

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 543<sup>rd</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 43 news from 19 sources and selected 36 happenings from five countries. Fishing net use is proving fatal for gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) in Chitwan National Park (CNP), central Nepal. Air filters have been installed in Kathmandu valley, central Nepal to control air pollution. The ward office of a municipality at Khotang, eastern Nepal, has declared Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) as the Ward bird. Endangered species of python was spotted in a river in Jhapa, eastern Nepal. Power supply was disrupted in Bhangal, Himachal Pradesh, northern India as a result of heavy snowfall. Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, central China experienced a snowstorm for several days resulting in great loss of livestock, wild animals and human asset. Dredging of two rivers and three streams to check flooding has been started in Sarpang, southern Bhutan. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government in northern Pakistan has planned to use dam reservoirs for breeding and stocking of fish.

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## NEPAL

*Fishing net use proving fatal for gharial*  
*Leopard found dead in Doti*  
*Air filters installed in the valley*  
*Samples of dead rhinos for test*  
*Eurasian Owl declared as ward bird*  
*Struggle for the management of stray cattle*  
*Workshop held on clean kitchen programme*  
*Need of scientific forest management in Myagdi*  
*Zoological parks construction within this fiscal year*  
*Locals troubled by tiger attacks*  
*Cleaning campaign conducted by students*  
*Endangered species of python spotted*  
*Trees in the middle of the road*  
*Tiger spotted dead in Chitwan*  
*Bagmati clean-up campaign in full swing*  
*Death of cows on rise*  
*Hailstorm affects terai*  
*Lightning injures people*  
*Human encroachment causes loss of birds*  
*Procedure developed for clean environment*  
*Rearing and selling of wildlife allowed*  
*Heavy snowfall affecting normal life*

## INDIA

*Avalanches hit northern India*  
*Power supply disrupted in Bhangal*  
*Dreadful effects of heavy snowfall in Kashmir*  
*Road accidents due to poor visibility*  
*Threats of illegal mining in Palampur*  
*Cleaning programme brings no change in Palampur*  
*Paintings across the streets and parks in Bareilly*

	<i>Uttar Pradesh got fined for pollution</i>
<b>CHINA</b>	<i>Relief reaches for Tibetan prefecture</i>
<b>BHUTAN</b>	<i>Dredging of rivers in Bhutan</i> <i>Forest fire in Punakha contained</i> <i>Tagging of black necked cranes</i> <i>Bhutan experiences coldest winter ever</i>
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<i>Fish farm in dam reservoirs</i>

## Nepal-Himalaya

### FISHING NET USE PROVING FATAL FOR GHARIAL

Various fishing nets placed in rivers caused the death of endangered gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) in Chitwan National Park (CNP), central Nepal. Last month, half a dozen gharials got trapped in fishing nets and three of them were found to be dead. The assistant conservation officer at CNP mentioned river pollution and lack of public concern as other factors affecting gharial conservation and leading them towards extinction.

**Feb 4**

<https://bit.ly/2S4d5HC>

### LEOPARD FOUND DEAD IN DOTI

A three years old leopard (*Panthera pardus*) was found dead with bullet wounds in Bramandi community forest of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Doti, far-western Nepal. It has been suspected that the smugglers killed the leopard for its valuable body parts.

**Feb 4**

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

### AIR FILTERS INSTALLED IN THE VALLEY

Air pollution has posed a substantial threat to human health in the Kathmandu valley, central Nepal. In order to reduce the risks of air pollution, some youths have installed air filters in the valley that absorbs fine pollutants up to the size of two and half micron in width (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The level of pollution measured in two sites using five machines indicated high concentration of pollutants in the air.

**Feb 4**

<https://bit.ly/2EfAZw4>

### SAMPLES OF DEAD RHINOS FOR TEST

Preparation is going on to send the samples of dead rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) abroad for tests to determine the cause of increasing unnatural deaths of one-horned rhino in Chitwan National Park (CNP), central Nepal and nearby areas. According to information officer of CNP, seven rhinos have been found dead last month and the rhinos of age group 15-25 were found to have died due to unnatural reasons. The average life span of a rhino is 60 years.

**Feb 4**

<https://bit.ly/2X75ZGc>

### **EURASIAN OWL DECLARED AS WARD BIRD**

The ward office of Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadi Municipality-12, Khotang, eastern Nepal, has declared Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) as the Ward bird on the occasion of "Owl Festival" in Jalapa, Khotang. As per the ward official, monitoring, research and conservation activities of owls (Strigiformes), butterflies (Rhopalocera), mammals (Mammalia), amphibians (Amphibia), plants (Plantae) and other wildlife have been planned.

