

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 481th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from 12 sources and selected 18 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, demand of oranges escalated with the construction of the road to Rakhu village, western part of the country. Implementation of buzzing bee-hives fencing to unravel man-elephant conflict in north eastern part of India. The cultivation of green chillies (*Capsicum* sp.) effloresces in Bhutan after it was banned from import. In Pakistan, an initiative to boost resilience against natural disasters has been launched through the application of digital technology.

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

Agricultural production plummeted
Establishment of food safety test labs
High demand of oranges after the road construction
Human-wildlife conflict on the rise in western Nepal
Coffee production plunged

INDIA

Thick smog blankets Dibrugarh
Jammu on serious threat of health hazards
Buzzing beehive fencing can solve man-elephant conflict

CHINA

Recovery of an injured snow leopard
Activists called for climate action for Tibet

BHUTAN

Enhancing sustainability and climate resilience
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Bhutan launched Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) profile
The fall bird migration is already underway
Springs in Bhutan drying up
Cultivation of green chillies effloresce in Bhutan

PAKISTAN

Free health facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
New initiative to boost resilience against natural disasters

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PLUMMETED

Increasing industrialization and development of settlements have plunged the production of vegetables in Dhading, central Nepal. The production has declined to 26,000 tons, this year which was 28,955 tons, last year. As a result, vegetable prices have doubled over the past two weeks.

Nov 13

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/30625/>

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD SAFETY TEST LABS

After the success of the first lab of Rapid Bioassay of Pesticides Residue (RBPR) in the premises of Kalimati, central Nepal, government has setup five more such labs at Birtamod eastern part of Nepal, Sarlahi southern part of Nepal and Pokhara, Butwal and Nepalgunj western part of Nepal with NPR 600 million. Establishment of labs made farmers in reducing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in fruits and vegetables. Not only that in case of Makawanpur, central Nepal, to attract the farmers towards organic farming government has also provided subsidy for the farmers to produce vermicast along with half a kg of worms worth NPR 1000.

Nov 13

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/30626/>

<http://bit.ly/2hMBnWZ>

HIGH DEMAND OF ORANGES AFTER THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The farmers of Rakhu village, western Nepal, have already received booking for oranges (*Citrus* sp.) in their orchard before the harvest season. This has been possible due to the road constructed to the village enabling the traders for easy access. According to District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) Myagdi, the district has produced 2,086 tons of oranges worth NPR 73 million last year.

Nov 16

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/30800/>

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT ON THE RISE IN WESTERN NEPAL

The communities residing in the buffer zones of Suklaphanta National Park, far western Nepal, have been forced to abscond their places after the attack of the elephants (*Elephas maximus*) to the village. Threatened villagers reported that the authorities have neglected such cases in spite of several attack on the past.

Nov 18

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/47817>

COFFEE PRODUCTION PLUNGED

Lack of progress in farming system, poor management and failure to control pests has led to the declination of the coffee (*Coffea arabica*) production in the country. According to the Agricultural Development Officer, the area for coffee production was 525 hectares last year, in 11 districts, which has increased by 100 this year whereas; the production has declined from 34 tons last year to 32 tons this year.

Nov 18

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/30942/>

India-Himalaya

THICK SMOG BLANKETS DIBRUGARH

It has been reported that a city of Assam, north eastern part of India continues to suffer from the smog pollution. The levels of poisonous gases and particulate matter in the environment in the city are unknown as the inquiries have revealed that the local pollution control office here does not have any pollution measuring apparatus.

Nov 16

<http://bit.ly/2zhO9nB>

JAMMU ON SERIOUS THREAT OF HEALTH HAZARDS

Failure of the Government to scientifically handle huge quantity of bio-medical waste being generated by the health institutions has threatened the major parts of Jammu region, northern India, with serious health hazards. Sources have reported, 556 kilograms of biomedical waste to be produced every day from 413 health institutions. Illegally operating brick kilns without the clearance from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Union Ministry of Environment and Forests have been triggering the situation.

Nov 17

<http://bit.ly/2At1Unm>

BUZZING BEEHIVE FENCING CAN SOLVE MAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT

It has been reported that a man has been trampled to death in Assam, north eastern part of India, and houses have been badly damaged in the adjacent village by a herd of elephants. To control human-elephant conflicts, five school students of Guwahati, Assam, north eastern India have presented an innovative project in the recent National Children Science Congress.. According to the group of students, the project is about using beehives to keep elephants off the paddy fields and the human habitations since they are known to hate bees and tend to change their tracks even when they hear the buzzing sound coming from a beehive. Beehive fencing has been taken up on a large-scale to protect croplands from marauding herds of elephants in some African countries.

