increase in Himachal
Draft National Forest Policy Published
Snow Leopard Arrives From UK

CHINA

Dark Sky Reserve Launched in Tibet
Poaching Activities in Tibet Raises Concern

BUTAN

Bhutan Gosarling in Dire Need of Better Irrigation Channels
Commercial Mushroom Training for Farmers
Electric Fencing Prevents Human-Wildlife Conflict
Hungarian Fish Part of the National Aquaculture

PAKISTAN

Residents Demand Royalty for Trees
Research Institute Upgraded
The Green Growth Initiative of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Local Manufacturers Get Millions of Rupees as Subsidy
New Roads to Be Built

SCIENTIFIC FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR TIMBER EXTRACTION

Nepal imports over 80% of its timber despite being rich in forests. Efforts are being made to reduce the import and increase local timber production through scientific forest management program. This allows the timber to be extracted without hampering the environment.

June 19

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/80-per-cent-timber-imported-foreign-countries/>

ELECTRIC WIRE FENCING TO STOP ELEPHANT TERROR

Solar electric fences have been constructed to prevent threat from elephants in Baduwal neighborhood, Dodhara Chandani Municipality, Kanchanpur, Far West Nepal. The action was taken after destruction of crops and vegetation was reported. It was implemented in hopes to minimize the loss and damages.

June 20

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/506>

DRAINING THE IMJA LAKE

Nepal Army drained one meter of water from the Imja Lake in Solukhumbu, Eastern Nepal, under Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project operated by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. Locals are also lending a helping hand. This program was funded by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility.

June 22

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/nepali-army-personnel-drain-one-metre-water-imja-lake/>

DoE TO SET UP THREE AIR MONITORING STATIONS

The Department of Environment (DoE) is set to install three air monitoring stations in the valley with financial and technical assistance from ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development). This project will observe black carbon content within the valley along with cancer-inducing pollutants, PM 2.5, PM 10 and Total Suspended particles (TSPs).

June 23

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-06-23/doe-to-set-up-3-air-monitoring-stations.html>

WILD BUFFALO INJURES PEDESTRIANS

A wild buffalo caused ruckus on the streets of the Capital and injured about 10 people. It was mobilized by the Kathmandu metropolitan police and Nepal army and is being kept at Tudhikhel, Kathmandu. Those injured have been sent to hospitals for inspection.

June 23

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/wild-buffalo-strays-into-kathmandu-injures-10/>

SNOW LEOPARD COLLARED

A female leopard has been collared with GPS in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in Eastern Nepal for the first time. This program hopes to understand its migration, critical habitat and keep track of the endangered species. The program was conducted by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife conservation along with other organizations.

June 23

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-06-23/first-female-snow-leopard-equipped-with-gps-collar.html>

CARDAMOM PRODUCTION HIT WITH SAPLINGS SHORTAGE

High demand of cardamom for export has encouraged its production in Nepal. However, the expansion has been affected due to a shortage of saplings. The government is mitigating the disruption by distributing large cardamom saplings of different species, namely Ramshahi, Golshai and Salakpur.

June 23

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-06-23/high-returns-lure-many-into-cardamom-farming.html>

BLACKBUCK POPULATION ON THE RISE IN BARDIA

Black buck (*Antelope cervicapra*) population has increased to 257 from only nine, after government declared the Krishnasar Conservation Area in Mid-Western region, in the year 2009. The flood in 2015 washed away 40 species of the previous 281 species. It covers an area of 1800 hectares.

June 25

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/blackbuck-population-bardiya/>

HEALTH TEST CARRIED ON DEAD ANIMALS

Health tests are being carried out on dead animals at Chitwan National Park (CNP) in Bharatpur district, Central region, after tuberculosis was seen on a female rhino back in 2015. Dead animals other than rhinos are also being tested in case of infection.

June 25

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/851>

MINERALS DISCOVERED

A total of 15 places in Salyan, Tanahu, Udayapur and Dhading districts are found to house Iron, Copper and Limestone according to the Department of Mines and Geology. The quality will be assessed and excavation permission will be given to private companies after proper exploration.

