

Headlines Himalaya

March 26- April 1 (2018)

No. 498

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For the 498th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 26 news from 13 sources and selected 25 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, there is an increase over the number of Bengal tigers in the lowlands of far western Terai according to the recent census. Paddy cultivation seems bleak for this year in northern India owing to insufficient rainfall. In China, rare footage of snow leopards feasting over domestic yak is evident. While in Bhutan, heavy wind has destroyed belongings and livestock in western part of the country.

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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ONE STEP FORWARD TO PROTECT CHISAPANIGADHI

As Chisapanigadhi is home to 38 rare species of birds, including spiny babbler, the bird conservationists have necessitated the government to take effective measures to protect the area. One of the bird conservationists highlighted the responsibility of the government to protect the area and disseminated that Chisapanigadhi is a model habitat for the birds of the world.

Mar 26

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

SPREADING FOREST FIRE

According to the park authority of Parsa National Park, south central Nepal, the forest fire has been spread over the southern part which are common forest fires during dry season due to the deficiency of rainfall. Mostly the smaller reptiles and animals are affected by the forest fire. Along with this, the forest fire in Dhankuta district, eastern Nepal has destroyed 13 community forests, property and claimed human lives.

Mar 26 & 27

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

<https://bit.ly/2IP5Rmx>

INCREASE IN ILLEGAL HUNTING OF WILD ANIMALS

In the northern part of Siraha district, eastern Nepal, illegal hunting and trading of wild animals have increased dramatically rendering the dangers of wild boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*), deer (*Cervidae spp*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), and kalij pheasant's (*Lophura leucomelanus*) extinction. According to the Assistant Forest Officer, the local people themselves are involved in such activities.

Mar 27

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

NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF LAKE

Bulbul Lake of Birendranagar, mid western Nepal has been depleted due to the profusion of aquatic plants. The concerned bodies are not paying attention for the proper management of the lake.

Mar 28

<https://bit.ly/2IRSL8h>

CLEANING CAMPAIGN

The local conservationists in cooperation with domestic and foreign tourists have cleaned the protected area and around the vicinity of Sauraha, Ratnanagar in Chitwan district, south central Nepal. The locals have been organizing the cleaning campaign and collected the plastics, glass bottles and clothes pieces in enormous quantities.

Mar 28

<https://bit.ly/2IP60GB>

HAPHAZARD LOPPING OF TREES

In the name of scientific forest management, Sal (*Shorea robusta*) trees are being felled in community forest of Rautahat, central Nepal, by the District Forest Office (DFO). The locals expressed their worries about the haphazard cutting down of trees and its consequences in the environment.

Mar 29

<https://bit.ly/2v8nWdx>

DISPUTE SOLVED

The Natural Resources Conflict Transformation Centre (NRCTC) has settled the dispute of Changunarayan Community Forest, central Nepal, after 22 years by signing six point agreements. Community user's group and NRCTC settled the issue of management and operation of picnic spot run inside the community forest. There was consensus for mapping of the community forest by Geographic Positioning System (GPS).

Mar 29

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/22729>

SMUGGLED BODY PARTS OF LEOPARD IN DANG

The Inspector at District Police Office, Dang, mid western Nepal, arrested one person with a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) skin and eight teeth and was made public during a press conference. Wildlife smuggling is a big issue and its control is challenging in wildlife conservation.

Mar 29

<https://bit.ly/2qsJ5dH>

DAMAGES DUE TO HAILSTONES

The hailstones that occurred at Beni, western Nepal, and its surrounding areas, has damaged winter crops, vegetables, fruits and potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) farming worth around millions of rupees. The farmers were left in woe due to the loss of their crops and demanded for the arrangement of relief.

Mar 30

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/22772>

TIGER CENSUS COMPLETED

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) census in Suklaphanta National Park, Laljhadi and Jogbudha corridors, far western Nepal, which was carried out for two months has been completed. It was conducted with financial and technical assistant of National Nature Conservation Fund (NNCF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Green Forest Program. According to the Chief of NNCF, there has been an increase in the number of tigers as a result of good food and proper habitat management.

Apr 1

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39074/>

INCREASE IN FLOW OF TOURIST

In the eight month of fiscal year 2017-2018, percentage of tourists visiting the Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, has increased by 7.5% as compared to fiscal year 2016-2017. CNP data shows that around 95,357 tourists visited the wildlife park within eight month of fiscal year 2017-2018.

Apr 1

<https://bit.ly/2GTAn24>

ATTACK BY WILD BOAR

The Assistant Forest Officer of Kanchanpur district, far western Nepal, has been attacked by the wild boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*), while he was on the forest for the control of forest fire. He was hospitalized due to the severe wound on his neck part.

