

Headlines Himalaya

Nov 14 – Nov 20

No. 430

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For the 430th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 17 news from 11 sources and selected 16 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, for enhancing the agricultural productivity, and making country self-sufficient in the food sector, the government of Nepal has implemented a US\$ 1.2 billion Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project. Over a ton of black rice has been successfully produced by a farmer in Sindupalchok, central Nepal. In India, annual camera traps installation exercise has started in Pakke Tiger Reserve, northern India to track wildlife activities. In China, the connectivity of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) is strengthening with construction of railways, roads and airports facilitating socio-economic status of TAR. In Bhutan, an awareness campaign on forest fire management has been organized by forest officials in schools and communities of Wandue and Punakha, central Bhutan as these regions have witnessed several fire incidents recently.

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	<i>Initiation by government for farm modernization</i> <i>First black rice production in Sindhupalchok</i> <i>Five clinics sealed</i> <i>Dengue in Chitwan and Rupandehi</i> <i>Smart meter to control power leakage</i> <i>Massive fire outbreak in Bhojpur</i> <i>Scrub typhus in Kailali</i>
INDIA	<i>Wildlife tracking in Pakke Tiger Reserve</i> <i>Unexamined chickens in market</i> <i>World bank-funded flood reconstruction program</i> <i>Heavy metals detected in the water of Holy River</i> <i>Human-Elephant Conflict</i>
CHINA	<i>Connectivity system of Tibet strengthening</i> <i>Female farmers participating in e-commerce training</i>
BHUTAN	<i>Forest fire control awareness program</i>
PAKISTAN	<i>Wheat demand quota fulfilled in Gilgit-Baltistan</i>

INITIATION BY GOVERNMENT FOR FARM MODERNIZATION

In order to enhance agricultural productivity, and make the country self-sufficient in the food sector, the government of Nepal has implemented a US\$ 1.2 billion Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project, which envisions new and modern agricultural techniques. The responsibilities of the implementation of project's programmes will be carried out by Central Management Unit (CMU), set up in Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, central Nepal. The project will be launched with 10-year scheme in the next two weeks and will hold 317 staffs. The government has planned to create 2100 pocket areas (10 ha each), 150 blocks (100 ha each), 30 zones (500 ha each) and also seven super zones (1000 ha each) to be promoted for different products across the nation.

Nov 14

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-14/govt-implements-farm-modernisation-project.html>

FIRST BLACK RICE PRODUCTION IN SINDHUPALCHOK

A local farmer from Sindhupalchok, Central Nepal, has successfully produced over a ton of black rice (*Oryza sps*). Black rice has high nutritional value and is usually grown 1500-1800 m above the sea level. The production of black rice in Nepal was initiated in the Dang district, Western Nepal about five years ago.

Nov 14

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-14/black-rice-produced-for-the-first-time-in-sindhupalchok.html>

FIVE CLINICS SEALED

Five clinics in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts, Central Nepal, were sealed by Health Ministry as they were found to be in operation without meeting the government's Guideline for Health Institution Establishment, Operation and Upgrade Standard-2070 BS. A total of seventeen clinics were monitored out of which five were sealed.

Nov 15

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15511>

DENGUE IN CHITWAN AND RUPANDEHI

According to the District Public Health Office, 653 dengue cases with two deaths have been recorded in last three months in Chitwan, Central Nepal and a total of 36 people in Rupandehi, Western Nepal, have been infected with this virus. The patients are receiving medical treatment and the rest of the uninfected are receiving awareness programs. Due to the infectious disease, Dengue, caused by mosquitoes of genus *Aedes Aegypti*, five people had succumbed to death in 2010.

Nov 16, Nov 18

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15552>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-18/two-dengue-deaths-in-three-days-in-chitwan.html>

SMART METER TO CONTROL POWER LEAKAGE

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is installing smart meters in the Kathmandu valley, Central Nepal, as a pilot project to control power leakages. This project also focuses on controlling the electricity theft across the country and also the smart meter installation will allow the customers to pay electricity bills through cell phones. According to NEA data, 100 MW out of 890 MW in the NEA central grid, is wasted due to theft and leakages.

Nov 17

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15575>

MASSIVE FIRE OUTBREAK IN BHOJPUR

Five houses were burnt down to ash while seven others were partially burnt in the Bhotepasal area of Bhojpur, Eastern Nepal, due to the fire that started at a jewellery shop by LPG leakage. A fire engine of the Bhojpur Municipality, locals, security personnel from Nepal Army and Nepal Police struggled to control the inferno that has damaged a significant part of the community.

Nov 20

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/massive-fire-breaks-bhojpur-district-headquarters/>

SCRUB TYPHUS IN KAILALI

Out of 113 cases of Scrub typhus, four people have died in Kailali district, far western Nepal, in the last four months. According to District Public Health Office (DPHO), out of 58 diagnosed with the disease, two were succumbed to death last year. Humans are known to acquire this disease from the bite of the infected mites (*Trombiculidae*). Despite the multiple casualties, very few steps have been taken to mitigate the effects.

