

# Headlines Himalaya

Apr 2 – Apr 8 (2018)

No. 499

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For the 499th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 28 news from 13 sources and selected 27 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, endangered dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) are struggling to survive due to unsustainable fishing in Karnali river, mid-western part of the country. In India, non-organic food items were banned from selling by the Sikkim Government. China is determined to protect wetlands by turning them into National Nature Reserves. Agriculture digitalization sets off to benefit farmers in the northern part of Pakistan.

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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### ITAHARI FLOOD VICTIMS

The flood victims of Itahari, eastern Nepal, are still in makeshift tents even after eight months of flood that has killed nine people and left 500 people homeless. Despite the promises for new houses by governmental and non-governmental agencies, the victims still are without the relief amount. Due to which, the school children have been deprived of education. Besides that, lack of proper sanitation has effected the aged people with various health issues.

**Apr 2**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39137/>

### DOLPHINS STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL IN KARNALI RIVER

As a result of declined fish number, endangered dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) have been reported to be in the stage of extinction in Karnali River, mid-western Nepal. Conservationists have therefore requested to ban fishing at least during their reproductive period from mid-April to mid-July in order to save dolphins. Gangetica species of dolphins are found in Karnali and Mohana Rivers which are rare in other parts of the world.

**Apr 2**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39134/>

### DEATHS OF TRANS LOCATED SWAMP DEER

Six relocated swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) have died within one year in Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal. Deer were translocated from Shuklaphanta National Park (SNP), far western Nepal, to CNP last year. According to conservationist, deer are reported to die of the stress caused by long travel hour, heat exhaustion and flood of August 2017.

**Apr 3**

<https://bit.ly/2J9AweF>

### RAIN WATER COLLECTION TO SOLVE WATER CRISIS

Poverty Alleviation Fund in collaboration with Marginalized and Indigenous People Development Council has constructed water tanks for solving the acute water crisis in Arghakhanchi district, western Nepal. The initiation has brought smile in the face of locals along with the women who had faced several health problems while fetching water in the past.

**Apr 4**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39262/>

### WATER SCARCITY AND HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

There is a risk of increase in human wildlife conflict in Banke National Park (BNP), mid western Nepal, due to the scarcity of water despite several man made pools inside the park. The lack of water has led tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to visit the settlement areas. According to the acting Chief of BNP, dry season has accelerated the fire which has directly affected the water availability and this has threatened the existence of the animals.

**Apr 4**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39332/>

### LOSS OF LIVES DUE TO LIGHTENING

Lightening accompanied with rainfall has killed three people and many were injured in different places of Bhojpur, Khotang, Udayapur and Morang districts, eastern Nepal. The injured people are undergoing treatment at local health centres as per the reports

**Apr 5**

<https://bit.ly/2J8gJw2>

<https://bit.ly/2qKi1px>

### DEEP BORING FOR DRINKING WATER

With the increase in urbanization, the water consumption rate has increased in Hile, eastern Nepal which has further resulted in water scarcity. To fulfil the demand, the people in Hile have started deep boring as the last alternative solution.

**Apr 5**

<https://bit.ly/2H9by2d>

### HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN BUFFER ZONES

Human wildlife conflict is one of the major problems of Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal. The people living at the buffer zones areas are greatly affected and are demanding for the protection of their lives and properties but the efforts made by the park authority have not yielded good result. According to the Chief Conservation Officer, the efforts to control human wildlife conflict through electric fencing and habitat management are on pace.

**Apr 6**

<https://bit.ly/2HJAH0j>

### CRISIS OF MEDICINE

There has been a lack of medicines in the health posts of Rukum, mid western Nepal, as the District Public Health Office (DPHO) has stopped supplying medicines. This has caused the locals to buy medicines from private hospitals which has mostly affected the poor ones.

**Apr 8**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39507/>

## India-Himalaya

### ILLEGAL EXTRACTION FROM RIVER BED

Locals have shown their concern over illegal extraction of sand and bajri and stones from the bed of Barsati stream by miners but the government is turning a blind eye on it. According to one of the social activist, the consequences of heavy extraction are very near and everyone need to pay a very heavy price for it. He further added that they have complained about it to the District Development Commissioner of Poonch, northern India

**Apr 2**

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=229112>

### KALAI BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AT SNAIL'S PACE

The Kalai motorable bridge, Poonch district, northern India, which was started after flood in 2014 is still under construction. Sources informed that the bridge is complete by 90% and few yards need to be constructed which is moving at snail's pace. Locals have been greatly suffered from it and have demanded for early construction of bridge.

**Apr 2**

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=229098>

### NORTHEAST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Expertson a workshop related to climate change have shared that mostly the Himalayan Mountains States, especially, north eastern states are vulnerable to climate change. One of the professors from Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, southern India, has highlighted that climate is changing around the globe of which we are unaware of.

**Apr 2**

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

### **BAN ON SELLING NON ORGANIC FOOD ITEMS**

With the aim to control health hazards, the Sikkim government, has banned the import of non-organic fruits and vegetables in Sikkim, north eastern India. According to the chief minister, the vegetables will generate small amount at the initial stage but later will be produced in a large scale as an income generating source of farmers..

**Apr 4**

<https://bit.ly/2qKib07>

### **ACTION FOR ILLEGAL CHOPPING OF TREES**

The Himalchal Pradesh Forest Department, northern India, has neglected illegal cutting of hundreds of trees in Nachan forest, without taking actions against it posing great threats to the environment. Due to this, the Himalchal Pradesh High Court, northern India, has requested to file a report on illegal felling of trees in the Nachan forest division after visiting the spot.