**Feb 5**

<https://bit.ly/2liz0eA>

### **STRUGGLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF STRAY CATTLE**

In Ghodaghodi Municipality, Kailali, far-western Nepal, in order to implement the stray cattle management plan, a shed for stray cattle was constructed in a national forest at the base of Chure range. Around 2000 cattle were collected for which three more sheds were constructed and 19 shepherds were hired. However, the shepherds were not able to take care of all the cattle and there is a sharp decline in the number of cattle in these sheds.

**Feb 5**

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

### **WORKSHOP HELD ON CLEAN KITCHEN PROGRAMME**

In a workshop held by Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) in Lalitpur, central Nepal, participants shared information that 66% of the population use firewood for cooking and more than 22,000 people suffer from various diseases induced by kitchen smoke annually. The participants stressed the need to change behaviour and mentality of people to construct a clean and healthy kitchen.

**Feb 6**

<https://bit.ly/2DKdB8C>

### **NEED OF SCIENTIFIC FOREST MANAGEMENT IN MYAGDI**

Division Forest Office, Myagdi, western Nepal has assessed the need of scientific management practices in the community forests in order to achieve sustainable management of forest, employment and income generation. Scientific forest management first started in Kapilvastu, western Nepal and is known to be very effective in various districts of Terai and Hilly region.

**Feb 6**

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

### **ZOOLOGICAL PARKS CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THIS FISCAL YEAR**

Ministry of Forest and Environment has launched activities to construct zoological parks in three provinces within this fiscal year. According to the Minister of Forest and Environment, the detailed project report (DPR) is being prepared for the construction of zoological park in Suryabinayak, Bhaktapur, central Nepal. The park is under construction at Tanahu, western Nepal and the park has already been constructed at Pokhara, western Nepal.

**Feb 7**

<https://bit.ly/2N7EFD5>

### **LOCALS TROUBLED BY TIGER ATTACKS**

In Badhaiya tal Rural Municipality-2, Banke, mid-western Nepal, a Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*) entered into settlement area and attacked two persons. Later on, they were rescued by locals and police. However, one of them died while undergoing treatment in a hospital. Although security personnel from Nepal Police and Armed Police Force have been deployed in that place, locals are having sleepless nights full of fear after that attack.

**Feb 7**

<https://bit.ly/2DWDP87>

### **CLEANING CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY STUDENTS**

An organization involved in the management of solid waste has mobilized the students of three colleges in Kathmandu, central Nepal to collect wastes in Jorpati area of the city. The campaign was launched to raise awareness of their parents about proper disposal of wastes.

**Feb 7**

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

### ENDANGERED SPECIES OF PYTHON SPOTTED

In a municipality in Jhapa, eastern Nepal, an endangered species of python (Pythonidae) weighing 0.009 tons and measuring a length of 6 feet has been spotted in a river. According to the Chief of Division Forest Office, the python was observed by locals while fishing. The python was then rescued and handed over to Police.

**Feb 8**

<https://bit.ly/2TTVHH8>

### TREES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city office, Nepal, started construction of road without cutting trees lying at the middle of road. Under the Urban Development Program, the construction of 92 km long road with 300 trees lying in the middle of the road is in progress, which has increased the risk of accident. According to locals, the contractors started the construction of the road without managing the trees in haste in order to have the payment as soon as possible.

**Feb 8**

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

### TIGER SPOTTED DEAD IN CHITWAN

According to the Chief protection officer of Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, a 13-year-old male tiger has been found dead with severe injuries all over its body in Jarneli ghaton, the bank of Rapti River in CNP. The death of the tiger is suspected to have occurred by the attack of another tiger in the park. This is known to be the second incident of tiger death after the last census of 2018 which revealed a total number of 98 tigers in the park

**Feb 9**

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

### BAGMATI CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

Bagmati clean-up campaign has completed its 300 weeks. In this duration, the campaign was able to collect 18,000 metric tons of waste. With the help of more than 1,850 organizations and 10,000,00 volunteers, the cleaning campaign of Bagmati is going on.