Nov 20

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-20/scrub-typhus-cases-on-the-rise-in-kailali.html>

India-Himalaya

WILDLIFE TRACKING IN PAKKE TIGER RESERVE

Annual Camera traps installation exercise has been started in Pakke Tiger Reserve, the most consistent Tiger Reserve in Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh of northeast India, for tracking wildlife activities. Camera trapping technique was started by researchers of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in 2006 for the first time in the tiger reserve. The entire reserve with the division into two blocks- Tippi and Seijosa, will carry out this whole camera traps exercise for around five months.

Nov 14

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/pakke-tiger-reserve-begins-exercise-to-track-wild-animals/>

UNEXAMINED CHICKENS IN MARKET

The possibilities of infected chickens in the market have been increased with the import of 55 million unexamined chickens by Kashmir, northern India, significantly risking the consumers' health. Poultry farming is booming in that region but health experts have appraised that the epidemic can break at any instant as they lack the health officers who could regularly inspect the market and farms. As more than 60 diseases are associated with poultry, experts suggest government to take measures for enhancing safe poultry practice.

Nov 16

<http://thenorthlines.com/no-proper-testing-chicken-jk/>

WORLD BANK-FUNDED FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Indian Government has executed the first phase of World Bank-funded flood reconstruction programme worth US\$ 32128536 for reconstruction of several bridges, major roads and other infrastructures in Srinagar, northern India. The Indian Government under ambitious US\$ 250 million World Bank-funded flood reconstruction programme would be using US\$ 140 million for reconstructing and strengthening critical flood-hit infrastructures including roads and bridges, US\$ 50 million for restoring urban flood management infrastructure and so on.

Nov 17

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/story/233817.html>

HEAVY METALS DETECTED IN THE WATER OF HOLY RIVER

According to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has reported the presence of 14 heavy metals and pesticides in the water of Holy River Ganga between Haridwar and Kanpur,

Uttar Pradesh, Northern India. Those 14 heavy metals detected in the water of Holy River Ganga included arsenic, cadmium, lead, nickel, chromium, cobalt and selenium, deteriorating its water quality.

Nov 18

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-heavy-metals-pesticides-in-ganga-cpcb-tells-national-green-tribunal-2274471>

HUMAN -ELEPHANT CONFLICT

Bhutan is grappling with a serious human-elephant conflict triggered by the unrestrained deforestation in the Assam side along the Indo-Bhutan border. According to the Bhutan authorities, habitat degradation in India and plantation of large-scale tea has exacerbated the conflict. Though having a joint operation with wildlife NGOs and the Assam Forest Department for joint trans-boundary management in a few areas, Bhutan expresses the need of strong measures to expand the collaboration and manage the conflicts.

Nov 20

<http://www.assamtribune.com/nov2116/at053.txt>

China Himalaya

CONNECTIVITY SYSTEM OF TIBET STRENGTHENING

Transportation infrastructure joining Tibet and other regions of mainland China have been developing with construction of roads, railways and airlines. With the progress of Lhasa-Nyingchi high-grade road and the basic road grid covering all the region, the distance of roads in past five years has been increased by 37% when compared to 2010. Development of transportation sector is believed to facilitate socio-economic status of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

Nov 16

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1479351706460.shtml>

FEMALE FARMERS PARTICIPATING IN E-COMMERCE TRAINING

40 female farmers and herders from different regions of Tibet have participated on 10 days e-commerce training programme at capital city Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, jointly organized by Tibet's All-China Women's Federation and Science & Technology Department to develop digital entrepreneurship skill among trainees. The classes of training designed with the theme "Internet + Women Entrepreneurship" is believed to establish e-commerce brands with bigger market expansion for Tibetan handicrafts, costumes and local products, helping more women to initiate their own businesses.

Nov 15

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1479176778108.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

FOREST FIRE CONTROL AWARENESS PROGRAM

An awareness campaign on forest fire management has been organized by forest officials in schools and communities of Wandue and Punakha, central Bhutan since these regions have had high record of forest fire incidents. Forming three community forest fire management groups in Wangdue and Punakha, each having 116 and 47 households respectively, forest officials' briefed people about the impacts and management of forest fires. A forest fire volunteer group was also formed for the first time in Wangdue with the registration of 70 volunteers including teachers, shopkeepers, saw-mill owners, civil servants and locals.

Nov 17

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/preventing-forest-fires-through-public-involvement/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

WHEAT DEMAND QUOTA FULFILLED IN GILGIT-BALTISTAN

In order to meet food requirement during winter, Food Department Gilgit-Baltistan has timely supplied allotted wheat quota to all districts of the region. With the procurement of one hundred thousand wheat bags in depots of region's all districts, the shortage of wheat in any part of Gilgit-Baltistan is at minimal.

Nov 17

<http://pamirtimes.net/2016/11/17/no-shortage-of-wheat-in-any-part-of-gilgit-baltistan-food-dept-spokesman/>