

Headlines Himalaya

November 10- November 17, 2015 No. 378

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For the 378th issue, we reviewed 26 news reports from 14 sources and selected 25 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, trout fish farming has become popular in Parbat region of mid-western Nepal while human wildlife conflict has been solved in Guwahati, Assam, north eastern India. In Tibet, China, investment has increased in water conservancy. Land has been granted for plantation in Bhutan and snow leopard has threatened the villagers of Parkusap Mastuj village of Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, northwestern Pakistan.

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TROUT FISH FARMING IN PARBAT

The Patikhola rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fish farm has become popular in Bajung of Parbat in Dhaulagiri zone, mid western Nepal. According to the Agriculture Development Office, Parbat, the farm was declared the best among the 29 such farms across the country in an evaluation carried out on the occasion of World Food Day. Evaluation of farm was based on cleanliness, state of water, production and sales.

November 12

<http://www.myrepublica.com/economy/story/31001/trout-fish-farming-thrives-in-parbat.html>

COW'S URINE COST MORE THAN MILK

Cow Protection Centre in Bageshowri of Devghat in Chitwan district, Narayani Zone of central Nepal is selling purified urine at NRs 300 per liter which is six time higher than milk price .The demand of purified urine is high as it can heal different diseases like cancer, diabetes and ulcer. The Centre is planning to sell the dung and male calves too after some time.

November 15

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/where-cow-urine-is-more-precious-than-milk/>

INMATES GENERATE INCOME

The inmates are involved in producing incense sticks and the Nepali dhaka cloth as a means of income at the Morang Prison in Morang eastern Nepal. There are 125 handlooms for as many inmates who lace the dhaka cloth for making the typical Nepali dhaka caps. The traders from Morang and Sunsari districts purchase these caps and each such cap was sold from NRs 150 to NRs 500 in the local market.

November 15

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46530-inmates-engaged-in-income-generating-activities>

SCHOOL CLOSED IN MUSTANG

Many schools in the Upper Mustang area of northern central part of Nepal have remained closed as many of the students have started migrating towards lower lands to escape severe cold in the areas during winter. Around 200 children in the areas have migrated to various places in Pokhara, Kaski district to escape the cold, leaving many schools shut. A total of 11 schools at Chhonhup, Chhoser, Chhusang, Charang and Lomanthang have remained closed.

November 15

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/top-story/46518-schools-in-upper-mustang-remain-shut-as-children-start-migrating-to-escape-cold>

PROFITABLE ORGANIC FERTILIZER PRODUCTION

The Kanchan Organic Fertilizer Industry which was established at the total cost of NRs. 4.45 million including 50 percent grant from the Soil Management Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture in Jhalari Pipaladi municipality of Kanchanpur, south western Nepal has begun profitable production. The industry has been using local raw materials like dry leaves, urban waste, green fodder, chicken excreta, and industrial waste among others. The annual production capacity of the industry is 7200 metric tons.

November 15

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46512-Organic-fertilizer-industry-begins-commercial-productio>

RELIEF TO LANDSLIDE AFFECTED

The families affected by a massive landslide of Myagdi district, western Nepal have been provided with five million rupees as relief. This amount was collected by different organizations and the Myagdi folks at home and abroad in aid of the landslide victims. The flood victim families have been categorized into four groups according to the extent of damage suffered by them due to the landslide.

November 16

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46534-bainsari-landslide-affected-get-relief>

VITAL INJECTION SHORTAGE

There has been shortage of vital injection in the health post at Shankarpur VDC of Kanchanpur district, south western Nepal. This has created problem in inducing labour during child birth, causing great deal of inconvenience to the expectant mothers coming to the birthing centre. It is also difficult to take the emergency cases for delivery to advanced hospitals in Dhangadhi and Mahendranagar due to lack of transport facilities.

November 16

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/46533-shortage-of-vital-injection-at-health-post>

FIREWOOD SOLD

Government has started to sell firewood as an alternative source for cooking gas in Nepal. Fuel supply in Nepal has been affected due to the ongoing Indian blockade of the last two months. Only a few hundred people were able to buy firewood from the state-owned Timber Corporation Nepal which brought truckloads from the Terai to mitigate the cooking fuel crisis. The government had decided to sell firewood in Kathmandu for NRs15 per kilograms and each family could buy up to 100kilograms wood by showing the citizenship certificate. Hotels and organizations got a maximum of 500kg wood at the rate of NRs17 per kilograms.

