

Headlines Himalaya

March 5 – March 11 (2018)

No. 495

Editorial Team: Sindhu Pokharel and Sandhya Shrestha

For the 495th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 31 news from 13 sources and selected 31 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Yeti Airlines initiate its effort towards CO₂ footprint reduction. Sajha Yatayat unveils Nepal's first disabled-friendly bus for Kathmandu valley, central Nepal. NTNC has started counting Pangolin (*Manis* sp.) in Hetauda, central Nepal. In India, Himachal Pradesh, northern part of the country harvest peas (*Pisum sativum*) in zero budget natural farming. In Bhutan, the first volume of the Bhutanese Journal of Agriculture is released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

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

Road safety program started in Karnali zone
Cleaning campaign at Biratnagar
Co₂ footprint reduction by Yeti Airlines
Challenging job to protect community forest of Nepalgunj
Local government works effectively
Free health camp in Myagdi
Lack of technology in tea industry
Waste collection in Kathmandu by NepWaste
Male gharials spotted at CNP offers hope to park officials
Disabled-friendly bus in the valley
Brick kilns in the middle of settlements
Free NICU service at Lamjung
Death rate increases due to air pollution
Fish farming at Manang
Aquatic animals under threat due to water pollution
People losing interest in sugarcane farming
Pangolin counting started in Hetauda
Gaurigai hunters nabbed in Makwanpur
Pollution increases at Rara Lake

INDIA

Encroachment of irrigation department land
Schools in Manas provide conservation education
CM for employee's synergy to improve tea industry
Himachal Pradesh harvest peas in zero budget natural farming
Flood damages hydro power project

CHINA

Tibet prefectures accepted for dark sky conservation
Increase in GDP of Tibet
Prior protection of environment

BHUTAN

CCTV camera installation: an action to solve the waste issue
Cattle barn for dairy group
Windstorm damages house in Pema Gatshel
Agriculture journal launched

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM STARTED IN KARNALI ZONE

With the aim to decrease road accidents, a road safety program has been launched in ten districts of Karnali, mid western Nepal. According to the Chief of Karnali Province Police, around 56 per cent of deaths in this area are associated with road accidents. This program not only ensures the safety of the locals of that area, but it also provides awareness to the people of the entire country.

Mar 5

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/37411/>

CLEANING CAMPAIGN AT BIRATNAGAR

Biratnagar Metropolitan city, eastern Nepal has organized a cleaning campaign in association with many other organizations in different places. Mayor of Biratnagar Metropolitan city was also involved in the campaign and requested people to manage their waste appropriately abiding by the rules of the city. The Metropolitan city will reduce taxes to the households as well, in order to encourage the people in this activity.

Mar 5

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/society/2875>

CO₂ FOOTPRINT REDUCTION BY YETI AIRLINES

Yeti Airlines Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Nepal representative launched the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) livery on the airline's new ATR 72, which help to reduce carbon emission by 15 per cent and this aircraft is also fuel efficient and climate friendly. Yeti now hopes to increase efficiency by replacing ageing aircrafts with this modern aircraft.

Mar 5

<http://bit.ly/2DrB1xp>

CHALLENGING JOB TO PROTECT COMMUNITY FOREST OF NEPALGUNJ

The consumers of Usha Greenary Community Forest of Nepalgunj, western Nepal have been able to internment the smugglers with Sal (*Shorea robusta*) logs. The consumers were able to capture the driver of the tractor red handed but the smugglers ran away and the consumers were not satisfied with the Area Police Office (APO). With the increase in the networks of smugglers, there has been a great challenge for the consumers of community forest to protect the forest.

Mar 5

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/37409/>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKS EFFECTIVELY

After the formulation of local government, developmental activities in Jumla, mid western Nepal are increasing rapidly. Road construction in two villages of Tatopani Rural Municipality has been completed. The farmers are delighted to observe the change in the market price of their products after the construction of roads. .

Mar 6

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/country/2899>

FREE HEALTH CAMP IN MYAGDI

Free health camp held at Babiyachaur in Mangala Rural Municipality of Myagdi, western Nepal with technical support from the District Public Health Office, has provided free health services and medicines to the people, from which 1,006 people were benefitted. People having problems related to diabetes, gynaecology, cardiology, eyes, bones and joints were given services.

Mar 6

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

LACK OF TECHNOLOGY IN TEA INDUSTRY

After getting a trademark by Nepali tea, Nepali tea (*Camellia* sp.) industry has been lacking behind in terms of technology. Various organizations are reaching farmers at the grassroots level in order to enhance their skills and improve quality of tea, but all these efforts have not been successful due to lack of skilled manpower. In spite of this, Nepal exports NPR 2.5 billion worth of tea to India and western countries.

