

# Headlines Himalaya

Dec 4– Dec 11

No. 433

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For the 433<sup>rd</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 23 news from 14 sources and selected 21 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, endangered mammals Pangolin (*Manis Sps*) are distributed across 43 districts. Early days hunters have turned for Ghoral (*Naemorhedus goral*) conservation in hilly parts of Nawalparasi, central Nepal. In India, water woes grip Meghalaya while fish farming is likely to benefit entrepreneurs in Manipur. Bhutan exported eggs to India for the first time. In Pakistan, the dry spell has worsened life in Peshawar and Islamabad.

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### RAT CONSUMPTION BY MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN TERAI

The poverty-stricken communities such as Santhal, Bantar and Rishidev in Sanischare of Pathari, Morang eastern Nepal have been preying on rats for food since long period of time. They explore the paddy fields and hunt down rats in their burrows. They also search for foxes, rabbits, wild cats and mongoose for meal to supplement nutrition for community members.

Dec 4

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15937>

### ART AIDING HIV INFECTED MOTHERS

The anti-retroviral therapy (ART), by which HIV-infected mothers can give birth to uninfected babies is being considered as a boon for them. According to ART Centre at Bharatpur Hospital, Chitwan, southcentral Nepal, since 2007 to date, 69 out of 72 children born from HIV-infected mothers, were uninfected whereas three inherited the infection from their mothers. At present, ART services from the Centre, aided by AHF Nepal, is being attained by 672 patients.

Dec 5

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15970>

### HUNTERS BECOME SAVIORS FOR DWINDLING GHORAL POPULATION

The hilly VDCs of Nawalparasi district central Nepal, are now witnessing concerned efforts for the conservation of Himalayan ghoral (*Naemorhedus goral*) through formation of youth committee, by the same locals who used to hunt them in the past. Locals also earn revenue from tourists who come to the village to see ghorals. Out of the four species of ghoral found across the globe, only the Himalayan ghoral is available in Nepal. The rare species is protected in Khaptad National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park, Langtang National Park, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, and in the Mahabharata ranges.

Dec 6

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/environment/ex-poachers-turn-conservationists-himalayan-ghoral/>

### CLIMATE CHANGE; WOMEN ARE MORE VULNERABLE

Rural Nepali women are badly hit by climatic vulnerability such as changing weather patterns, increase in natural calamities, and increase in the frequencies of extreme weather events resulting in low agricultural productivity. A report prepared by Women's Rehabilitation Centre show that women are key person responsible for cultivation and harvesting of food crops. Mostly, they face problems of food, water scarcity and spend their potential time travelling long distances in search of potable water.

Dec 9

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/climate-change-affecting-women-men/>

### NEW LANDFILL SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A new landfill site is under construction at Banchara danda on the border of Nuwakot and Dhading districts, central Nepal for sustainable waste management of Kathmandu Valley. The under-construction landfill site is expected to hold waste for at least 20 years after its completion. The government has acquired 89.757 hectare of land for the development of necessary infrastructures with an estimated budget of NPR 2.45 billion.

Dec 9

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/new-landfill-site-constructed/>

### PROPERTY WORTH NPR 5.8 MILLION DESTROYED BY FIRE

According to District Police Office, property worth NPR 5.8 million had been extirpated by fire that broke out in a furniture factory in Simikot-2 of Humla district, north western Nepal. The property of furniture factory worth NPR 5.5 million and nearby house worth NPR 300,000 had been destroyed by the same incident.

Dec 11

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/16103>

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES PANGOLIN FOUND IN 43 DISTRICTS OF NEPAL

The national survey of pangolin, mammal of the pholidota order, 2016 documents their presence in 43 districts of Nepal which were initially believed to be found only in 12 districts. The study was conducted by Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) with support from Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, USAID and Hariyoban Programme. In Nepal only two species; Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found.

