

Headlines Himalaya

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No. 555

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For the 555th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 13 news from 7 sources and 13 selected happenings from five countries.

The collection of Yarsha has been degrading the environment as the local throw the garbages and waste to the collection area. New species of lizard has recently been found hibernating in the Kamdi Biological Corridor. Five people were arrested with the skin of leopard. Department of Roads is using camera traps in order to identify the locations to construct wildlife underground passages along the Narayangadh-Butwal road section has spoiled the beauty of river. The State health department of Assam has involved in drafting a state policy in order to create awareness about the impacts of climate change on human health. A fossil found on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau is suspected to be of ancient Denisovans who belong to the hominin group. The 37 spotted baby seals were released into the sea in the coastal city of Dalian in northeast China after confirming that they were fully recovered and are healthy enough to survive in natural habitats. Heavy rainfall following a flash flood on April 29 in Lhuentse, the northeastern part of Bhutan caused a huge damage on infrastructures and area covered with debris. The white fluff of poplar trees in Abbottabad District of northwestern Pakistan has led the life to miserable causing severe stress and respiratory problems to the people.

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

*YARSHA COLLECTION DEGRADE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT
NEW GECKO SPECIES FOUND
POACHERS ARRESTED WITH LEOPARD SKIN
WILDLIFE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE
POLLUTION AFFECTS TRISHULI RIVER
TRAINING ON CONSERVATION OF RED PANDA
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ALL POACHED SEALS RELEASED INTO NATURAL HABITAT*

BHUTAN

DAMAGED PROPERTIES IN LHUENTSE DUE TO PERSISTENT RAINFALL

PAKISTAN

POPLAR TREE CAUSING RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

YARSHA COLLECTION DEGRADE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Thousands of people have been involving in Yarsha collection every year in East Rukum District of north western Nepal and they throw plastics and bottles haphazardly while collecting it resulting the decline of its production. People in the area used to collect over 100 kg every year in the past, but it has declined to 55 kg this year. The lack of conservation efforts, soil erosion in the mountain along with wastes by yarshagumba collectors has also degraded the beauty of pristine lake including Shey Phoksundo lake in Dolpa District in north western Nepal.

Apr 29

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

NEW GECKO SPECIES FOUND

New species of lizard (*Eublepharis macularius*) has recently been found hibernating in the Kamdi Biological Corridor that connects Banke National Park in western Nepal to Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, India. This species becomes the 11th gecko species found in Nepal.

May 2

<https://bit.ly/2M7SdBl>

POACHERS ARRESTED WITH LEOPARD SKIN

Five people were arrested with the skin of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) along with an item similar to bear's (*Ursidae*) gall bladder in Suryabinayak, Bhaktapur of central Nepal. Nepal police are investigating further in this case.

May 2

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

WILDLIFE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE

Department of Roads is using camera traps in order to identify the locations to construct wildlife underground passages along the Narayangadh-Butwal road section during its expansion. Study will identify the number of such subways, size and the locations.

May 4

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

POLLUTION AFFECTS TRISHULI RIVER

The trashes from Trishuli market and unregulated excavation from the Trishuli River in Central Nepal has spoiled the beauty of river and also affected the rafting activities in the river. Trishuli River is one of the most popular spot for rafting in Nepal.

May 5

<https://bit.ly/2M6ARoy>

TRAINING ON CONSERVATION OF RED PANDA

The elected representatives of Dolpa District of north western Nepal received training on conservation of red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) from a local NGO - Mahila Dalit Jati Uthan Manch - with the technical and financial assistance from the Red Panda Network (RPN), Kathmandu. The training aimed to educate local representatives about conservation of red panda and its habitat..

May 9

<https://bit.ly/2HAf0le>

COMPLICATIONS IN HATCHING OF EGGS OF WHITE RUMPED VULTURES

The eggs of critically endangered white-rumped vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*) had failed to hatch in this year in Chitwan National Park of central Nepal. The study has been started to investigate the reason for this case.

May 10

<https://bit.ly/2X55bB5>

India-Himalaya

POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON HEALTH

The State health department of Assam has involved in drafting a state policy in order to create awareness about the impacts of climate change on human health. The department aims to work in 5 selected hospitals in the state and create a database on diseases that are sensitive to climate change.

May 10

<https://bit.ly/30vIQPj>

China Himalaya

DISCOVERY OF TRACES OF DENISOVANS IN TIBETAN PLATEAU

A fossil found on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau is suspected to be of ancient Denisovans who belong to the hominin group. The mandible was found in the north-eastern part of the plateau and is estimated to be at least 160,000 years old. The Denisovan cave of Siberia, Russia is only other site where Denisovan fossils was found in the past.

May 2

<https://bit.ly/2M7TTLw>

STUDY OF TIBETAN PLATEAU FOR WEATHER EFFECT

Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences has started to study the weather effect of Qinghai-Tibetan plateau on downstream regions through modelling observation data and satellite images. This southwestern plateau has a huge role in influencing extreme weathers including drought and flood in China.

May 9

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

ALL POACHED SEALS RELEASED INTO NATURAL HABITAT

The 37 spotted baby seals (*Pinnipedia*) were released into the sea in the coastal city of Dalian in northeast China after confirming that they were fully recovered and are healthy enough to survive in natural habitats. A total of 100 were poached in February 2019 and of which 39 were died and remaining 24 were also released into the sea earlier in April 2019.

May 10

<https://bit.ly/2EqCV4r>

Bhutan-Himalaya

DAMAGED PROPERTIES IN LHUENTSE DUE TO PERSISTENT RAINFALL

Heavy rainfall following a flash flood on April 29 in Lhuentse, the northeastern part of Bhutan caused a huge damage on infrastructures and area covered with debris. Restoration works and claring the debris are ongoing with the help of local people.

May 2

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

Pakistan- Himalaya

POPLAR TREE CAUSING RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

The white fluff of poplar trees (family Salicaceae) in Abbottabad District of northwestern Pakistan has led the life to miserable causing severe stress and respiratory problems to the people. Abbottabad is considered as a popular tourism destination, and this fluff has an adverse effect in tourism industry in the region.

May 11

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