

# Headlines Himalaya

Mar 19 - Mar 25 (2018)

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For the 497th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 36 news from 17 sources and selected 35 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, increase in the number of a protected bird, Sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*) has given new hope for conservationist. In India, a vehicle carrying exotic species such as African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*), corn snakes (*Pantherophis guttatus*), Gaboon vipers (*Bitis gabonica*), central bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*), giant scorpion (*Heterometrus spinifer*) was rescued in Jorabat, Guwahati in north eastern part of the country. In Bhutan, vocational education was provided to differently able people for a bright future.

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

*Caught with leopard skin*  
*Mushroom farming by senior citizen*  
*Forest providing employment opportunity*  
*Illegal extraction of sand*  
*World Oral Health Day celebrated*  
*Police suspended for smuggling*  
*Patrolling with community for wildlife conservation*  
*Difficulty for sparrow in Kanchanpur*  
*Loss of one female tiger*  
*Waste removed from Valley River*  
*Lack of water affects development*  
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*Improvement in health condition of terai elephant*  
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*World water day marked in Azad Jammu Kashmir*  
*Poppy crop destroyed*

## Nepal-Himalaya

### CAUGHT WITH LEOPARD SKIN

The police have caught two people with skin of protected mammal leopard (*Panthera pardus*) from Lazimpat of Kathmandu, central Nepal. They had been sent to the District Forest Office, Hattishar, central Nepal for further investigation.

**Mar 19**

<https://bit.ly/2geuUsq>

### MUSHROOM FARMING BY SENIOR CITIZEN

The senior citizen of Nepalgunj, western Nepal has started mushroom (*Agaricus* spp) farming. They have rented the place and produced about 25 kilos of mushroom on a daily basis. The Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project (PMAMP) has granted 2.5 lakhs for this purpose. According to one of the senior citizens, their main aim is to strengthen senior citizens economically through utilizing their free time in something productive.

**Mar 20**

<https://bit.ly/2GJRQtZ>

### FOREST PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

People of Arghakhanchi, western Nepal are getting employed since scientific forest management has started in their forest and they perform different silvicultural techniques for the management of forest throughout the year. The main species of the area are Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Asna (*Terminalia elliptica*). This has significantly reduced the number of people going abroad for work.

**Mar 20**

<https://bit.ly/2qg9Xxb>

### ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF SAND

The tractor trailers of Tikapur, western Nepal have been extracting and transporting load of stones and sand illegally from Karnali River near the bridge connecting Tikapur and Rajapur, western Nepal which has threatened the embankment of the river. But the concerned authorities have not noticed the unlawful act yet.

**Mar 22**

[www.myrepublica.com/news/38461/](http://www.myrepublica.com/news/38461/)

### WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY CELEBRATED

World Oral Health Day has been celebrated on March 20 on the initiation of World Dental Federation (FDI) by organizing various activities on the theme "Say Ahh: Think Mouth, Think Health". Nepal Dental Association in collaboration with Pepsodent had organized a rally from Khulla Manch to Ratnapark, central Nepal where more than 500 health supporters have participated.

**Mar 22**

[www.myrepublica.com/news/38465/](http://www.myrepublica.com/news/38465/)

### **POLICE SUSPENDED FOR SMUGGLING**

Two police in Sankhuwasabha, eastern Nepal have been suspended for taking bribes of NRS 100,000 each from the smugglers for the hard shell of endangered Pangolin (*Manis spp*). According to the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), they have suspended them and are investigating the case.

**Mar 22**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/38486/>

### **PATROLLING WITH COMMUNITY FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

The local communities, staffs of national park and Nepal army have started an operation together for protecting wildlife of Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal. The patrolling of buffer zone area is done in collaboration with forest community, staffs and Nepal Army and the patrolling of the core area is done by the staffs and Nepal Army. According to the Conservation Officer, this type of patrolling has been very effective for conservation of forest and wildlife.