June 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/924>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-06-26/iron-copper-limestone-discovered-in-15-more-places.html>

TWO ARRESTED WITH LEOPARD HIDE

Police captured two teens for illegal custody of leopard skin from Babai Municipality, Bardia, Far west Nepal. They are currently in custody for investigation.

June 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/893>

BENGAL TIGER POPULATION INCREASES

Although poaching still persists, the number of Royal Bengal tigers has increased in comparison to the census in 2013. This progress is credited to the construction of the Banke National Park in Mid-Western region, which limits the tigers to the conservation areas.

June 26

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/royal-bengal-tiger-population-nepal/>

EWS OUT OF ORDER IN SETI

The Early Warning System installed by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology in Kaski district in the Western region has not been active since the flash flood in 2012. This situation has arisen due to lack of attention from the concerned authority.

June 26

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-06-26/early-warning-system-in-seti-out-of-order.html>

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK'S NEW STEP TO PROTECT RHINOS

The chief minister of Assam has demanded the police to take all measures possible for the protection of rhinos. After the arrest of Divisional Forest Officer for helping poachers, the minister has declared maximum security for the rhinos of the Kaziranga National Park in North-east India.

June 22

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2316/at053>

June 22

ANIMALS ARE NOT TO BE HUNTED INSIDE FORESTS

The killing of nilgais (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) and wild boars have continued despite the animals being forced back into their natural habitat. The Uttarakhand state declared these animals to be vermins, which allowed local residents to kill them freely. However, animal rights activists are in an uproar that such killings have not been limited to city areas, as was originally intended.

June 20

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/no-hunting-of-monkeys-nilgais-in-forests-centre-to-sc/254374.html>

NINE MORE HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN TENGA PANI RESERVE

The Tenga Pani Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh has demolished nine more houses built inside the reserve area. A similar approach was taken by the forest officials to evict encroachers about a week ago. The houses were demolished despite local resistance.

June 23

<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/nine-temporary-huts-in-reserve-forest-demolished/>

ELEPHANT POACHING IN ASSAM

As Assam continues to fight against rhino poaching a new case of elephant poaching has left authorities speechless. Two female elephants being smuggled from Badhoi Panchali to Dibrugarh were confiscated by officials. The culprits are still at large.

June 25

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Elephant-smuggling-racket-busted-in-Assam/articleshow/52912441.cms>

INVASIVE SPECIES INCREASE IN HIMACHAL

The natural ecology of many forests of Himachal Pradesh (HP) is under threat as invasive species are growing in number. Nearly three lakh hectares of forests in HP, now contain species like lantana, ageratum, etc. which could multiply in number and establish themselves as dominant species in less than 10 years.

June 24

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/know/colonial-rule-in-forests/article8764997.ece>

DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY PUBLISHED

To solve the major problem of Animal- Human conflict, the Environment Ministry has published a draft national forest policy. This policy will replace the National Forest Policy of 1988 and will mitigate the ongoing conflict with a better wildlife management system that will address the urgent needs to safeguard both parties.

June 24

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/draft-national-forest-policy-proposes-measures-to-tackle-human-animal-conflict-2873884/>

SNOW LEOPARD ARRIVES FROM UK

A snow leopard named 'Makalu' has been flown from UK to Darjeeling. The arrival is good news for the zoo as the breeding of these animals was low with 8 female leopards but lone male leopard. Another male is expected to arrive from France later this year.

June 26

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Darjeeling-gets-snow-leopard-from-UK-another-from-France-soon/articleshow/52922629.cms>

China Himalaya

DARK SKY RESERVE LAUNCHED IN TIBET

Tibet's Ngari Prefecture is the host to China's first dark sky reserve. This 2,500 square kilometre reserve aims to limit light pollution in the area but ultimately wants to set an example for the educational and tourism development.