Apr 1

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

India-Himalaya

TEACHER'S ROLE FOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION

The State Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India, on the occasion of Lecturers Day, emphasized on the teacher's vital role for developing habit of resource conservation in society. He also informed that Jammu and Kashmir suffered losses of around 738,507,769.63 USD per year in power sector. He further emphasized that teachers can make children understand the importance of use, conservation and generation of resources.

Mar 26

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

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ROUTINELY DUMPED ON ROADS

The dumping of construction materials on the Jammu Srinagar highway has affected the locals living there. According to the locals, the dumped materials on the roads is creating nuisance for the commuters and hampering smooth flow of traffic but none of the administrative people even bothered to manage those materials and the orders to restrict dumping of construction materials are only confined to papers.

Mar 27

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

DISTRIBUTION OF DUSTBINS IN JAMMU

Twenty five units of dustbins have been provided by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Regional Office, Jammu, northern India, at Shiva Market and its surrounding areas near railway station. The distribution was done following the campaign "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan" launched by the Prime Minister of the country.

Mar 29

<https://bit.ly/2EHS4M7>

SKIP PADDY CULTIVATION

The Department of Flood Control and Irrigation disseminated that they won't be able to provide water for irrigation because of deficient rains and impending water scarcity in some areas of Kupwara and Baramulla districts, northern India. For this reason, the farmers are suggested to skip the cultivation of paddy (*Oryza sativa*) this year with some other alternatives.

Apr 1

<https://bit.ly/2qpx7R4>

China Himalaya

RARE SNOW LEOPARD CAPTURED ON VIDEO

A mother and two cubs of snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) were caught feasting over domestic yak (*Bos grunniens*) on the video from camera trap set by Chinese Felid Conservation Alliance (CFCA). According to the experts, the video is a hope for successful conservation in the area and it also shows the increasing encroachment of humans.

Mar 28

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

TREE PLANTATION HELD IN LASHA

A volunteer tree planting activity with more than 20 entities has ended up on March 29 that started on March 20. The program lasted for nine days where monks planted trees around their temples.

Mar 29

<https://bit.ly/2Hv28en>

OPENING OF 16TH PEACH BLOSSOM FESTIVAL IN NYINGCHI

The 16th Peach Blossom Festival with theme “Pure land on earth, intoxicating Nyingchi” opened on 29th March in Bayi District of Nyingchi, south western China. Different types of activities like photography exhibition, folk sports activity, art performance were included for visitors.

Mar 30

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

FOREST FIRE IN SEMTOKHA

A forest fire demolished two huts in Semtokha, southern Bhutan, on March 26. The fire was controlled with the cooperation of forest officials, armed forces, Desuung and volunteers.

Mar 27

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/forest-fire-in-semtokha/>

LAUNCHING OF ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY WIRES AND CABLES

Environment friendly wires and cables has been launched in Thimpu, western central Bhutan with the help of an Indian company. According to the chairman of the company, the wires and cable are eco-friendly as well as human friendly and it is the safest wire which will not catch fire.

Mar 28

<https://bit.ly/2qrLJQ3>

KABESA TIGER UNDER OBSERVATION

The male tiger (*Panthera tigris*) of about 10 years, first spotted in Kabesa, Thimpu on March 21 is being observed according to officials from the Nature Conservation Division (NCD). According to one of the officials, the rapid diagnostic test for rabies and canine distemper proved negative and blood sample has been sent to Thailand. The tiger would be kept at the Wildlife Rescue and Animal Health section in Taba awaiting the test results.

Mar 29

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/kabesa-tiger-under-observation-ncd/>

DAMAGES DUE TO STORM IN SARPANG

A heavy wind and hailstorm in two villages, Shom pangkha and Gakidling Sarpang, west Bhutan, destroyed crops, livestock and properties of people. The storm blew the roofs of six houses and twelve poultry sheds and damaged mostly the fruit trees.

Mar 31

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/storm-damages-at-least-87-acres-of-crops-in-sarpang/>

FIRE AT KALANGER VILLAGE

The first major fire of the season erupted in Kalanger village, Margalla Hills, northern Pakistan, on Thursday was controlled by Pakistan Army troops with all necessary equipments. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contributed in taming the fire.

Mar 29

<https://bit.ly/2EFi3DT>

EARTHQUAKE IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

According to the seismological centre, a 5.2 magnitude earthquake, with its epicenter in Afghanistan Tajikistan border area, shook parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. However, no any loss of property and lives were recorded.

Mar 30

<https://bit.ly/2IOWrr9>