

Headlines Himalaya

Nov 27- Dec 3 (2017)

No. 483

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For the 483rd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 24 news from 12 sources and selected 20 happenings from five countries. In Nepal first phase of tiger census started from Parsa Wildlife Reserve, south central Nepal. Increase in security around border triggers price hike of vegetables in the country. A rare species of musk deer was spotted in the Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh, northern India. In China, Bar headed geese (*Anser indicus*) have been reported to migrate back to Lhasa, south western part of the country, where they spend their winter.

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!

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ORANGE PRODUCTION PLUNGES IN PALPA

The farmers of Palpa, western Nepal, are distressed with the decline in the production of orange (*Citrus* sp.) by fifty percent this year. The farmers in the district have been annually earning about NPR 100,000 from the commercial orange production and the drastic drop in orange production has been reported to be the first in thirty years. District Agriculture Development Office claims that the lack of necessary care and fertilizer has decreased the production.

Nov 27

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/48149>

FERTILIZER CRISIS IN SAPTARI

Saptari, eastern Nepal, has been facing shortage of chemical fertilizers during wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) cultivation season, which has encouraged black-marketing. It is said by District Cooperative Office that the chemical fertilizers are being sold at high prices due to increment in transportation charges. However, local farmers assert that even after paying extra money they are forced to return empty handed.

Nov 27

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

IMPORT OF VEGETABLES WORTH FIVE BILLION

Nepal has imported vegetables worth NPR five billion in three months from India, China and other countries due to lack of local vegetable production. According to the reports, the imports of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*), onions (*Allium cepa*), garlic (*Allium sativum*), tea (*Camellia sinensis*) and other green vegetables have increased. Agricultural experts claim that Nepal has not been able to locally produce vegetables to meet the demands due to lack of adequate agricultural grants, modern agricultural technology and adequate farming trainings.

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/economy/553>

SUSTAINABLE CARDAMOM FRAMING TRAINING PROGRAM

Although the production of cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) has increased compared to last year, it has been reported that the prices have decreased this year. The farmers are compelled to sell 0.04 tons of cardamom at NPR 25,000 which was NPR 60,000, the previous year. Farmer training course on cardamom farming has been started in the areas practicing commercial cardamom farming, to make it more sustainable. The training has been started in 18 places where the soils are tested and farmers are given practical knowledge on fertilizers and sustainable measures to control diseases.

Nov 27 & 28

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/48193>

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

LACK OF MARKET DISCOURAGES COFFEE FARMERS

Coffee farmers shared their woes of lack of market for coffee (*Coffea* sp.) in the Coffee Processing and Market Management Training recently organized in Taplejung, eastern Nepal. They have complained that the lack of market in the district has constraint the growth of farming despite sufficient soil and favourable environment for coffee cultivation. However, Agriculture Development Officer claims that the low production of coffee and lack of interaction between suppliers and buyers to be the major issue. It has been reported that only 55 hectares of land has been used for coffee production in Taplejung.

Nov 30

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/48333>

TIGER CENSUS BEGINS

With the technical and administrative support from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal, Zoological Society of London (ZSL-Nepal), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), the first phase of tiger census has started from Parsa National Park, south central Nepal. The census is using 37 elephants from different reserves and 100 statisticians, making 1887 grids along with camera trapping method, to determine the overall tiger population within 66 days, the authorities reported.

Dec 1

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

AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE ENCOURAGES FARMERS

Farmers in Dolpa, mid western Nepal, have found agricultural insurance lucrative. Sikhar Insurance Company started life insurance policy after opening its smaller branch in Dolpa. According to the insurance company, 75 farmers have already insured their crops whereas 2568 apple seeds have been insured. The insurance company had distributed NPR 506,000 last year per farmer, as compensation to the effects of drought and hailstorm on the apple trees.

Dec 3

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/48389>

SKYROCKETING VEGETABLE PRICES

The vegetable price has spiked up because of the lack of effective monitoring. The wholesales suppliers have been reported to hike up the price as per their wish. The import of vegetables has declined with the increasing security around borders because of the election. The retailers have priced most of the vegetables from NPR 100 to NPR 150. According to the Agriculture Department, 1500 tons of vegetables have been consumed daily in the capital.

Dec 3

<http://bit.ly/2nUm7gv>

ATTACK OF WILD ELEPHANTS IN SAPTARI

A group of wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*) from Koshi Tappu Wildlife reserve, eastern Nepal, have destructed over a dozen of houses in Saptari, eastern Nepal. The villagers have turned aggressive as their complains and demand for security continue to fall on the deaf ears. The villagers have been forced to stay all night after the elephant trampled a woman to death.

Dec 3

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/2017/12/03/69617/>

HIGH TECH AGRICULTURE PRACTISED

An example set by a man practising high technology has been an inspiration to several men in Galkot, western Nepal. With an initial investment of about NPR 3,000,000, he has been annually earning a profit of about NPR 1,500,000. He has been growing both seasonal and non-seasonal vegetables and fruits in the area of 0.15 hectares following high tech practice.