Mar 7

<http://bit.ly/2lu0Gcn>

WASTE COLLECTION IN KATHMANDU BY NEPWASTE

For the management of the municipal solid waste of Kathmandu, central Nepal, the Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) has taken the responsibility in collaboration with NepWaste, a Finnish joint venture. Each household has to pay NPR 219 per month as waste collection service fees. This package includes waste collection from Kathmandu valley and processing at Banchara Danda.

Mar 7

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/37560/>

MALE GHARIALS SPOTTED AT CNP OFFERS HOPE TO PARK OFFICIALS

Conservationists are delighted to see two male gharials at Sauraha Ghat of Rapti and Bhelauji of Narayani rivers which flows through Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal. It was believed that the last male gharial died after falling into the fishing net in May last year. Due to overfishing, water pollution and fragmentation, gharial population has been threatened.

Mar 7

<http://bit.ly/2luiuww2>

DISABLED-FRIENDLY BUS IN THE VALLEY

The first disable friendly bus started its service which is operated by Sajha Yatayat from 6am to 11pm in Kathmandu Valley, central Nepal with the aim of serving disables, infirm and elderly persons who have trouble in travelling in regular buses. The bus would travel through major hospital areas of Kathmandu and Lalitpur, central Nepal.

Mar 8

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

BRICK KILNS IN THE MIDDLE OF SETTLEMENTS

There lies a brick factory in the middle of settlements in Siraha district, eastern Nepal, due to which the villagers are suffering black smog and particles of the coal. The locals have complained the issues to the municipality office, police, and ministers about the effects to their health and cultivable land which was left unheard. Around 80 brick factories are running in this area and the smog from these have severely affected the school children as well.

Mar 9

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/37650/>

FREE NICU SERVICE AT LAMJUNG

For the first time, free Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has been started at Lamjung district community hospital, western Nepal. At a time, four children can be admitted in NICU. With the establishment of NICU, the hospital administration believes that the child mortality rate will decrease soon.

Mar 9

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

DEATH RATE INCREASES DUE TO AIR POLLUTION

As per data made public at a seminar organised by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), around 35,000 people lose their lives due to air pollution in Nepal every year. Air pollution has become the major reason behind the increasing number of deaths in the country. NAST Vice Chancellor has emphasized on establishment of pollution measurement centre in each province for the control of air pollution.

Mar 10

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

FISH FARMING AT MANANG

Farmers of Manang district, western Nepal have been excited after knowing that Rainbow Trout species (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) have started being reared commercially in the district. Many farmers were unknown that fish farming can be done in the cold place like Manang. As Manang is one of the famous tourist areas, the fish can be utilized within the district and it can be profitable.

Mar 10

<http://bit.ly/2Gw78il>

AQUATIC ANIMALS UNDER THREAT DUE TO WATER POLLUTION

As the pollution in several rivers and streams has been increasing day by day due to the excessive use of chemicals for fishing and in agricultural fields of Tikapur of Kailali district, far western Nepal, it has threatened the aquatic species like dolphins (*Platanista sp.*), crocodiles (*Crocodylus sp.*) and various species of fish. According to one of the conservationists, the number of fish has decreased in Karnali, Mohana and other big rivers. The Coordinator of District Coordination Committee (DCC) underlined that the immediate solution is to control fishing for next three months.

Mar 11

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/37777/>

PEOPLE LOSING INTEREST IN SUGARCANE FARMING

Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) farmers of Nawalparasi district, western Nepal have been worried about the sell of their product to the market as the government has not fixed the price of the crop, this fiscal year. The farmers are worried that the sugarcane may dry up in the field if they do not harvest it on time. According to the Sugarcane Producer's Committee, Nawalparasi was home to 14,000 sugarcane farmers which have reduced to 7,000.

Mar 11

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

PANGOLIN COUNTING STARTED IN HETAUDA

The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) has started Pangolin (*Manis sp.*) census at Rani Community Forest in Chaughada in Hetauda, central Nepal. The census is carried out by installing thirty camera traps to count the number of this endangered mammal.

Mar 11

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

GAURIGAI HUNTERS NABBED IN MAKWANPUR

Hunters of Gaurigai (*Bos gaurus*), which is listed as a protected mammal in Nepal, have been caught red handed in Makwanpur district, central Nepal. Police officials busted four people along with 3000 kg of meat and weapons

Mar 11

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/crime/3037>

POLLUTION INCREASES AT RARA LAKE

Rara Lake, which lies in Mugu district, mid western Nepal, a famous tourist area, is being polluted due to the increase in the number of both national and international tourist. Various awareness programs related to conservation of biodiversity and the environment, wild flora and fauna have been organized in different schools and communities. But still, the effort is not much seen. This has to be controlled on time for the conservation of Rara Lake as well as Rara National Park.

Mar 11

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/tourism/3034>

ENCROACHMENT OF IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT LAND

The land of Irrigation Department in Jammu, northern India has been encroached by some shopkeepers in Nai Basti area. The department had stopped the flow of water in Ranbir canal. No strict action has been taken by department officials and the encroachers have started to make buildings in the encroached area.