**Mar 22**

<http://thahakhabar.com/new/35191>

### **DIFFICULTY FOR SPARROW IN KANCHANPUR**

According to the locals, sparrows (*Passer spp.*) of Kanchanpur, western Nepal are decreasing in number. As per one of the environmental expert, the building of concrete houses have affected the nesting sites of sparrow which is further influence by the increasing pollution. He further highlighted that the overuse of pesticides and fertilizers has also direct impact on the sparrows.

**Mar 22**

<https://bit.ly/2IDN4KY>

### **LOSS OF ONE FEMALE TIGER**

According to the veterinarian at Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, a three year old female tiger (*Panthera tigris*) was found dead in the bank of Rapti River. He added that the reason of the death might be due to the infection to its injuries. According to the recent data, there are 120 tigers in CNP.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2qhoxDO>

### **WASTE REMOVED FROM VALLEY RIVER**

The Bagmati Cleanup Campaign which has entered its 254<sup>th</sup> week on March 25 has collected three metric tonnes of waste from the river of Pashupati area, central Nepal and one metric tonnes from Bagmati River, central Nepal. Likewise, the Rudramati Cleanup Campaign on its 209<sup>th</sup> week has collected three metric tonnes of waste from Ram Mandir premises in Kathmandu, central Nepal and similarly other campaigns were also held for the management of waste in different areas.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2H6C4sc>

### **LACK OF WATER AFFECTS DEVELOPMENT**

The people of Jahari village in Kailali district, far-western Nepal have been facing the problem of drinking water as there is only one tube well for 500 households. The children are mostly affected by this because they cannot go to school as they have to stand in the line to get the water as well as the agricultural production has been affected in a larger extent in the area.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2uXyHPv>

### **DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH SECTOR**

The three health facility buildings that were constructed following the April 2015 earthquake with the financial support of Korean Red Cross were handed over to the local government. The building has necessary equipments, nine rooms for employees and two rest rooms.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2IDWaaG>

### **BENEFICIAL EYE SURGICAL CAMP**

A three day free eye surgery camp has been organized in Khotang district, eastern Nepal, which benefitted 114 patients. It included a team of 10 eye doctors and surgeons and 38 eye surgeries were done in three day campaign. The camp was organized as a part of East Regional Eye Care Programme.

**Mar 25**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/22667>

### **DRINKING WATER PROJECT COMPLETED**

Under the small infrastructure development programme of Poverty Alleviation Fund Nepal, eighteen drinking water projects has been completed in three rural municipalities of Panchthar, eastern Nepal with a budget of around NPR 2.37 Crore. It has benefitted nine hundred and seven households of Panchthar.

**Mar 25**

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/society/3458>

### **NEW HOPE FOR CONSERVATIONIST**

A flock of 35 Sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*), protected bird of Nepal, has been seen on Jagdishpur lake of Kapilvastu district, western Nepal. As per the expert, this type of occurrence is a good sign of biodiversity conservation and they were there for breeding purpose. It is estimated that there are around 400 Sarus crane in Nepal.

**Mar 25**

<https://bit.ly/2Ewrk17>

### **IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH CONDITION OF TERAJ ELEPHANT**

According to the senior veterinarian, the occurrence of tuberculosis (TB) in elephants (*Elephas maximus*) of Chitwan National Park and Parsa National Park, south central Nepal has declined as compared to the last year. Domesticated elephants are affected by TB after being in close contact with humans. According to National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), 15 elephants died due to TB up to 2014. Early identification and treatment of infected domestic elephants will help in elimination of spread of TB to wild elephants.

**Mar 25**

<https://bit.ly/2EvCSBy>

### **THREATS FROM FOREST FIRE**

The forest fire that has occurred at Belsrot, Khasibas and Risku of Churiya of Udaypur district, eastern Nepal, has risked the life of human living around. According to the locals, these three places are mostly affected by fire and they are working with forest officers to overcome this problem.