June 22

<http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-china-s-first-dark-sky-reserve-launched-in-tibet-2226642>

POACHING ACTIVITIES IN TIBET RAISES CONCERN

Carcasses of 20 musk deer (*Moschus*) and one eagle were found near Kham Dege, Tibet. Musk deer are among the endangered species. Locals and authorities are concerned that it may be an act of poaching.

June 25

<http://www.voatibetanenglish.com/a/3391129.html>

Bhutan-Himalaya

GOSARLING IN DIRE NEED OF BETTER IRRIGATION CHANNELS

The Gosarling gewogs of Tsirang are in terrible need of better irrigation facilities. This gewog shares its irrigation channels with two other gewogs - Dungalang and Kilkorhang - which has resulted in little amount of water reaching the gewogs. This condition has led to a decrease in production of rice, maize and caradamom in the gewog.

June 23

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/gosarlings-irrigation-woes/>

COMMERCIAL MUSHROOM TRAINING FOR FARMERS

A memorandum has been signed between the University of the Ryukyus, Japan and the National Mushroom Centre (NMC) to encourage and help the commercial mushroom farming in five dzongkhags. Experts from NMC will teach local farmers new technologies and efficient ways of commercial mushroom farming for three years.

June 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/efforts-to-boost-mushroom-farming/>

ELECTRIC FENCING PREVENTS HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Electric fencing has successfully stopped animals from entering croplands in Bhutan. Both government and locals are working hand in hand to solve this problem with government providing the inputs and locals providing free labor and fencing pipes.

June 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/electric-fencing-proving-successful-in-bumthang/>

HUNGARIAN FISH PART OF THE NATIONAL AQUACULTURE

The national centre for Aquaculture in Gelephu at present is incubating common carp and Tata Scaly carp brought from Hungary. This is a part of regular program of breeding and rearing fish fingerlings for farmers. The matured fish (12-24 months) will be used as brooders to produce more fingerlings that will be distributed nationally.

June 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/hungarian-fish-being-reared-in-gelephu/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

RESIDENTS DEMAND ROYALTY FOR TREES

The residents of Chitral district, Peshawar have demanded Rs 5 billion from the provincial government as royalty for cutting trees from the Chitral forest since 1984. Other demands include declaring Chitral as a disastrous district for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

June 22

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/khyber-pakhtunkhwa/22-Jun-16/chitral-residents-demand-rs-5-billion-royalty-for-forest-cutting>

RESEARCH INSTITUTE UPGRADED

The Arid Zone Research Institute based on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been upgraded to the level of Arid Zone Research Centre. This centre plans to improve the livelihood of farmers in arid and semi-arid areas and enhance sustainability of agriculture and its products in such lands.

June 22

<http://pakobserver.net/2016/06/22/parc-upgrades-azri-di-khan/>

THE GREEN GROWTH INITIATIVE OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has launched 'The Green Growth Initiative' that will help KP fight against the physical and economic vulnerability the province faces against climate change. This climate compatible approach can provide opportunities for new markets, protection of natural resources and also gain reputational benefits to the people of KP.

June 20

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/129173-Green-growth>

LOCAL MANUFACTURERS GET MILLIONS OF RUPEES AS SUBSIDY

Local manufactures, Agritech Limited and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) from Haripur, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa are delighted as the Supreme Court released more than Rs.80 million to them as subsidy. This case was filed under Order XXVII of Supreme Court Rules 1980.

June 25

<http://www.brecorder.com/agriculture-a-allied/183:pakistan/60087:subsidy-on-fertiliser-supreme-court-orders-government-to-pay-rs-80-million-to-local-manufacturer/?date=2016-06-25>

NEW ROADS TO BE BUILT

On the 42nd meeting of Punjab Provincial Development Working Party, establishment of three roads has been approved for the current Fiscal Year of 2016-2017 for the Rawalpindi division. This project will cost around Rs. 1.474 billion.

June 23

<http://nation.com.pk/laure/23-Jun-2016/punjab-approves-three-road-development-schemes-worth-rs-1-474-billion-in-rawalpindi-division>