

Headlines Himalaya

Jan 29- Feb 4 (2018)

No.491

Editorial Team: Tsewang Nuru Sherpa and Suveksha Jha

For the 491st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 33 news from 11 sources and selected 31 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, eco-friendly earth bricks are used as a construction material to reduce capital's air pollution. Nepali tea is labelled with International trademark for the first time in the country. Record breaking production of orange is reported from Bihu village, western Nepal. In India, Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron* sps.) are blooming out of season in Dehradun, northern part of the country. In China, expressway has bolstered tourism growth in the Hailuoguo National Park, eastern boundary of Tibet.

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

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INDIA

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CHINA

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Tibetan government offers cheaper travelling to promote tourism

BHUTAN

Price and yield cutback of oranges

WINTER CROPS DAMAGED DUE TO WILDLIFE INTERVENTION

The north western parts of Mahottari district, southern Nepal that encompasses Khayarbani, Raghunathpur, Gaindhabhetpur, Pokharbhinda, Sangrampur, Nigaul, Sonama, Manara, Itaharwakatti, Kataiya, Ekdara, Bathnaha, and Sandha villages have suffered from the loss of vegetables due to the wild animals. Mostly herds of Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) and wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) have damaged vegetable, lentil, oilseed and fruits.

Jan 29

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/21713>

USE OF BIO-EMBANKMENT TO CURB THE DISASTER

Bisanpur in Kailali districts, south western Nepal, known for the frequent occurrence of soil-erosion has been benefitted from the plantation of sugarcane along the banks of Mohana River. From around 3 hectares land of sugarcane farming, the Disaster Management Committee of Kailali districts has generated around NPR 3- 4 lakhs and the money have been invested in the construction of resilient housing. Thus, the usage of bio-embankment has improved the soil quality and has aided the farmers to generate income along with the preservation of land and household settlement.

Jan 29

<http://bit.ly/2sy0CEI>

PREVALENCE OF VIRAL DIARRHOEA DUE TO COLD

The freezing winter in Kathmandu valley, central Nepal has imposed a health risk to people, with children under five years of age particularly suffering from viral diarrhoea. Among 600 admitted patients in Kanti Children's Hospital and 80 patients in Om Hospital daily, it is reported that around 20 percent and 15 percent of children respectively were found to be suffering from viral diarrhoea.

Jan 29

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

ECO-FRIENDLY EARTH BRICKS TO REDUCE KATHMANDU'S AIR POLLUTION

The eco-friendly Compressed Stabilized Earth Bricks (CSEB) has been used as a construction material to control the air pollution of Kathmandu valley, central Nepal as well as create a seismic-resistant house. Mostly preferred in earthquakes affected areas like Nuwakot, Rasuwa, and Kavre, north central Nepal, this earth brick is estimated to reduce the building-cost by 40% as the construction process requires less amount of mortar. Unlike coal-burning brick kilns, the newly introduced earth bricks can combat the worsening scenario of Kathmandu's pollution as they do not emit a high concentration of particulate matter.

Jan 29

<http://bit.ly/2rJm1KC>

THREATS TO WILDLIFE DUE TO TEMPERATURE DECREASE

As the winter temperature is decreasing, with the onset of heavy snowfall, the endangered animals such as Himalayan Thar (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), Ghoral (*Naemorhedus*), and Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) have scaped from the jungles to human settlements in Bajhang districts, north western Nepal to take asylum from the freezing cold. As a result, these animals have been killed illegally for their meat and sold at an exorbitant price in the market. Among 40 households in Talkot, 27 have exercised illegal poaching, generating around NPR 1,200 for a kg of Himalayan Thar meats and NPR 3,000 for Himalayan monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*) meats respectively.

Jan 30

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/35305/>

THE DECREMENT IN THE PRODUCTION OF WINTER CROPS

Parbat district, western Nepal has suffered from the decrement of agricultural crops like wheat (*Triticum* sps), barley (*Hordeum* sps), mustard (*Brassicaceae* sps) and winter potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) by 50 percent due to the paucity of rainfall since past three months. Among the total area of 9,070 hectares of irrigated land, only 6,420 hectares of land is predicted to be used during winter, lessening the production of winter crops.

Jan 30

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

RECORD BREAKING PRODUCTION OF ORANGE IN BIHU VILLAGE

With the record-breaking production of around 2,100 tons of oranges, Bihu village of Baglung district, western Nepal has been preparing to announce as the orange pocket area. Bihu village that harbours more than 12,000 varieties of orange plants had a profit of around NPR Five crores from the orange farming.

Jan 30

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/economy/1896>

GPS COLLARED ON ELEPHANTS TO TRACK ITS MOVEMENT

The marauding wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*) of the Bardiya National Park (BNP) have been collared with Global Positioning System (GPS) to track its movement and inhibit its intervention in the human settlements. This initiative came into force after a wild tusker killed six locals last year and destroyed two dozen houses and wheat (*Triticum* sps.) plantation.