**Feb 9**

<https://bit.ly/2GsOv1L>

### DEATH OF COWS ON RISE

Cows (*Bos taurus*) are considered as God by Hindus but many cows have been freezing to death in Birta, Banke, mid-western Nepal. Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city had constructed a cowshed for the protection of cows but many cows have been dying there regularly because of cold weather and low availability of food. Locals said that 16 cows have died there till now.

**Feb 9**

<https://bit.ly/2S7wur6>

### HAILSTORM AFFECTS TERAI

In Rautahat, central Nepal, hailstorm for two consecutive days has caused a huge loss to brick kilns. The locals suffered more because the government didn't pay attention to the request of locals for Brick industry's insurance. In the same way, hailstorm has caused a serious problem to locals by damaging all crops in Bardia, mid-western Nepal. The westerly wind has been blamed for the hailstorm that has severely damaged the crops of mustard (*Brassica sp.*), potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and lentils (*Lens culineris*).

**Feb 9**

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

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

### **LIGHTNING INJURES PEOPLE**

Two locals have died and three have been injured by lightning strikes at Syauliwang Kharkhola in Naubahini Rural Municipality-1, Pyuthan, mid-western Nepal. Many livestock were also affected after being struck from the lightning. Similarly, in Dadeldhura district, far-western Nepal, two locals have died and four have been severely injured in different incidents of lightning strikes.

**Feb 9**

<https://bit.ly/2BF5kmh>

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

### **HUMAN ENCROACHMENT CAUSES LOSS OF BIRDS**

In Triyoga River, Gaighat, eastern Nepal, human activities upon wetlands of around 500 ha have resulted in a loss of bird's habitat and prey and a sharp decline in the number of birds inhabiting the area. The river has served as home to various bird species including egret (*Ardeidae*), crane (*Gruidae*), duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and jungle fowl (*Gallus*) and also migratory birds from Europe and Siberia.

**Feb 10**

<https://bit.ly/2tyG4cZ>

### **PROCEDURE DEVELOPED FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT**

A model procedure for cleaning public places and rivers to keep the villages and cities clean has been developed by the government in association with civil society, social campaigners and locals. This procedure has entered into effect from the date of approval by the responsible Municipal Executive or the Village Executive. It also aims to maintain ecological balance, protect biodiversity, control pollution and increase local and eco-tourism.

**Feb 10**

<https://bit.ly/2EfzL1>

### **REARING AND SELLING OF WILDLIFE ALLOWED**

The government has come up with the policy that allows the rearing, breeding, selling and international trade of wildlife. The policy called Forest Policy, 2075 was made by Ministry of Forests and Environment. The policy has been approved by the Council of Ministers. The policy will be implemented through the formation of relevant rules, regulations and guidelines.

**Feb 10**

<https://bit.ly/2X4WYNG>

### **HEAVY SNOWFALL AFFECTING NORMAL LIFE**

Several mountain and hill districts experienced heavy snowfall as the whole country experienced rainfall on Saturday. Air services have been disrupted by snow in various mountain districts such as Mugu, Dolpa, Mustang and Humla and transportation services have blocked in high-altitude areas which deeply affected the life in the region. Western region experienced heavier snowfall and rainfall than the eastern region.

**Feb 10**

<https://bit.ly/2S85NCw>

### AVALANCHES HIT NORTHERN INDIA

The Avalanches at Dalang in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, northern India has damaged an Army transit camp structure. The bridge connecting the three villages of Muring Panchayat in Lahaul-Spiti has also been damaged by the avalanche. Also, the avalanche in a police post in Kulgam, Srinagar-Jammu National highway, Jammu and Kashmir, northern India buried 8 policemen and 2 prisoners.

**Feb 4 & 9**

<https://bit.ly/2GtNJI1>

<https://bit.ly/2SV8L1N>

### POWER SUPPLY DISRUPTED IN BHANGAL

The Chota Bhangal, Himachal Pradesh, northern India experienced the power cut-off for third day on Monday, likely caused by heavy snowfall between Multhan and KothiKohar. Roads leading to the valley are covered under 2-3 feet snow having no access to power and drinking water for 72 hours.

**Feb 4**

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

### DREADFUL EFFECTS OF HEAVY SNOWFALL IN KASHMIR

Due to continuous snowfall and rainfall, the Kashmir valley, northern India has faced frequent blockage that disrupted the traffic movement on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway and power cut-off. The disruption of traffic movement resulted in shortage of essentials and other commodities which increased the demand for haggard dry fish, a savoury winter delicacy of Kashmir. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was opened on Monday after remaining shut for four days.

