For the 432nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 20 news from 11 sources and selected 19 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, air quality monitoring stations have started their operations with the data available online. Tiger population have increased by 700 in past six years in 13 different countries, including Nepal. In China, e-commerce of Cordyceps has been launched successfully. Hazelnut farmers are ambitious about good hazelnut yield in Bhutan.

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
- Smugglers face 10 years imprisonment
- Air quality monitoring stations start functioning
- Only 8 Tuins replaced by suspension bridges
- Children suffering from malnutrition in Bajhang
- Microhydel projects unsustainable in Parbat
- River clean up extract 15 metric tonnes waste
- Tiger population increased in last 6 years
- Food aid lying undistributed at the storehouse
- Elephant attacks claimed 35 lives in last 17 years
- Children terrified to go to school

INDIA
- Inadequate rain trouble farmers in Himachal Pradesh
- Leopard attack claims one
- Gyatso wins wildlife service award
- Forest fire in Banihal

CHINA
- E-commerce for cordyceps in Tibet
- Increased wild animals in Sanjiangyuan

BHUTAN
- Fire destroys storehouse in Bumthang
- Farmers in Chukha prepare for good hazelnut yield

PAKISTAN
- Vitamin and mineral deficient women and children
SMUGGLERS FACE 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT
The District Court of Dhading, central Nepal, has pronounced 10 years prison sentence along with the fine of NPR 60,000 to five men involved in smuggling of endangered Tibetan Antelope (*Pantherolops hodgsonii*) for its wool. The smugglers were filed a case when the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) retrieved huge amount of Tibetan Antelope’s wool in 2013.
Nov 29

AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS START FUNCTIONING
Department of Environment has started operating three air quality monitoring stations in Ratnapark, Pulchowk and Dhulikhel, central Nepal, this week. Concentration of four types of air pollutant gases; CO₂, SO₂, NO and O₃ and computing dust particles in PM10, PM 2.5 and PM1, wind speed, wind direction, air temperature and relative humidity are measured. The collected data are available on the government’s webpage of pollution.
Nov 30

ONLY 8 TUINS REPLACED BY SUSPENSION BRIDGES
The government’s statement to replace all the 171 dangerous Tuins (traditional wire river crossings) around the country with safer and more durable suspension bridges is proceeding at a snail’s pace. Only 8 Tuins have been replaced in six districts since October 2015.
Nov 30

CHILDREN TERRIFIED TO GO TO SCHOOL
Children living near the buffer zone of Bardiya National Park, mid-west Nepal, have been frightened to go to school, after a student was killed by a wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*) last month. Locals have already been demanding electric fence installation to the National Park. There are about 50 children near the buffer zone who use the forest route to go to school every day.
Nov 30

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION IN BAJHANG
Above 15% of children below the age of 5 in Bajhang district, far western Nepal, are under the grip of malnutrition as shown by a study conducted by District Health Office. Among 2796 children, 410 were diagnosed as malnourished. Of them, 112 children were found with severe malnutrition condition while, 298 others suffered from mild malnutrition. There are approximately 22,000 children under the age of five in Bajhang.
Dec 1

MICROHYDEL PROJECTS UNSUSTAINABLE IN PARBAT
Eight out of eleven micro hydro projects are no longer in use in remote Parbat district, western Nepal. Supply of electricity from the national grid in villages is the reason behind shut down of local micro hydro plants. The power plants were installed a decade ago with support from UNDP, World Bank and the government of Nepal.
Dec 3

RIVER CLEAN UP EXTRACT 15 METRIC TONES WASTE
On the 186th week of Bagmati River cleaning campaign, 15 metric tons of waste were collected and managed from urban rivers of Kathmandu valley, central Nepal. Various government officials, Nepal Police, Nepal Army, activists, students and local people were part of the drive.

Dec 3
http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-03/20161203135643.html

TIGER POPULATION INCREASED IN LAST 6 YEARS
Numbers of tiger (Panthera tigris) have reached to an approximate of 3900, increased by 700 since past 6 years in 13 different countries including Nepal. There are 198 tigers in Nepal currently which was 121 in 2010. The International Community has a goal to double the tiger population by the end of 2022.

Dec 3
http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-03/20161203194352.html

FOOD AID LYING UNDISTRIBUTED AT THE STOREHOUSE
About 7,000 quintal rice remains undistributed in various Nepal Food Corporation’s godowns since last 6 years provided by the government of Japan for food assistance. Ministry officials, however, intend to perform the lab test and sell the stock if it seemed edible.

