

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 382<sup>th</sup> issue, we reviewed 26 news reports from 11 sources and selected 24 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, the glacier has been shrunked and the lake needs protection in Dadeldhura district of far western Nepal. Farmers were waiting for the compensations in Uttarakhand of northern India. In Tibet, China there has been declined in illiteracy rate and the black necked crane arrived in Bhutan. There has been begun of hunting season in Gilgit-Balistan of northern 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!

<b>NEPAL</b>	<i>Lake Needs Protection</i> <i>Glaciers Shrunked</i> <i>Uncontrolled Deforestation</i> <i>Alternative Fuel Energy</i> <i>New Micro hydropower Illuminates Remote Village</i> <i>Export of Organic Tea</i> <i>Improved Water Mills Registered With UNFCCC</i> <i>Increase in River Dolphin Numbers</i> <i>Sugarcane Cultivation at Risk</i> <i>Decline in Paddy Production</i> <i>Shortage of Fuel and Feed Affects Poultry Industry</i> <i>Increase in Cardamom Production</i> <i>Smugglers Caught With Pangolin Scales</i>
<b>INDIA</b>	<i>Farmers Await Compensation</i> <i>Poor Rain Causes Water Shortage</i> <i>Unauthorized Fire</i> <i>Landslide on Chandigarh-Manali Highway</i> <i>Increased Vegetable Production</i>
<b>CHINA</b>	<i>Illiteracy Rate Decrease</i> <i>Pure Land Agricultural Industry</i>
<b>BHUTAN</b>	<i>Black Necked Cranes Arrive In Time for winter</i> <i>Hardwood Cultivation</i> <i>Cypress Cultivation Encouraged</i>
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<i>Hunting Season Begins In Gilgit-Balistan</i>

### LAKE NEEDS PROTECTION

Alital Lake awaits protection and promotion to develop itself as a tourist destination in Dadeldhura district of far western Nepal. Locals believe the lake which sits at an altitude of 800 meters from sea level could bring in valuable tourism revenue if concerned organization work on its conservation.

December 08

<http://radionepal.gov.np/radio-nepal/dadeldhura-lake-awaits-conservation-bids/>

### GLACIERS SHRINKED

Glaciers on Mount Everest have shrunk by 28 percent in 40 years due to climate change, revealed a report by Mount Qomolangma Snow Leopard Conservation Centre, Hunan University of Science and Technology and Chinese Academy of Sciences. This has resulted in enlargement of glacial lakes and higher river levels downstream. Chinese scientists said that Mount Everest has been getting hotter over the past 50 years and glaciers in the Hindu-Kush region may be down 70-99 percent in volume by 2100.

November 08

<http://leaderstandard.com/glaciers-in-mt-everest-shrink-28-in-40-yrs/>

### UNCONTROLLED DEFORESTATION

A huge number of trees are being cut and traded from the forests in the northern parts of Bara, Rautahat and Sarlahi of eastern Nepal. Deforestation for firewood collection has increased due to the ongoing shortage of cooking gas. The regular monitoring and patrolling of the forest areas have also been stopped. This uncontrolled deforestation possesses increased risk of landslide and soil erosion in the Chure range.

December 09

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/fuel-crisis-spurs-deforestation/>

### ALTERNATIVE FUEL ENERGY

The locals of 13 VDCs have started using environment-friendly improved stoves as an alternative to gas stoves in Tanahun district of western Nepal. The stoves constructed by using local resources are used by as many as 14,550 households of the district and it cost around NRs 800 to 1,000 per stove. The training to construct the stoves was provided by Department of Energy at District Development Committee and Rural Empowerment Society where as many as 20 women of the area participated.

November 09

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/gas-stoves-on-their-way-out/>

### NEW MICRO HYDROPOWER ILLUMINATES REMOTE VILLAGE

A newly constructed micro hydropower has started supplying electricity to the residents of remote Palenga Village of Rampur Municipality in Palpa, western Nepal. The hydropower project was constructed with cost of around NRs 4,000 which was collected from locals, concerned VDCs and municipality. A total of 21 households have been benefitted by this project.

December 09

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46822-Remote-Palenga-village-illuminate>

## EXPORT OF ORGANIC TEA

Kanchanjunga Organic Tea estate from Sankhejung-7, Ilam of eastern Nepal has exported 1,300 kilograms of readymade organic tea this year. According to the estate proprietor, they have exported tea worth NRS 2.6 million at NRS 2000 per kilogram to Taiwan, Japan and Russia.