November 16

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-11-16/govt-sells-firewood.html>

INCOMPLETE BRIDGE PROJECT AFFECT PEOPLE

People travelling along the 112 kilometer Kalikot section of Karnali Highway of karnali zone, mid western Nepal have been facing difficulties due to lack of bridges on rivers and streams. The Division of Roads started constructing bridges in 2011 with a plan to complete them within two years but the projects have not been completed as yet creating problems for people in the region. The construction of bridges has been delayed due to the low working capacity of contractors and lack of human resources and vehicles.

November 16

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-11-16/bridge-projects-left-incomplete.html>

India-Himalaya

TEA INDUSTRY REVIVES

The tea industry in Tripura, north-east India which was destroyed three decades ago is back on its feet with the restoration of peace and harmony. According to Tea association of India, out of total 14,000 hectares granted area, 6400 hectares was cultivated. The organization is selling tea in the different parts of country as well as exporting in different countries including Iran and around 14 gardens employing about 20,000 people.

November 13

<http://www.thestatesman.com/news/northeast/tripura-tea-industry-back-on-feet/103538.html>

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT SOLVED

Locals have solved the problem of conflict between wild elephant and people during the migration of elephants in Guwahati district of Assam, north eastern India by shifting their homes elsewhere to give safe passage to wild elephants through the Kalapahar-Daigrung corridor. The 19 families have voluntarily decided to leave their village so that wild elephants can have unobstructed movement in their search for food. Now every child can play without danger and every elephant can move without conflict in the area.

November 13

<http://www.thestatesman.com/news/northeast/jungle-for-jumbos-locals-shift-homes/103535.html>
India

ELEPHANT DESTROYED CROPS

An elephant (*Loxodonta*) has destroyed paddy and sugarcane crops in Nakraunda, at the periphery of Dehradun, Uttarakhand, northern part of India. There has been rise in number of elephants because of increased constructions in the elephant corridors and the growing traffic; these animals were moving closer to cities. Around 200 villagers have complained about the compensation for the loss of their standing crops due to elephants. Mostly areas of Haridwar, Dehradun, Ramnagar, Kotdwar, Mussoorie and Lansdowne near the forest were facing the threat.

November 14

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/dehradun/uttarakhand-elephants-on-outskirts-of-cities-create-panic-damage-crops/story-XpiFjwBYkCCKOruoyEWWgJ.html>

PILGRIMS IN TROUBLE

Slow repair of the 44 kilometers road from Joshimath to Badrinath in Uttarakhand of northern India has inconvenienced the visitors during their pilgrimage travel in the area. Poor post-disaster management gave bad publicity to the state government which had focused its machinery in restoring the damaged area. Government has paid less attention towards the reconstruction of roads and other infrastructure in the area.

November 14

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/dehradun/road-repair-slow-but-pilgrims-surge-in-uttarakhand/story-75ZBnOBI9MnOaWeKSyRd7H.html>

WETLAND SHRINKS

The National Green Tribunal has warned the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) as Greater Noida's Dadri wetlands Uttar Pradesh, northern India which is a home to nearly 200 species of rare and migratory birds continues to disappear. The wetlands have shrunk from 68 hectares to 30.6 hectares.

November 16

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ngt-warns-ghaziabad-authority-over-dadri-wetlands/article7881879.ece>

CORBETT PARK REOPENS

Jim Corbett National Park in Nainital district of Uttarakhand, northern India was re-opened for tourists after being closed for five months during the monsoon season. The park has received good response from tourists and animal lovers as online booking for the month was already complete. It is primarily a tiger reserve, but there are around 600 species of birds and animals.

November 15

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Corbett-park-reopens-for-tourists-after-monsoon-break/articleshow/49793303.cms>

China Himalaya

MOUNTAINEERING GENERATES REVENUE

1,679 foreign mountaineering teams and 17,248 climbers between 1980 and 2014 have generated USD 50 million in revenue in Tibet, south western China. Tibet received a total of 96 foreign mountaineering teams and 31.5 percent increase in 2014. Tourists came from countries such as Nepal, Russia, and Germany. International mountaineering teams paid more than USD 471,600 for the rent of yaks and yak herders, environmental protection and other fees in 2014.