**Apr 7**

<https://bit.ly/2Hc5KkA>

## **China Himalaya**

### **BEAUTIFUL TIBET WITH BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOM**

Increasing efforts of afforestation in Lhasa, capital of Tibet, has created a more beautiful city. Trees like willow (*Salix* spp), peach (*Prunus persica*), speciosa (*Guettarda speciosa*), cherry blossom (*Prunus serrulata*) and ash (*Fraxinus* spp) are planted whose flowers bloom from March through the middle of summer. With the arrival of spring, the numbers of tourists have increased because of scenic beauty of Tibet.

**Apr 3**

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1522720350900.shtml>

### **WETLANDS AS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES**

With Tibet's two wetlands, China's State Council has recently announced 17 new national reserves. The two wetlands on the list are the Maidika marsh and Lake Manasarovar. These wetlands protect biodiversity and wildlife of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, south western China like black necked crane (*Grus nigricolis*), Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*).

**Apr 3**

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

### **TIBET'S STEPS TO ERADICATE POVERTY**

Tibet, south western China, has been facing poverty due to its harsh natural condition. But it has become successful to lift 1,705 villages (150,000 people) out of poverty last year where a total of 2.6 billion USD was invested to upgrade locals' income, relocate and support the development of over 1,700 anti- poverty projects in the region.

**Apr 8**

<https://bit.ly/2J6aRDp>

## MULES AND HORSES USED FOR TRANSPORTATION

About 50 horses (*Equus caballus*) and mules (*Equus* spp.) and porters are being involved as a carrier of sand, cement and stone chips making two trips a day in Samdruojongkhar, south eastern Bhutan, for the construction of 132KB transmission line. Due to difficult terrain, the animals and people are being used for transportation of construction materials.

**Apr 2**

<https://bit.ly/2HLWy7l>

## INTEGRATED FARMING FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Integrated Agriculture Technology Farming (IATF) which was introduced four years ago at Wangsisina, westcentral Bhutan to address the shortage of home grown vegetables and fruits with the help of organized planning and management of agriculture development has now been spread over 11.34 ha of government land and incorporate use of appropriate farm technologies. The administration also plans to introduce fishery, vermin compost technique and improved strawberry (*Fragaria* spp) cultivation this year.

**Apr 3**

<https://bit.ly/2HeoUX0>

## DAMAGES BY WINDSTORM

Wind storm that occurred on the night of April 1 has blown off the roofs of five houses in Tsamang, eastern Bhutan. Further assessments about total damages are being done by District Disaster Management Team and Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan (RICBL) officials.

**Apr 3**

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

## FIRE AT BAJO TOWN

With the help of volunteers who had been fighting fire since April 3, the fire that broke out above Bajo town, central Bhutan, came under control on April 4 as per an official of the Department of Disaster Management (DDM). The fire has damaged about 526 ha of forest and has a chance of restarting due to wind.

**Apr 5**

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

## CHILIES HIT THE MARKET OF NICHULA

To study the potential of growing winter chillies (*Capsicum* spp) in Nichula, southern Bhutan, the Department of Agriculture has launched a three-year project by providing materials and seeds to farmers in the southern belt. The farmers were very happy with the good production and demanded for suitable market in places where the demand is more.

**Apr 6**

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

## NATURE BASED PRODUCTS LAUNCHED IN THIMPU

Nine nature based products including anti-wrinkle cream, balm, liniment oil, massage oil, perfume, soaps, and hand sanitiser developed from herbs such as Bengal ginger (*Zingiber cassumunar*), Indian gooseberry (*Phyllanthus emblic*), Dwarf Rhododendron (*Rhododendron anthopogon*) and Soap berry (*Sapindus rarak*) were launched in Thimpu, capital of Bhutan on 6<sup>th</sup> April.. The key objective to launch such products was to support sustainable rural livelihoods and to contribute to conservation of biodiversity of the country.

**Apr 6**

<https://bit.ly/2Hg2t3C>

### **LACK OF MARKET FOR MILK**

Excess milk production in Samdrupjongkhar, south eastern Bhutan, has led to the export of milk to the border of Assam, north eastern India due to lack of domestic demand. To address the issue, the District Livestock Sector is in the process of installing a milk processing plant which can process all forms of dairy products like cheese, butter, yoghurt, ice-cream and bottled pasteurized milk in the country itself

**Apr 7**

<https://bit.ly/2H8qtd4>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **EPA DIRECTED TO CHECK POLLUTION**

Due to the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, the citizens have been passing through difficulties for the last five months due to increased air pollution level. For this reason, the Peshawar High Court (PHC), northern Pakistan on Tuesday has directed the director general of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to check pollution twice a day. Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) was also directed to sprinkle water on roads three to six times a day to decrease pollution level.

**Apr 4**

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

### **DIGITALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

The Telenor Pakistan and Inbox Business Technologies jointly have developed the applications including Crop Calculator, Subsidy, Farm Supplies, and Mandi to digitalize the agricultural sector and increase crop yields as a part of Connected Agriculture Platform Punjab (CAPP) project launched in 2017. According to one of the staff of Telenor, the company has been making positive impacts on Pakistan's agricultural sector as it is the backbone for the country's economy.

**Apr 4**

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

### **INITIATION OF BILLION TREE TSUNAMI PROJECT**

The Billion Tree Tsunami Project has been initiated by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. A team of officers has been constituted to conduct investigation into suspected misappropriation of funds in the project.

**Apr 6**

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