December 10

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46834-1,300-kg-organic-tea-exporte>

## IMPROVED WATER MILLS REGISTERED WITH UNFCCC

The Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEP) has successfully registered its Improved Water Mills (IWM) Program of Activities (POA) under its Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This is the first project registered with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under the category of mechanical energy. All IWMs installed from October 2011 are eligible to generate tradable emission reduction units or carbon credits. The center has already realized more than USD five million by trading one million carbon credits generated so far by its registered CDM projects.

December 09

[http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46824-Improved-Water-Mills-in-Clean-Development-Mechanism-\(CDM\)](http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46824-Improved-Water-Mills-in-Clean-Development-Mechanism-(CDM))

## INCREASE IN RIVER DOLPHIN NUMBERS

The number of endangered species of Ganges river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) in Nepal has increased to about 50 individuals. The first study conducted in over two decades records an improvement from the two dozen sightings in 1990s. The sightings were recorded during low-river flow before and after the monsoon season in three major tributaries of the Ganges — Karnali, Saptakoshi and the Narayani.

December 09

<http://www.scidev.net/south-asia/biodiversity/news/nepal-s-endangered-river-dolphins-return.html>

## SUGARCANE CULTIVATION AT RISK

The production of Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) is at risk due to the closed operation of Reliance Sugar Mill in Bara and Parsa district, southern central part of Nepal. The mill is the sole buyer of sugarcane in the area leading to the farmers being forced to sell their products to Indian mills at cheaper rates. The farmers do not expect things to change until the closed Birgunj Sugar Mill reopens.

December 13

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-12-13/closure-of-sugar-mill-hits-farmers.html>

## DECLINE IN PADDY PRODUCTION

Poor rainfall and lack of chemical fertilizers have reduced paddy production by an estimated 10.22 percent this fiscal year. According to Ministry of Agricultural Development of Nepal a total of 4.29 million tons of paddy has been produced which is 489,534 tons less than previous year. The average paddy price has increased by 3.5 percent this year.

December 13

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-12-13/low-paddy-price-output-hit-farmers-hard.html>

### SHORTAGE OF FUEL AND FEED AFFECTS POULTRY INDUSTRY

Poultry industries have been badly affected by the Indian trade restriction and instability in Terai, northern part of Nepal. The sales of chicken meat and eggs have dropped by 30-40 percent along with production due to lack of fuel and chicken feed. Nepal Rastra Bank estimates the production of meat will decrease by 2 percent this fiscal year if the current situation continues. The poultry industry has suffered losses of NRS 8-10 billion since the start of the unrest.

December 11

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-12-11/feed-fuel-shortages-hit-poultry-industry-hard.html>

### INCREASE IN CARDAMOM PRODUCTION

Production of large cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) in Lamjung, northern-central Nepal, has nearly doubled due to an increase in the area under cultivation and favorable weather this year. According to the Large Cardamom Trade Association Lamjung, 28 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of the district cultivated cardamom on 200 hectares and produced 62 tons worth NRS 1.4 million. The Agriculture Development office has been providing a 50 percent subsidy on cardamom saplings and technical support to the farmers.

December 11

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-12-11/lamjung-reaps-bumper-harvest-of-cardamom.html>

### SMUGGLERS CAUGHT WITH PANGOLIN SCALES

Police seized 3.2 kilograms of Pangolin (*Pholidota*) scales worth around USD 2,500 per kilogram in the international market in Kathmandu, central Nepal. It is estimated that about 30 Pangolins were harmed to collect that amount of scales. Illegal trade of the endangered animal has reportedly increased eight-folds in the last five years as demand rises in Asian markets.

December 14

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/wildlife-smuggling-continues-unabated/>

## India-Himalaya

### FARMERS AWAIT COMPENSATION

Farmers who lost their crops due to unseasonal rain and hailstones a few months ago have yet to receive any compensation in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, northern India. The district administration had been given around NRs 4.17 crore to distribute among 18,412 families but around 18,133 families are still waiting for their compensation.

December 09

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/46-000-farmers-yet-to-get-relief-money/168771.html>

### POOR RAIN CAUSES WATER SHORTAGE

Poor rainfall has resulted in shortage of drinking water in Pithoragarh, Lohaghat, and Champawat towns of Uttarakhand, northern part of India. Against the daily demand of 1.01 million liters of drinking water, only 0.5 million liters is being provided daily. Along with the lack of rain, leaky water pipes are also responsible for this shortage.

