

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 549<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 33 news from 15 sources and 25 selected happenings from five countries.

The government has proposed to create a multi-stakeholder institutional structure to mobilize the funds in climate change. Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan, south-central Nepal has been declared mercury free city. Kathmandu Metropolitan City, central Nepal has installed 60 'smart' dustbins around the metropolis. Air pollution has exceeded the permissible limit in Jammu and Srinagar, northern India. A research team is drilling into glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to solve the climate change mystery. A forest fire has damaged more than 607.029 ha of community forest in Udzorong, Trashigang, Bhutan including 6,000 saplings. Rawalpindi Wildlife Department of Pakistan has launched a crackdown against poaching of protected species.

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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### MOBILIZATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDS

The government has proposed to create a multi-stakeholder institutional structure to mobilize the funds in climate change. Ministry of Forests and Environment has started collecting the views of the concerned stakeholders on the climate change policy draft. Nepal has already become a signatory nation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mar 18**

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

### MINOR EARTHQUAKES RECORDED

An earthquake of 4.1 Richter scale has been measured in Kathmandu, central Nepal at around 9 am with its epicenter at Chitlang, Makwanpur, central Nepal. According to National Seismological Centre it was an aftershock of great Gorkha Earthquake and since then over 514 tremors had been struck above 4 magnitude making epicenter at western Nepal. Meanwhile, earthquakes of 3.8 and 3 Richter scale intensity has been measured in Baitadi and Darchula, western Nepal next day at 6:28 pm and 7:42 pm respectively.

**Mar 18 & 19**

<https://bit.ly/2Ub3Evb>

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

<https://bit.ly/2CD9mMe>

### BIRD FLU OUTBREAKS IN CENTRAL NEPAL

After detection of Bird flu in Kathmandu, central Nepal, about 28,000 hens have been slaughtered in two poultry farms of Tarkeshwor Municipality-7 and furthermore, the disinfectant has being sprayed in the affected poultry farms. 123,034 hens have been slaughtered in Kathmandu and Makwanpur district, central Nepal after bird flu, also known as H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>1</sub> influenza virus was detected.

**Mar 18 & 19**

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

<https://bit.ly/2HIG7vS>

### MERCURY FREE METROPOLITAN BHARATPUR

Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan, south-central Nepal has been declared mercury free city after stopping use of products containing mercury in dental clinics and other health facilities of the city. The campaign for mercury free city was initiated by Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED). Mercury is a hazardous substance that cannot be eliminated from the body and may amplify the genetic damage of the offspring. Mercury can damage the heart and kidney as well as neuro, reproductive, digestive and respiratory system of a human body. The dental hospitals and clinics have switched to digital thermometers and android blood pressure monitors from mercury based devices.

**Mar 19 & 20**

<https://bit.ly/2TW9rFs>

<https://bit.ly/2UT96zT>

### **YAKS DIE IN AVALANCHE**

Seventeen Yaks (*Bus grunniens*) have died in severe avalanche in Shorunga, Karmaronga Rural Municipality-6, of Mugu district in mid-western Nepal with a loss of worth NPR 1,360,000. The yaks were caught in avalanche while grazing in the pasture. According to the owner, Himali Project had supported him to rear the yaks.

**Mar 20**

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

### **THREE PEOPLE INJURED BY LIGHTNING**

Lightning strikes 3 people including 2 young boys in Chanaute, Marin Rural Municipality-3, Sindhuli, central Nepal. They have suffered from head and legs injuries and are receiving treatment in local primary health center.

**Mar 20**

<https://bit.ly/2FHy8Mb>

### **SOLAR-POWERED 'SMART' DUSTBINS IN KATHMANDU**

Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Kathmandu, central Nepal has installed 60 'smart' dustbins worth NPR 600,000 each around the metropolis. However, the KMC officials have admitted that the number of installed dustbins were insufficient for waste collection in a city that produces 500 tons of waste every day. The smart dustbins have mobile phone charging slots and display temperature and air pollution level.