Mar 6

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=226826>

SCHOOLS IN MANAS PROVIDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The school in the fringe area of Manas National Park (MNP), north eastern India has initiated a step to protect Manas landscape by pledging during morning assembly. It is a unique initiation, as a part of Aaranyak's Manas Tiger Conservation Program (MTCP) that focuses to increase the involvement of people in conservation and protection of Manas National Park by the engagement of local communities. Sixty three schools have been recognized in the fringe areas of MNP under the MTCP.

Mar 7

<http://bit.ly/2tX1KCD>

CM FOR EMPLOYEE'S SYNERGY TO IMPROVE TEA INDUSTRY

The Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, north eastern India has promoted a synergistic approach among all stakeholders to change the state's tea industry and urged for careful use of Science and Technology to restore the global image of Assam tea. He further added that the tea garden management, workers and government should work together to help the sector grow sustainably.

Mar 8

<http://bit.ly/2pfk981>

HIMACHAL PRADESH HARVEST PEAS IN ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING

A University in Himachal Pradesh, northern India has successfully harvested peas (*Pisum sativum*) under the zero budget natural farming. Based on the first harvest, the production was around 0.55 tons in 0.4046 hectares. The research team had planted two varieties of peas, P-89 and Azad-P1 at the farm. A total of 39,790 farmers has adopted organic farming in Himachal Pradesh covering 21,473 hectares.

Mar 11

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

FLOOD DAMAGES HYDRO POWER PROJECT

The flash flood in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India has damaged the intake and penstock pipelines of Angong Nallah hydro project at Janbo village. It has also washed away the check bounds made in the channel at many points. The 132 Kilo Volt (KV) Ziro-Daporijo transmission line also suffered major damage due to the heavy cyclonic storm.

Mar 11

<http://bit.ly/2pg0FjB>

China Himalaya

TIBET PREFECTURES ACCEPTED FOR DARK SKY CONSERVATION

Two Prefectures in Tibet, south western China, The China Conservation for Dark and Starry Sky in Ngari and in Naggu were the first to be included in a world list of dark sky protected areas by International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The conservation areas were launched in 2016 and tourist centres have been built in both areas to help power local development. According to the International Dark Sky Association, there are more than 40 such places in the world.

Mar 6

<http://bit.ly/2Gyi53j>

INCREASE IN GDP OF TIBET

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Tibet, south western China has grown by 10 per cent in 2017, marking the 25th straight year of double-digit growth. The GDP has reached USD 20.5 billion in 2017. According to a professor at Tibet University, the unity of the Chinese people and China's policies are the reason for the economic development.

Mar 9

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

PRIOR PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

According to the head of the regional government, Tibet, south western China, the strongest measures has been followed to protect the environment against tourism pollution. The region's chairman highlighted the fact that the tourist activities have harmed the environment before and they have adopted necessary measures to prevent possible threats. He further added that no any tourist facilities are allowed to be built in the key areas of any reserve as keeping the region stable and protecting its fragile environment are priorities for the government. This region has 47 nature reserves which cover 33 per cent of its land area which is the highest ratio in China.

Mar 9

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

CCTV CAMERA INSTALLATION: AN ACTION TO SOLVE THE WASTE ISSUE

The installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera in the area of Tsirang district, Bhutan has controlled the illegal dumping of waste at the bay. Seven CCTV cameras were installed five months ago, which is being taken care by Damphu Municipal Office as they are the focal agency in addressing waste. According to a local shopkeeper, the installation of cameras has controlled the dumping of waste along with the decrease of the risk of being raided by burglars.

Mar 7

<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=91425>

CATTLE BARN FOR DAIRY GROUP

A new Norboongang Zambala Dairy Group of about 60 members in Norboongang village block in Pema Gatshel, eastern Bhutan can now improve the breeding of cattle by keeping their cattle in a newly constructed concrete cattle barn. The villagers said that the construction of cattle barn has lowered the risk of cattle in the jungle. They added that their workloads have lessened and the production of cattle has improved.

Mar 7

<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=91433>

WINDSTORM DAMAGES HOUSE IN PEMA GATSHEL

Powerful windstorms have damaged the roofs of three traditional houses in Nanong Gewog and another in Chhimoong Gewog in Pema Gatshel on March 7. Officials from the Royal Insurance Corporation Limited (RICL) and the village block administration have investigated the damage and the District Disaster Management team has helped the affected families by providing tarpaulin sheets.

Mar 8

<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=91476>

AGRICULTURE JOURNAL LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests has released the first volume of the Bhutanese Journal of Agriculture on March 8 which is dedicated to the 38th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the King. It has two papers on the potential impact of climate change on horticulture and rice (*Oriza sativa*) crop suitability model under the future climatic scenario.

Mar 10

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