Dec 2

ELEPHANT ATTACKS CLAIMED 35 LIVES IN LAST 17 YEARS
A report disclosed by Bardiya National Park, mid-west Nepal, revealed that at least 35 people have lost their lives in separate elephant (Elephas maximus) attacks from Bardiya in past 17 years. The government of Nepal has already provided monetary relief of NPR 25,000 to NPR 100,000 to the affected families.

Dec 3

INADEQUATE RAIN TROUBLE FARMERS IN HIMANCHAL PRADESH
Farmers in Himachal Pradesh, northern India, are worried about the wheat production due to deficit in rainfall. As reported by weather bureau, rainfall deficit was 100% from Oct 1 to Nov 26 with the cumulative rainfall just at 5.3 mm which was 91% less than the normal precipitation (56.3 mm) and this dry condition is forecasted to continue till December 2. The target of 16 lakh tonnes of food production of the state agriculture department has been badly threatened by climate change.

Nov 28

LEOPARD ATTACK CLAIMS ONE
Cases of human-wildlife conflict have become frequent in Himachal Pradesh, northern India. A resident of Bharari, Bilaspur district, was reported to be killed by an adult leopard whilst a villager in Bhunad, Chamba district was severely injured in another separate incident of a bear attack. Though the forest department had already set up three cages to trap the leopard, it is still at large.

-Nov 30
GYATSO WINS WILDLIFE SERVICE AWARD
Lobsang Gyatso, widely known as ‘Anna Lama’ has bagged the prestigious Wildlife Service Award of the Santuary Wildlife Awards, 2016. Nyamjang Chhu river of Mon Tawang, north-western part of Arunachal Pradesh in India is recognized as one of the only two sites in India for black-necked crane (Grus nigricollis). Gyatso with his Save Moon Region Federation (SMRF) successfully stopped the 780-MW Nyamjang Chhu river hydel project because of its environmental impact in the Tawang region.
Dec 2

FOREST FIRE IN BANIHAL
Forest fire that broke out in Krawa, Liva and Mamma of Chamalva of Banihal town in Ramban district of Jammu have engulfed at least four compartments since Dec 2. According to sources, many trees has been burnt down in fire while on contrary, some officials claimed that it was only ground fire. The forest department, fire tenders and the locals are in a collective effort to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading further.
Dec 3

E-COMMERCE FOR CORDYCEPS IN TIBET
The first ever e-commerce platform for trading Cordyceps has been launched by the Tibet Commodity Trading Center that primarily focuses on linking the customers directly to the sale stores thereby, minimizing the steps in-between, cost along with stabilizing and promoting industrial growth. Tibet being the main production site for Cordyceps (a rare, non-renewable and essential Chinese medicinal herb), accounts for 30% of annual national output. The model of “Internet + Cordyceps” could also be used for other Tibetan specialty products.
Dec 3
http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/news/1480727654250.shtml

INCREASED WILD ANIMALS IN SANJIANGYUAN
Wild animals in Sanjianguan Nature Reserve, an area of Tibetan Plateu in Qinghai province, have been increasing every year particularly Tibetan antelope, Kiangs and Tibetan gazelles. Improvement in wildlife protection and awareness has contributed to the success.
Dec 4

FIRE DESTROYS STOREHOUSE IN BUMTHANG
A fire incident has been reported from Bumthang, central Bhutan, on Nov 26 around 4:30 pm. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined though the fire was successfully extinguished by the help of locals, police and two fire engineers. Property worth Nu 1.3m is estimated to have been destroyed.
Nov 28

FARMERS IN CHUKHA PREPARE FOR GOOD HAZELNUT YIELD
Hazel tree (Corylus) cultivators in Chukha, western Bhutan, are expecting a pleasant harvest as the plants are doing very well. One of the hopeful farmers said he has planted 3500 hazelnut samplings on 18 acres of land and
is expecting a profitable outcome while some farmers are planning to shift to kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*) cultivation due to other concerns. The hazelnut venture that started in 2011 is expected to plant 10 million hazelnut trees in next five years.

Nov 30

http://www.kuenselonline.com/high-hopes-for-hazelnut-growers-in-chukha/

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VITAMIN AND MINERAL DEFICIENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

As proclaimed by the country’s director at a workshop entitled “Situation of Malnutrition in Pakistan”, around 50 percent of women and children are attributed to malnutrition due to deficiency of essential vitamins and minerals like iron, folic acid and zinc while death of children below 5 years has reached 45 percent. The event held on Wednesday also clarified that only robust, healthy and mentally sound population can contribute towards national development and lead to growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Dec 1