**Feb 4, 5 & 7**

<https://bit.ly/2DM919O>

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

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

### ROAD ACCIDENTS DUE TO POOR VISIBILITY

Uttarakhand, northern India, encountered two road accidents in separate location of Bareilly and Lakhim purkheri. The visibility has dropped due to the dense fog leading to the accident. Blinded by the dense fog, the bus driver crashed onto the autorickshaw and killed its 35 years old driver and 4 passengers were seriously injured. In the other accident, the school bus had crashed on the road as it lost control due to dense fog.

**Feb 5**

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

### THREATS OF ILLEGAL MINING IN PALAMPUR

Mining in Beas and its tributaries in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, northern India has resulted to the huge loss of treasure of the state. The level of the river has deepened by 10-15 feet which has the high probability of flash flood in rainy season. Besides, illegal mining has threatened dozens of water supply schemes, transmission lines, and private and government buildings.

**Feb 5**

<https://bit.ly/2DH9UjO>

### CLEANING PROGRAMME BRINGS NO CHANGE IN PALAMPUR

There has been no way of any improvement of waste management in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, northern India. The second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission has considerably failed due to the lack of management for the treatment and disposal of garbage which resulted in the water channel and forest turning into dumping sites.

**Feb 6**

<https://bit.ly/2SFZ0p7>

### **PAINTINGS ACROSS THE STREETS AND PARKS IN BAREILLY**

The Municipal Corporation of Bareilly, northern India has been painting the walls and streets in public places to raise the awareness on cleanliness and to motivate people to keep their surrounding clean. The paintings include the picture depicting social message and clean environment. It is a part of Swachh Bharat Mission and is expected to be completed by the end of February.

**Feb 9**

<https://bit.ly/2lgBH08>

### **UTTAR PRADESH GOT FINED FOR POLLUTION**

Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPCB), northern India was found liable of the pollution of the river and environment of the state and was asked for the charge of USD 351,304 by National Green Tribunal (NGT). During an investigation, many industries were found to be ignorant on disposal of their wastes.

**Feb 9**

<https://bit.ly/2X3Zxj4>

## **China Himalaya**

### **RELIEF REACHES FOR TIBETAN PREFECTURE**

Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, central China experienced a snowstorm for several days resulting great loss of livestock, wild animals and human asset. The roads have been buried under snow as deep as 0.45 m. The relief has been sent including vet, medicine and fodder.

**Feb 9**

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

## **Bhutan-Himalaya**

### **DREDGING OF RIVERS IN BHUTAN**

Sarpang, southern Bhutan is in the process of dredging two rivers and three streams under the leadership of Tshogdu district and contract with the Natural Resource Development Corporation Ltd (NRDCL). The sole purpose of the dredging is to avoid the stream water from flooding.

**Feb 4**

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

### **FOREST FIRE IN PUNAKHA CONTAINED**

A forest fire that started near a school in Punakha, western Bhutan was contained by 150 firefighters, forest officials and locals. The fire had started on midnight January 30 and razed over 28 ha. of area. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

**Feb 2 & 4**

<https://bit.ly/2Eg3NEN>

<https://bit.ly/2SagFA2>

### **TAGGING OF BLACK NECKED CRANES**

A team of German experts held a project on research and conservation of black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) in Phobjhika valley, central Bhutan. The team setup trap and caught birds and tagged them within 8 days of project. In the same way, Boomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) tagged three black-necked cranes last month to study their migratory routes, dietary habitats and identify potential threats in Trashi Yangtse district, eastern Bhutan. The data are considered to be important for the conservation of the species.

**Feb 4 & 9**

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

<https://bit.ly/2TU4LMj>

### **BHUTAN EXPERIENCES COLDEST WINTER EVER**

This winter, the temperature as dropped down by 2-4°C than normal temperature across the country, expected to be the coldest winter ever recorded. Expert assumed that the end of the winter in Bhutan will experience partly or mostly cloudy weather, probability of snowfall.

**Feb 5**

<https://bit.ly/2S953x4>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **FISH FARM IN DAM RESERVOIRS**

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government in northern Pakistan has planned to farm various types of fishes in dam reservoirs for breeding and stocking. With about 6100 km of rivers and streams, 6400 ha of natural lakes and 54,600 ha of dam reservoirs, the province offers immense opportunities for fish farming.

**Feb 4**

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