December 08

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/poor-rain-leads-to-water-shortage-in-kumaon/168431.html>

#### UNAUTHORIZED FIRE

Unauthorized burning of grass during the dry season caused forest fires in parts of Shimla and Kasol in Kullu district of northern India, threatening surrounding villages and orchards. Shimla Forest Conservation claims that superstitious villagers who believe better grass will grow back by burning the existing patch are to be held responsible. Guards of the Forest department managed to bring the fire under control.

December 08

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/fires-threaten-villages-orchards-in-shimla-kullu/168357.html>

#### LANDSLIDE ON CHANDIGARH-MANALI HIGHWAY

A huge mountain face washed down onto National Highway 21 km near Mandi, Himachal Pradesh of northern India. The incident brought traffic to a halt though no one was injured. That particular part of highway is notorious for landslides and falling rocks during dry season.

December 08

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/Landslide-blocks-Chandigarh-Manali-Highway/articleshow/50086326.cms>

#### INCREASED VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Vegetable cultivation is increasing in the Himanchal Pradesh of northern India. Production has increased three-fold in the past 17 years from 5 lakhs metric tons in 1998-99 to 15.76 lakhs metric tons in 2014-15. The area of cultivation has also increased about three times from 29,000 hectares to 73,000 hectares. To increase the production, crop diversification, irrigation, research and development, there has been brought of 164 projects worth IRs 298 crore to the state under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

December 14

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/veggies-yield-trebles-in-17-years/170561.html>

## China Himalaya

#### ILLITERACY RATE DECREASE

The illiteracy rate has fallen to 0.52 percent which is 0.5 percent lower than at the beginning of the 12th Five-year Plan period (2011-2015) in Tibet. More than 600,000 students were enrolled in the schools of all forms. The rate of enrollments in Primary school is 98.94 percent, 96.24 percent in middle school, high school is 74.47 percent, 29.45 percent in higher education and 61.49 percent in pre-school. It was found 1,855 schools of various types and level in Tibet and 322 places of learning.

November 10

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201512/t20151210\\_3991340.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201512/t20151210_3991340.html)

#### PURE LAND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

The Pure Land agricultural industry has benefited farmers and herdsman in Chenggaun District of Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. USD 70.30 million has been invested for implementation of 15 Pure Land industry projects and has benefited 4,930 households and 14,947 people. Each household gained an average annual income of USD 929.06 and an annual per capita of USD 309.69.

December 10

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201512/t20151210\\_3991302.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201512/t20151210_3991302.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### BLACK NECKED CRANES ARRIVE IN TIME FOR WINTER

A total of 422 black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) have arrived at their winter grounds in Bhutan. There have been recorded 340 cranes in Phobjikha, 60 in Bumdeling and 14 in Khotokha. The arrival of cranes every winter is an indication that Bhutan still offers a safe haven for the cranes.

December 09

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/422-black-necked-cranes-arrive-in-bhutan/>

### HARDWOOD CULTIVATION

After the failure of Mandarin trees, farmers have shifted to planting commercially valuable trees such as teak (*Tectona grandis*) and champak (*michelia champaca*) in Panbang, Zhemgang of Bhutan. The forestry distributed 26,551 teak stumps to 219 households of Ngangla in 2014. Community forests in villages have also planted over 1,050 teak stumps.

December 09

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/farmers-shift-to-growing-hardwood/>

### CYPRESS CULTIVATION ENCOURAGED

Scarcity of water has encouraged maize and chili farmers of Kumchi village of Bhutan to cultivate cypresses (scientific name), the leaves of which are used for incense production. The forest extension officers encourage people to cultivate the plant on fallow lands and support interested farmers by providing saplings and technical assistance for plantation. This will not only help bring in additional income but also as a source of firewood and timber.

December 10

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/cypress-cultivation-rescues-fallow-lands/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### HUNTING SEASON BEGINS IN GILGIT-BALISTAN

Trophy hunting season has begun in Gilgit-Baltistan of northern Pakistan, home of many endangered species. The license fee for markhors (*Capra falconeri*), Himalayan blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) and ibexes (*Capra*) is set at USD 67,500, USD 8,800 and USD 3,000 respectively. The provincial government issued permits to hunt four markhors, 60 ibexes and eight blue sheep in the region. The local communities were given 80 percent of revenue from hunting licenses while the government uses remaining 20 percent on projects for the wellbeing of forests and biodiversity.

November 09

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1006401/load-lock-shoot-hunting-season-begins-with-first-ibex-kill/>