**Mar 21**

<https://bit.ly/2UhS0OU>

### **RELIEF AID PROVIDED FOR WILD FOREST FIRE**

Khotang Natural Disaster Relief Aid has provided aid NPR 5,000 each for 4 families to fire victims of Rawabesi Rural-5 Municipality, Khotang district of eastern Nepal. The houses were turned into ashes after spread out of the fire that originated at nearby community forest.

**Mar 21**

<https://bit.ly/2Uhlz3a>

### **DRINKING WATER PROJECT IN WESTERN NEPAL**

Drinking Water Project has been started by the state government costing of around NPR 80,000,000 in Madhyabindu Municipality-13, Kawasoti, Nawalpur district of western Nepal. The people have been facing the shortage of drinking water at present. About 500 households are expected to be benefitted.

**Mar 21**

<https://bit.ly/2JJ9jEz>

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

### **INEQUALITY IN ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER**

A report has suggested that more than 13% of the population is deprived of minimum drinking water facility in Nepal. Experts say that many marginalised groups, especially women, children, indigenous people, disabled people and others lacked drinking water facility.

**Mar 22**

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

### SNOW LEOPARD KILLS CATTLES IN DOLPA

10 cattles including 4 goats (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) and 6 sheep (*Ovisaries*) have been killed by snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) in Thuli Bheri Municipality-2, Dolpa, mid-western Nepal in the shed. The officer said that this was the first attack by a snow leopard in this fiscal year. According to the Division Forest Office, process is underway to provide compensation to the victim.

**Mar 23**

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

### RHINO FOUND DEAD IN SEPTIC TANK

A female rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), was found dead due to suffocation in septic tank of a hotel of Jagatpur, Bharatpur Metropolitan City-23, Chitwan, central Nepal. The hotel is adjacent to CNP and the cover of the tank was easily breakable. It was the same rhino which was rescued from Susta around 6 months back.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2Ovv0Xt>

<https://bit.ly/2Frhf88>

### RELIEF AID PROVIDED BY LANGTANG NP

On the occasion of 43<sup>rd</sup> year of its establishment, Langtang National Park, Rasuwa, central Nepal has provided relief aid of NPR 10,000 to 10 people for crop damages caused by wildlife. Earlier the park had provided relief aid to 21 people as a compensation for wildlife damages. The people mostly complained about the wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) causing damage to their crops. According to the chief conservation officer of the park, the compensation was provided as per the wildlife damage relief guideline 2069.

**Mar 24**

<https://bit.ly/2FD2foQ>

## India-Himalaya

### VILLAGERS REFUSE REOPENING OF GARBAGE PLANT

Dumping of municipal waste has become a major problem in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, Northern India. There were no places to dump the garbage since the garbage treatment plant of the Municipal Council, Palampur was locked by the residents of Lohana and Bundla villages two years ago blaming it for being a "health hazard" and demanded that unless a new treatment plant with the latest technology is not installed for the scientific handling of garbage they won't allow the dumping of the garbage in their villages.

**Mar 18**

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

### FLORICULTURE IN HIMACHAL PRDESH

In Himachal Pradesh, Northern India, floriculture is to get boost as Dr YS Parmar University and Forestry's research station has been designated as the 'lead centre of dahlia (*Dahlia*) testing' in the country. Over 50 cultivars of dahlia of different shapes, colours, sizes and categories were introduced at the station from nurseries and departments from Uttarakhand and adjoining areas.

**Mar 20**

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

### **CONTINUOUS RAINFALL AND SNOW IN SRINAGAR**

Due to continuous rainfall and snowfall there was sharp decrease in day temperature in Srinagar, Jammu-Kashmir, Northern India. A mix of rain and snow lashed the region causing water logging and exposing the defunct of drainage system. Most of the interior roads in Downtown were water-logged giving a tough time to the residents.