Jan 30 & Feb 1

<http://bit.ly/2o7RmkW>

<http://bit.ly/2o7Rp06>

POTATO FARMING YIELDS NEW SOURCE OF INCOME

Plain areas of Daduwa Community Forest in Myagdi district of western Nepal have been converted into farmland, where people have started potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) farming. The idea of using empty areas for potato farming has not only given locals a new source of income but has also increased local's participation in the conservation of community forest.

Jan 31

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/35371/>

NEW DATA REVEALS THE DEATH OF 17 RHINOS

Total of 17 rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) have been recorded death in the past six months in Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal. According to the rhino census collated in the fiscal year 2015, around 605 rhinos were recorded and among them, 25 deaths were documented in the year 2016. The death of the rhinos has been attributed to causes such as natural death, rhino conflict, and difficulties in delivery.

Feb 1

<http://bit.ly/2DPiH6u>

<http://bit.ly/2o0z7yE>

ANNAPURNA REGION RECEIVED RECORD BREAKING TOURIST NUMBER

A total of 158,578 foreign tourist have visited Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), making this the highest ever visits in the history of Nepal. The Annapurna region that encompasses magnificent mountain range and the best trekking trails had visitors from India (32,656), China (11,206), France (10,748) and the United Kingdom (10,302).

Feb 1

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/35407/>

BANGLADESH EMERGES AS NEW HUB FOR GINGER EXPORTS

Bangladesh has emerged as a new alternative destination for ginger, as 35 truckloads of ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) have been exported in the past one and half months from Nepal. The study further reveals the preparation for 15 more truckloads to be sent to Bangladesh. The emergence of Bangladesh as a potential for Nepal's agro-products can alleviate the agricultural industry of the country.

Feb 1

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/35410/>

2ND TURBINE OF CHAMELIYA HYDROPOWER PROJECT STARTED

The Chameliya Hydropower project, situated at Drachula districts of far-western Nepal, has started generating electricity from its second unit. The 2nd turbine at the 30 MW hydropower station, have generated electricity via 132 kV Blanch-Attarya Transmission line.

Feb 2

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

NEPAL'S CLIMATE PREDICATED TO BE WARMER AND WETTER

A new study jointly conducted by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have foreshadowed the climate of Nepal to be warmer and wetter in the future. As per the study entitled, "Climate Change Scenarios of Nepal", there will be a rise in an annual mean temperature and average annual precipitation by 0.92 -10.07 degree Celsius in between the time period (2016-2045) and 1.30-1.82 degree Celsius in between the long time period (20136-2065), and an increment of precipitation by 2-6 and 8-12 percent for short and long term respectively.

Feb 2

<http://bit.ly/2Gdn9sl>

PREFERENCE OF GREEN BUSES OVER DIESEL BUSES

Around 46,000 diesel buses have been registered in Nepal, with a quarter of them in Bagmati zone, central Nepal and are blamed to be the causative agent for the Valley's air pollutions as they emit 40 kg of particulate matter. The operation of Sajha Yatyat's intra-city bus service in Kathmandu valley, central Nepal has improved the quality of air, as the electric bus emits less concentration of particulate matter compared to the bus run by diesel. The number of registered electric buses in Nepal has decreased from 11% in 1990 to only 3% in 2013. However, with the emergence of air pollution, various actions have been taken to move forward with electric mobility in Nepal.

Feb 2

<http://bit.ly/2DW04d7>

PUBLIC HYGIENE PROMOTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Halesi Tuwachung Municipality and Halesi Bazaar in Khotang, eastern Nepal have jointly initiated a sanitation campaign to improve and promote public hygiene. The municipality further adopted policies to have a proper garbage disposal practice with the construction of landfill sites. With the support from the Nepal Armed Police, Nepal Police and active local participation, the campaign was started to promote a clean environment at this tourist and religious site.

Feb 2

<http://bit.ly/2BXii0a>

IODINE'S PAUCITY LEADS TO CONGENITAL DISEASE

According to the study conducted by an International Nepal Fellowship, in Nishikhola-4, 5 and 6 of Baglung districts, western Nepal shows the paucity of iodine as a causative factor for the prevalent congenital disabilities in 277 people. Almost 75% of the people with the congenital disabilities were found to be consuming non-iodized salt.

Feb 3

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

INCREMENT IN CANCER PATIENTS

The number of cancer patients has been increasing tremendously by almost 50 percent, as per the data published by the Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital, central Nepal. The hospital witnessed an increment in the patients' number from 28,336 in 2012 to 68,441 patients until 2017. Kathmandu district has the highest no. of patients with 349 treated in 2017.

Feb 3

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/35560/>

APPLE PRODUCTION AFFECTED IN MUGU

Mugu district, western Nepal has been suffering from the lack of adequate rainfall and snowfall, disturbing the production of winter crops and apple (*Malus* sps). With the end of January without any signs of rain and snow, farmers across the districts have been worried about the low potential for harvest this year.