Dec 11

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/33630>

#### A NEW ELEPHANT CALF BORN

The Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas Maximus*) named Lucky Kali gave birth to a calf on Friday at Temple Tiger Green Resort in Nawalparasi, western Nepal. The birth is considered very important as Asiatic elephants are listed under endangered categories of the IUCN Red List. Their population has been diminishing by 50 percent over the last 60 to 75 years.

Dec 11

<http://epaper.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2016-12-10/money/3>

## India-Himalaya

#### HIV POSITIVE CASES DETECTED IN HIMANCHAL PRADESH

As published in a report by state government, out of 95820 blood samples tested for HIV under National AIDS Control Program, 240 cases of HIV positive have been detected in Himanchal Pradesh, northern India. It is a serious concern and the government aims at providing qualitative health services in every nooks and corner of the state.

Dec 6

<http://himtimes.com/240-new-hiv-positive-cases-detected-himachal-pradesh/>

#### SINGALILA NATIONAL PARK CLEANUP OVER

The clean-up programme that aimed at creating zero waste Singalila in Darjeeling district, eastern India was held on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Several organizations including WWF, India Hike, GTA, forest department, volunteers and individuals proactively participated in this event to make it a grand success. Over 200 sacks of waste was collected from the park in the past three days and all the visitors and trekkers were requested to dispose the wastes in proper places to restore the beauty and purity of the Singalila area.

Dec 7

<http://darjeelingtimes.com/3-day-long-singalila-national-park-clean-up-completed-over-200-sacks-of-waste-collected/>

#### A VILLAGE WITH NO BASIC FACILITIES IN BHADERWAH

There exists a village named Thanala in Baderwah, Jammu-Kashmir, northern India that lacks all the prime facilities like drinking water, transportation, electricity, toilet, healthcare and education. It was in 2006 that the village had been inaugurated as model village but still no effort has been made to transform the area and avail the facilities.

Dec 7

<http://thenorthlines.com/thanala-bhaderwah-model-village-no-basic-facilities/>

#### WATER ISSUES IN MEGHALAYA

Water problems have become an issue in Meghalaya, northeast India, as the sources of water are drying up causing ecological imbalances in that area. In order to create a sustainable environment for people, Spring Shed Development Initiative Programme has been launched at West Garo Hills District which primarily focuses on monitoring and recharging the water resources and ensuring the quality of soil for improving agricultural sector by adopting scientific approach. Furthermore, this initiative is also believed to bring about positive changes in the economy of the people and progress in tourism industry among surrounding states with greater potential.

Dec 8

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/mukul-admits-water-woes-in-meghalaya/>

#### RAMBAN: A POTENTIAL DISTRICT FOR WALNUT PRODUCTION

Besides Kashmir, Ramban, a hilly district in Jammu, northern India, is gaining recognition for its finest quality production of walnut (*Juglandaceae*) as mentioned by Horticulture officer in Ramban. Around 5,193.70 hectares of land is cultivated with walnut saplings with production marked around 7247.17 metric tons in 2015-16 whilst the annual sales income is accounted for US\$ 0.12 million. In order to boost the economic condition of farmers in Ramban and improve the export, it is necessary to flourish horticulture in that region.

Dec 9

<http://thenorthlines.com/ramban-coming-walnut-producing-district-jammu-region/>

#### PROSPECTS OF BLUE REVOLUTION IN MANIPUR

A farmer who is the largest producer of Pengba fish (*Pterygymnus laniarius*), has introduced the concept of Blue Revolution in Manipur, north-east India. Being involved in fish farming, he does not only export fish to neighbouring markets but has also specialized in rearing and preserving several indigenous species which are in the verge of extinction. He was awarded gold medal by Government of India for best fish farming in the year 2002.