**Mar 25**

<https://bit.ly/2pDfYD6>

## **India-Himalaya**

### **CREATE STRONG BOND WITH TREES**

Sikkim, north eastern India is one of the cleanest and greenest states and now it has started a greenery campaign. In order to preserve its greenery, the state has allowed its citizen to adopt trees just like their child. This program will not only create awareness but also to create strong bond between the people and the trees. This will also lead to conservation.

**Mar 19**

<https://bit.ly/2ICBOhL>

### INSTRUCTIONS ON SOIL TESTING

One day training program on soil testing has been inaugurated at Jammu, northern India. On the program, speakers highlighted the importance of soil testing, utilization of fertilizers in a balanced way and suggested to stop the factors responsible for soil degradation. Altogether 100 farmers are being trained and provided knowledge about sustainable development of agriculture along with guidance on the major and minor nutrients needed for soil.

**Mar 20**

<https://bit.ly/2qiDISR>

### ONE STEP TOWARDS CONSERVATION

In order to understand the behaviour and to create awareness about different species of local fish and to conserve them, exhibition has begun at Manipur Science Aquarium, north eastern India. This exhibition may help to conserve the species of fish which are rare and near to extinction. On the program, the speaker highlighted the conservation of indigenous flora and fauna. Twenty five local and exotic fish species have been reared in the Manipur Science Aquarium.

**Mar 21**

<https://bit.ly/2HaL4Nn>

### MOVING AHEAD IN ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

Department of Environment and Water Management and Post Graduate (PG) Department of Sri Pratap College Srinagar, north eastern India in collaboration with Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing have started two days national workshop on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) for Natural Resource and Environmental Management at SP College Srinagar. Remote sensing and GIS applications in the field like environmental management, climate change, agriculture, solid waste management, watershed management are quite significant

**Mar 23**

<https://bit.ly/2IEWXlv>

### NEW HOME TO BEAR CUB

A Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) cub that has been rescued by conservationist near India Myanmar border has been shifted to a zoo at Miao in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India. Cub was only one year old and was rescued by one of the villagers. According to reports, villager fed and looked after it for two months before rescue.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2H9JHhQ>

### CELEBRATION ON FORESTRY DAY

On the occasion of forestry day (March 21) the Corbett Foundation in association with Kaziranga National Park, Nagaon district in north eastern India had organized program at Kaziranga High school with the aim to create public awareness regarding conservation of valuable species of plants and wild animals. In the program, saplings have been distributed and the documentary has been shown to the school students.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2GKj936>

### ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF EXOTIC SPECIES

A large vehicle carrying exotic species like sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*), meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*), marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*), African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*), corn snakes (*Pantherophis guttatus*), Gaboon vipers (*Bitis gabonica*), central bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*), giant scorpion (*Heterometrus spinifer*) have been seized by police officer in Jorabat, Guwahati in north eastern India. These animals are highly worthy in international market and after seizing they have been handed to the zoo of Assam, north eastern India.

**Mar 24 & 25**

<https://bit.ly/2EvsSIV>

<https://bit.ly/2GNdp93>

### ILLEGAL LOGS SEIZED

Illegal logs of Khangra (*Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*) and Yangou (*Dipterocarpus turbinatus*) worth around USD 1.6 million has been sized from Kamjong district in Manipur north eastern India. Many trees are being felled irregularly in the Indo Myanmar border area which has adverse effect on climatic condition of that area. Authorized personnel inspected the saw mill of this area and checked the clearance document regarding the logs kept in the saw mill.

**Mar 25**

<https://bit.ly/2qgvXs1>

## China Himalaya

### SATISFACTORY PRODUCTION OF BARLEY

As per official news of Tibet, south western China, production of highland barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) has exceeded by 700,000 tons for the third year, ensuring fulfilment of food demand of people. Highland barely are highly beneficial and research has shown that it helps to lower blood fat, cholesterol and prevent cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. This increment in production is due to modern technology.