**Mar 21**

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

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

<https://bit.ly/2V41Ilv>

### **AIR QUALITY WORSENS IN JAMMU, SRINAGAR**

Air pollution has exceeded the permissible limit in Jammu and Srinagar, Northern India because of unplanned urbanization and uncontrolled vehicular growth on the roads. Both the cities have breached the established air quality norms about five years ago with suspended particulate matter and respiratory suspended particulate matter crossing the threshold levels. The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) is now imposing a ban on the use of firewood and coal by restaurants and dhabas (eateries).

**Mar 22**

<https://bit.ly/2HH5b6r>

### **WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN GUWAHATI**

An official in the Guwahati Metropolitan Drinking Water and Sewerage Board said around 150 connections have been given in the Pandu area and some 70 in the Happy Valley area of Uzanbazar. The official said around 70 per cent pipe laying works have been completed. Water will be stored in 23 service reservoirs and distributed through a network of about 2,000 km long pipes, providing more than 2 lakh house connections. The three projects together aim to cover the entire estimated population with the supply of 135 litres per capita per day (LPCD) of water in the year 2025.

**Mar 23**

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

### **WASTE SEGREGATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

In Himachal Pradesh, Northern India, all 54 urban local bodies have been directed to start 100 % segregation of waste from April 1 as per directives of the National Green Tribunal. In workshop, the Chief Secretary said that the situation isn't satisfactory even three years after the notification of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. So, three major cities, towns and at least three panchayats in every district might be notified on the website within two weeks as model cities/towns/villages which would be made fully compliant within six months and the remaining places might be made fully compliant in respect of environmental norms within one year.

**Mar 23**

<https://bit.ly/2uu9wB9>

### **LANDSLIDE HITS A TRUCK**

In Jammu-Kashmir, Northern India, two persons were killed when a landslide hit a truck on the Thathri-Kilotran road in the Piyakul area of Doda district in Saturday. Locals and police reached the spot immediately after getting the information about the incident then extricated the bodies of truck driver and conductor from the truck.

**Mar 24**

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

## China Himalaya

### RESEARCH ON GLACIERS ON THE QINGHAI-TIBET PLATEAU

The Director of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research has led researchers to drill into glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to collect information embedded in the ice core that help them solve the climate change mystery. The climate on the plateau is becoming warmer and more humid i.e. temperature rise is twice the global average. One of the discoveries was that glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and neighboring regions have shrunk by 15 percent in the past half century. China is investing big and promoting international cooperation in the scientific research of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which is key to the world's ecological environmental protection.

**Mar 22**

<https://bit.ly/2JG0Y16>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### FOREST FIRE IN UDZORONG

A forest fire has damaged more than 607.029 ha of community forest in Udzorong, Trashigang, Bhutan including 6,000 saplings. More than 60 people were involved in containing the forest fire.

**Mar 20**

<https://bit.ly/2Wq4mC3>

### ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY ROAD IN BHUTAN

In Bhutan a move towards building environment-friendly roads, a new road building technique for the 21st century is advancing. The 150 meters stretch of road in Olakha in Thimphu was first road in the country where plastic wastes were used for paving roads and since 2015, the Green Road has blacktopped roads in more than four districts, using plastic wastes segregated from the landfill across the country.

**Mar 21**

<https://bit.ly/2JSqy6m>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT RECOVERS PROTECTED ANIMALS

Rawalpindi Wildlife Department has launched a crackdown against poaching of protected species in order to curb illegal hunting of birds and animals in Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan. A team led by Wildlife District Officer raided a bird market and recovered animals of different species. Two suspects were detained and later sentenced for 15 days in jail.

**Mar 20**

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

### **PLANTATION AND CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN RAWALPINDI**

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board kicked off a plantation and cleanliness drive that aim to plant as many as 15,000 trees in Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan. In this regard, the business community within the cantonment announced prizes for the best-performing sanitary workers during the campaign. Participants along with Cantonment Assistant Secretary and Engineer walked from Rumi Park to Mall Road to raise awareness about planting trees and they distributed pamphlets amongst locals and motorists along their route.

**Mar 20**

<https://bit.ly/2HR7D9E>