Feb 3

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/35565/>

FINALLY, NEPALI TEA LABELED WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK

Nepal's orthodox tea has finally received an international identity with its own logo and trademark after 154 years of tea cultivation in Nepal. The logo designed by the Ministry of Agricultural Development with the joint support from Himalaya Tea Producers Association and Nepal Tea and Coffee Development Board has been approved. The tea cultivation is prevalent in 44 districts of Nepal.

Feb 3

<http://bit.ly/2BX51QQ>

DNA TEST FOR PLANTS FOUND ONLY IN NEPAL

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) have begun the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) test of only plants that are found in Nepal. Altogether, 22 plants that have been considered endangered are undergoing DNA test. This initiative aims at promoting sustainable use of plants as well as to preserve endangered plant species.

Feb 3

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

ANNUAL HEALTH REVIEW REPORT PUBLISHED

The Ministry of Health has published an Annual Health Review Report, highlighting the progress made in the health sector in Nepal. The report has summarized the improved status of quality care at the time of delivery along with the reconstruction of the 276 health units within the fiscal years 2016/2017. The report also highlights the declining rate of anemia and diarrhoea patients due to improved healthcare facilities.

Feb 4

<http://bit.ly/2o4ZjaC>

PROVISION OF RELIEF FLOOD MATERIAL

Total of 900 flood affected families of Tilathi Koiladi Rural Municipality in Saptari district, eastern Nepal have been provided with the relief material in flood Support Programme conducted by the Government of Nepal, in conjunction with the China Aid, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sabal Nepal. Each affected family was given warm clothes, mosquito net treated with mosquito repellent chemical, cooking stove, blankets, water filter, big bucket, soap and brush among other materials.

Feb 4

<http://bit.ly/2GdXS1h>

LACK OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT RISKED THE SETTLEMENT

The rampant extractions of sand and boulders in two major rivers of Rautahat, south central Nepal have imposed a risk to the nearby settlement areas. Construction companies without the granted license of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) have been active in the sand mining.

Feb 4

<http://bit.ly/2F2hbx4>

RISE IN WILDLIFE SMUGGLING

India Border Security, Kakarvitta in eastern border of Nepal has caught two Indian nationals with eight horns of deer (*Cervidae*) that were killed in Jhapa and Illam, eastern Nepal with the international market value of NPR 20 million. With the rise in smuggling of wildlife parts, the security checks at the border have been tightened to inhibit further incidents related to wildlife smuggling.

Feb 4

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

India-Himalaya

ZERO-BUDGET FARMING LAUNCHED BY GOVERNOR

The Palampur Agriculture University, north western India in the presence of the Chief Minister dedicated total of 10.117 hectares of land to practice the zero-budget farming model. Moreover, he also inaugurated the lift irrigation scheme, Dhar Badol and brought sum of USD 0.221 million and this would benefit altogether 10,000 peoples there.

Jan 30

<http://bit.ly/2Ep0Lf9>

RHODODENDRON BLOOMING OUT OF SEASON

In Dehradun, northern India rhododendron (*Rhododendron* sps.) found in the range of 1,500 meters to 3,600 meters has begun blooming in January instead of March-April. The drastic and unprecedented change in climate caused the turn in flower cycle. Consequently, this leads to compromise in the medicinal qualities of species.

Jan 31

<http://bit.ly/2nYe0gx>

China Himalaya

CHINA'S LARGEST INLAND SALTWATER LAKE FACES INCREASED WATER LEVEL

According to survey the Qinghai Lake, north western Tibet- largest inland saltwater lake of China, water level has increased by 0.4 meter at the end of the year 2017. The level has been grown by 2.07 meters since 2005 and is currently equal to the level it was during the mid-70's. The lake had been shrinking past 1950 but due to climate change effects things turned around from 2005.

Jan 29

<http://bit.ly/2BsVnc4>

EXPRESSWAY SPIKES TOURISM GROWTH

Hailuoguo National Park, eastern boundary of Tibet which is famous for snowy mountains, dense forest, glacier views and wildlife has seen an increase in tourists flow with the opening of Ya'an-Kangding expressway on Dec. 31. This has cut travelling time from Chengdu city to 3 hours as compared to 5-and-a-half-hours drive before.

Feb 2

<http://bit.ly/2nYG2Zh>

TIBETAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS CHEAPER TRAVELLING TO PROMOTE TOURISM

Tibetan government has lowered air tickets, hotel accommodation as well as fee for scenic spot admissions to their tourists from February 1st for tourism development. Total incentive of USD 15,900 would be awarded to companies having tourists on board whereas USD 24,000 for chartered flights of over 200 staff members travelling to Tibet.

Feb 2

<http://bit.ly/2EC0sz8>

Bhutan-Himalaya

PRICE AND YIELD CUTBACK OF ORANGES

Peak of mandarin season has been already started but the orchards in Tsirang, southern Bhutan are already empty due to the reduced yield. With the reduction in the yield the price of oranges (*Citrus reticulata*) has also depreciated this year. In the auction 3,370 kgs of orange in November, 317,616 kgs in December and 154,128 kgs in January have been sold till now this year.

Jan 31

<http://bit.ly/2ErVO9i>