**Mar 19**

<https://bit.ly/2qlVKiz>

### IMPROVEMENT IN TRANSPORTATION ATTRACTS TOURISM

According to the official of tourism administration of Tibet, south western China, the increasing improvement in transportation facility has allowed travellers to spend less time in road. To facilitate the travellers, Tibet's highways, railways and airports have been improved continuously and have met their need to move fast on their way to scenic spots.

**Mar 22**

<https://bit.ly/2EuyFyn>

### ONE STEP TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

The founding ceremony of the Himalaya Environmental Protection Foundation has been held at Himalaya Mountaineering Guide School in Tibet, south western China. This is the first foundation of its kind which protect the Himalayan environment. It also helps to create awareness about the conservation along with its contribution to establish a national ecological shelter.

**Mar 25**

<https://bit.ly/2GM1A2P>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### JOINING HANDS TO REDUCE WASTE

In order to reduce kitchen waste going to Memelakha landfill, methods for organic composting was demonstrated in Little Dragon Primary School with the involvement of parents and children. According to one of the environmental officer, implementing this method would reduce about 20 per cent of the waste going to landfill. This method has been introduced to more than 60 countries including Bhutan in which only organic raw materials are used.

**Mar 19**

<https://bit.ly/2uXjAWy>

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLE PEOPLE**

Vocational training for differently able people has been launched to enhance the capacity of 160 youths by Draksho Vocational Training Center and Australian High Commission in Bhutan. The main aim is to build confidence and to provide equal opportunities to youth with disabilities, as the person with disabilities has to face many hardships.

**Mar 21**

<https://bit.ly/2qciq8T>

### **TIGER RESCUED BY NCD OFFICIALS**

An adult female tiger (*Panthera tigris*) weighing 160 kilograms has been rescued by five foresters from the Nature Conservation Division (NCD) in Royal Manas National Park, south central Bhutan. Some tests will be done and then will be relocated to its previous habitat once it becomes fit. As per officials of NCD, this tiger has been captured in camera during tiger survey.

**Mar 23**

<https://bit.ly/2HhcBdj>

### **NATURAL WAYS TO OVERCOME WATER CHALLENGES**

On the occasion of World Water Day (March 22), with the theme 'Nature for water', cleaning campaign has been conducted in the core areas of Thimpu, western Bhutan. Around 260 people from various sector participated in the cleaning campaign. The main aim of this campaign was to create awareness among the residents about the importance of water and to prevent mixing of drains and other garbage in the sources of water, rivers and streams.

**Mar 23**

<https://bit.ly/2qfTQ2R>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

To improve the quality of education, eight Assistant Professors of Health and Physical Education has been appointed in Higher Education Department in College Crade under the recommendation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission (KP PSC), north western Pakistan. With this, the knowledge of students regarding Health and Physical education is expected to improve.

**Mar 19**

<https://bit.ly/2JsfhFE>

### **FRESH TECHNICAL COURSES ENHANCES DEVELOPMENT**

With the aim to produce skilled manpower Azad Jammu and Kashmir, northern Pakistan, Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) has launched fresh technical courses. These courses are expected to discourage the young generations to settle abroad as an option for income generation. . TEVTA has initiated technical courses based on modern needs.

**Mar 19**

<https://bit.ly/2qlh7Qe>

### **WORLD WATER DAY MARKED IN AZAD JAMMU KASHMIR**

On March 22, World Water Day has been observed across Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK), north western Pakistan with the aim to save water bodies. The program is also organized to make people aware of increasing water crisis in various parts of AJK. Speaking on this occasion, various speakers highlighted to establish the water reservoir to meet the need of present and future generation.

**Mar 22**

<https://bit.ly/2qg9SJR>

### **POPPY CROP DESTROYED**

In the Gadoon area of Swabi district, north western Pakistan, the police officers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has destroyed poppy crop (*Lachryma papaveris*) spreading over 10 hectare. This crop is used to produce heroin (a kind of drug). So, the cultivation of this crop has been banned in Pakistan but the farmers are cultivating this crop secretly as it's worthy financially.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2GJBKf>