Dec 10

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/national-award-winning-farmer-ushers-blue-revolution-in-manipur/>

#### SMUGGLED TIMBERS APPREHENDED BY LOCALS

The villagers of Branwar in Doodh Ganga forest range of Badgam, Jammu Kashmir, northern India, caught 5 smugglers along with the smuggled timbers that were loaded on six horses. The cases of loot of forest wealth is undergoing in an alarming rate in the jungles of Bandipora, Kupwara and Bandagaun and such illegal acts have not been stopped till date though it has thoroughly weakened the economy of Kashmir. It's been four long days since the crime took place but still the police have failed to arrest the accused ones while, the furious local residents have demanded the wrong doers under Public Safety Act.

Dec 11

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=191037>

## China Himalaya

#### CONGENITAL DISEASE HIGH IN CHILDREN IN TIBET

A medical team found that children in Tibet are prone to heart disease which is characterized by irregular breathing patterns or immature growth. According to their findings, out of 4,000 children, 40 cases of heart disease were recorded while a data taken in 2015 show that children born with these conditions in low-lying regions is around 0.4 to 0.8% while in high-altitudinal plateaus this is from 1 to 1.3%. As the local hospitals are not sufficiently equipped, children are transferred to hospitals at other regions for treatment.

Dec 6

<http://english.sina.com/culture/hea/2016-12-07/detail-ifyxiayq2588062.shtml>

#### LALU WETLAND IN TIBET

The Lalu Wetland Nature Reserve in Tibet, south-west China, allures visitors with scenic beauty and is also a home to over 62 rare species of bird. Huge investment of around 115 million USD has been made to protect the Lalu Wetland by the local government to preserve its rarity.

Dec 6

<http://eng.tibet.cn/travel/news/1480991383807.shtml>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### AWARENESS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AND FOREST FIRE PREVENTION

Like every year's winter, awareness raising programmes on proper waste disposal and avoiding forest fire is underway on Wangdue and Punakha, districts of central Bhutan by forest officials. In spite of the existing rules and regulations, cases of forest fire are mainly due to human negligence whereas, urbanization and random infrastructure planning threatens the country's air, water and soil quality but also affects the public health.

Dec 5

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/raising-awareness-on-waste-disposal-forest-fire-prevention/>

### BHUTAN EXPORTS EGGS TO INDIA

Bhutan has exported eggs to Kolkata, India for the first time worth of Nu 0.17 million. The country has attained self-sufficiency in eggs in 2012 and around 251,678 eggs are recorded to be produced daily. Eggs are produced via different government hatcheries in Thimpu, capital of Bhutan and other private ones across the border. It is one of the best approaches to boost poultry production, create business opportunities, improve nutrition and revive animal husbandry in rural household.

Dec 7

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-exports-eggs-to-india/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### PESHAWAR VALLEY WITNESSING THE DRIEST SPELL

It's been too long since Peshawar valley, north-west Pakistan, has received its last rainfall directly affecting people, wildlife and the crops. Scarcity of rainwater has made the surrounding areas dry, dusty and polluted while crop and orchid yields are expected to be low and there might be lack of food and grasses for wild animals. However, a light rainfall is expected in the mid of December that could possibly break the dry spell in Peshawar. Meanwhile, problems of hay fever, allergies, skin irritation, anaphylaxis and respiratory tract infections have surfaced along with the drought in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Dec 7, 10

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=07\\_12\\_2016\\_182\\_008](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=07_12_2016_182_008)

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=05\\_12\\_2016\\_004\\_005](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=05_12_2016_004_005)

### DEATH FROM MEASLES REACHES 10

The fear-gripped resident of Shangla, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, north-west Pakistan witnessed death of 4 children during last four days bringing the death count to 10 while several others are hospitalized due to measles outbreak. Anti-measles vaccination campaign managed to vaccinate 800 children in two days period and all available resources are being used to control the hazard. However, the spread of disease is still rapid and the concerned locals are demanding medical aid from the government.

Dec 10

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10\\_12\\_2016\\_181\\_003](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10_12_2016_181_003)