Nov 18

<http://bit.ly/2hZf3Nx>

<http://bit.ly/2ApyU05>

China Himalaya

RECOVERY OF AN INJURED SNOW LEOPARD

An injured female snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) has been recovered in the Provincial Wildlife Protection and Breeding Center in Xining, western China, after being diagnosed with lumbar damage by the experts. She was found 25 days ago in northwest China's Qinghai Province and will be released to the wild after she is ready. Snow leopards are a Class A protected animal in China and have been rarely seen in the wild this century due to loss of habitat and poaching.

Nov 14

<http://bit.ly/2A7QuCD>

ACTIVISTS CALLED FOR CLIMATE ACTION FOR TIBET

Two Tibetan, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have jointly called for climate action for Tibet to the ongoing United Nations Climate Conference (COP23) summit (6-17) November at Bonn, Germany. The activists want to create awareness about China's increasingly self-centered development projects that include numerous mega dam projects and ambitious river diverting plans leaving downstream nations in a serious dilemma over water resources. China's current 'Five Year Plan' pointed to Beijing's move towards renewable energy and green growth fossil fuels includes an intensified reliance on 'mega-dams' on all major Tibetan rivers. The 23rd annual "Conference of the Parties" (COP) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will see more than 15000 participants from all over the world to discuss global climate and environmental concerns.

Nov 14

<http://bit.ly/2BgKxTW>

Bhutan-Himalaya

ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Government of Bhutan has launched Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) funded USD 13.9 million projects to enhance sustainability and climate resilience of forest and agricultural landscape and community livelihoods in Bhutan. It aims to work directly with communities to strengthen their agricultural and livestock management, thus targeting to benefit 38 village blocks, four biological corridors, and three protected areas in 12 central districts.

Nov 13

<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=84209>

SHORTAGE OF SPACE AFFECTED THE FARMERS

The lack of space at Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL) auction yard has resulted in sacks of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) being stacked along the road near the yard and other places. Many farmers have been compelled to stay up through the nights along the roadside to guard their produce which have started to rot. A bag of potato has been auctioned at about USD 21 which about a week ago would have fetched more than USD 30.

Nov 14

<http://bit.ly/2Ao9FLm>

<http://bit.ly/2A13s75>

<http://bit.ly/2B6eRQx>

BHUTAN LAUNCHED CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA) PROFILE

With the aims to improve the integration of agriculture development and climate responsiveness, Bhutan's elected Minister of Agriculture and Forests has launched Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) profile on November 14. It also targets to achieve food security and broader development goals under a changing climate and increasing food demand.

Nov 15

<http://bit.ly/2A6MgLI>

THE FALL BIRD MIGRATION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY

It has been reported that a total of 14 black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) have arrived in Bumdeling, north eastern part of Bhutan. Around 100 cranes are expected to arrive by February next year in Bumdeling according to the officials. Disturbance at the cranes' feeding ground and increasing number of stray dogs could be the possible reasons for the decreased number of cranes.

Nov 18

<http://bit.ly/2A1H4ew>

SPRINGS IN BHUTAN DRYING UP

Shortage of water due to drying up of streams has become common across Bhutan although it has the highest per capita of water availability with 109,000 cubic metres in the region. According to the study, four of the five streams have dried up over the last two decades. Villages have moved to other low-lying places due to the drying up of streams. Developmental activities mainly road constructions, forest fires, excessive use of forest resources, and climate change have been the main causes for the scarcity of the water.

Nov 18

<http://bit.ly/2A0Qo1v>

CULTIVATION OF GREEN CHILLIES EFFLORESCE IN BHUTAN

The ban on import of green chillies (*Capsicum* sp.) and its soaring prices have encouraged farmers, especially in the southern region of the Bhutan, to take up mass chilli cultivation. With the support from the village blocks' Agriculture Extension office farmers trying new techniques to boost its production such as plastic mulch has come into practice. According to the reports, the quality and the number of production of the chillies have improved this year.

Nov 19

<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=84768>

Pakistan- Himalaya

FREE HEALTH FACILITIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Sehat Sahulat Card Programme has been launched in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan, to provide free health facilities to more than 11.5 million people. The programme aims to give each beneficiary treatment facilities up to USD 500,000 annually in over one hundred hospitals of the province.

Nov 13

<http://bit.ly/2zw499L>

NEW INITIATIVE TO BOOST RESILIENCE AGAINST NATURAL DISASTERS

An initiative to reduce impact of disasters through the application of digital technology has been launched to view the vulnerability of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan and damage caused by disasters in the past. The joint research project has been titled "A Collaborative Multi-Agency Platform for Building Resilient Communities" by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM). It is said to be an effective source of broadcasting forecast and early warnings about the hydro-metrological hazards.

Nov 18

<http://bit.ly/2A0kQsS>