Dec 3

<http://bit.ly/2C94Cwd>

India-Himalaya

BHAKRA DAM BECOMING PROBLEMATIC

The residents of around 50 villagers in Una and Bilaspur districts of Himanchal Pradesh, northern India have been driven out due to Bhakra dam. Villagers are facing problems like no access to water for drinking or irrigation, no

facility of road, submerged fertile land, etc. Not only has that, villagers also had to depend on the rain for agriculture those living on the banks of Govind Sagar Lake.

Nov 29

<http://bit.ly/2iZol9a>

LOW TEMPERATURE IN EFFECT

Decrease in temperature in most part of Himachal Pradesh, northern India, continues with recording minus 4.1 degree Celsius at Keylong, Manali at zero degree Celsius, Dharmashala in 7.2 degree Celsius, Shimla night temperature at 6.9 degree Celsius and Kalpa in Kinnaur district with the lowest of minus one degree Celsius. Not only had that part of Kashmir, northern India also experienced sub-zero. As the mercury dips, the cattle are facing a major scarcity of food as the pasture lands are covered with snow and they are seen roaming around in search of grass.

Nov 27, 28 & 29

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

<http://bit.ly/2z5KriX>

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

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

WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A state level media workshop on climate change was conducted where the predicament of some issues like rising temperature, melting glaciers, irregular and receding rain and irregular snowfall affecting agriculture, horticulture and livelihood in Himachal Pradesh, north India were stressed. As per the director of Department of Environment, Science and Technology, a new program on sustainable livelihoods of rural communities is being executed.

Nov 28

<http://bit.ly/2z6seC4>

BHRAMAPUTRAS WATER POLLUTED

Abnormal irregularity in the colour and quality of the water of the Brahmaputra River, Assam, northeast India, which is the States lifeline, has been noticed. Aside from turbidity, the level of the water has lessened abnormally. As per the MP, diversion of the river involving heavy land excavation in Tibet might be its reason.

Dec 3

<http://bit.ly/2iVeX6u>

GLANCE OF RARE SPECIES

A team of forest officials of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, northern India have spotted a rare species of musk deer (*Moschus* sp.) while the team was there to analyse the presence of such animal. According to the authorities, the population of this species are likely to rise in near future, as they are protected under the strict guidelines of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Dec 2

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

China Himalaya

MIGRATION TO SURVIVE THE WINTER

During the winter season, the villagers of Shannan, south eastern Autonomous region of China, move their sheep (*Ovis aries*) to different pasture. They drive their sheep to the middle of the frozen lake, Phumba Yumtso Lake, southern Tibetan plateau, to survive the cold.

Nov 28

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1511836211843.shtml>

ACCOMODATION OF ANIMALS AT THE ZOO

Various methods like oxygen generation, temperature control, humidification, have been applied to habituate the animals in the plateau conditions at Qushui zoo in Lhasa, south western China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), Alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*), Peacocks (*Pavo cristatus*), Lynx (*Felis lynx*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), deer (*Odocoileus virgiana*), Zebra (*Equus sp.*) are seen in the zoo.

Nov 28

<http://bit.ly/2AA4YPh>

SOUTHWESTERN CHINA HOSTS BAR HEADED GEESE IN WINTER

Bar headed geese (*Anser indicus*) have been reported to migrate back to Lhasa, south western China, where they spend their winter. Groups of these birds can be seen flying over the Lhasa river valley as winter nears. The species have been reported to migrate to south from Tibet, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia before crossing the Himalaya.

Nov 30

<http://bit.ly/2C9RF5g>

Bhutan-Himalaya

HARACHHU BRIDGE BENEFITS THE LOCALS

The Harachhu bridge over the Punatsangchhu, has shortened the travel time of the locals from seven hours to two hours, and has connected them to a motorable road. As per the people of Lawa Langa and Rukha chiwogs in Wangdue Phodrang District, central Bhutan, the bridge has made it easier to transport their goods to the market. The Construction Development Corporation Limited (CDCL) constructed the bridge with the fund of (Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project) PHPA II as part of the Golden Mahseer Hatchery and Conservation Facility project near Harachhu.

Dec 1

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

RATE OF SUGARCANE DECLARED

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has declared the price of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) for 2017/18 crushing season for the sugar mills as USD 1.719 per 0.04 tons at the factory and USD 1.719 per 0.04 tons minus transportation charge at the farmer's field. The included sugar mills are Khazana Sugar Mills Peshawar, Premier Sugar Mills Mardan, Bannu Sugar Mills Serai Naurang, Al-Moiz Sugar Mills D.I.Khan, Tandlainwala Sugar Mills D.I.Khan, Chashma Sugar Mills D.I.Khan and Chashma (Expansion) Sugar Mills D.I.Khan.

Nov 30

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