November 12

http://english.chinatibetnews.com/xwzx/Economy/201511/t20151112_916468.html

INVESTMENT INCREASED IN WATER CONSERVANCY

There has been investment of USD 1.23 billion into water conservancy during the 12th Five-year Plan period, which is 3.26 times more than that in the 11th Five-year Plan period in Tibet. This has increased its water supply capacity by 700 million cubic meters and improved irrigation area and has greatly reduced the pressure on Tibet's agriculture. Tibet also developed 44 small to medium comprehensive river basin plans and 57 river basin water resource development plans thus far.

November 12

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/zshygj/201511/t20151113_3974223.html

ILLEGAL HOUSES AND SHOP DESTROYED

Authorities in northwestern China's Qinghai province moved against a lakeside Tibetan township of south western China and break down over 300 private homes and shops in spite of the resistance by local residents. The authorities complained that the people near the lake were polluting and crowding the area around the lake and therefore the authorities took action to tear down the shops and homes.

November 13

http://www.tew.org/archived/2015/11132015_2.htm

Bhutan-Himalaya

LAND FOR PLANTATION

Natural Resource Development Corporation Limited (NRDCL) has given 881 hectares land to the forests department for tree plantation in Bhutan. The Wang and Rinpung regions have the highest plantation areas of 615 hectares and 555 hectares respectively. NRDCL each year invests in plantations in about 24 hectares of forest management units or barren land.

November 11

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/nrdcl-hands-over-forests-plan>

LANDS LEFT BARE

With the shortage of irrigation water, more than 110 hectares of wetland of over 100 households in Trong and Dangkhar, Pam and Kraspav village, Dzongkhangs, Punakha district, Bhutan, is left barren. A local said the paddy fields are left uncultivated after the divergence of water to the municipality for the drinking purpose. The government of Bhutan had made 9th plan for the irrigation purpose but not implemented yet. Locals said they would help if irrigation channels are constructed.

November 12

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/wetland-fallow-for-want-of-water/>

TIGER SURVEY

The maiden tiger radio collar programme began at the Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) in Panbang, Zhemgang, south central region of Bhutan by Bhutanese biologist and foresters without foreign assistance. The team was trying to radio collar tigers in lower foothills of Manas park range office located about 10 kilometers from Panbang. When a tiger (*Panthera tigris*) passes through its trail, the moment it steps on the noose, a trigger is set off and its leg would be caught so as to study the movement pattern of the tiger, ecology in the mountainous landscape besides minimizing poaching incidents and to address the human-wildlife conflict.

November 12

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/collaring-the-manas-tigers/>

TOURISTS INCREASE

The number of tourists has been increased in Zhemgang of south central part of Bhutan since the eco-lodge was opened in 2012. The number of international tourist has been insignificant and over 300-500 international visitors have been visiting in the area mostly in the winter season. River Guides of Panbang have already conducted 20 trips earning revenue of USD 7404.61 after the tourist have increased and the eco-lodge has already received around 50 guests compared to 30-35 each in 2013 and 2014.

November 14

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/tourist-arrivals-up-in-panbang/>

FARMERS DEMAND RENEWABLE NATURE RESOURCES

The villagers of chiwogs of Yabrang, Phimsong and Thongrong under Phongmey gewog demanded a separate Renewal Natural Resource (RNR) extension center at Yabrang of eastern Bhutan. Villagers were badly affected because they have to walk for several hours or drive a long distance to reach the destination so timely support and interventions for agriculture and livestock activities were delayed. A RNR center in the area would help approximately 300 households of the three chiwogs where every household is involved extensively in agriculture and livestock farming.

November 14

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/phongmey-farmers-demand-separate-rnr-centre/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

GAS CRISIS

Shortage of LPG gas is causing difficulty for the people of Potohar town, Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan. The citizens have expressed serious concern over unannounced gas load shedding and low pressure of gas in the start of winter season. The voters have announced that they would vote for the party/candidate who will end gas load shedding.

November 15

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/15-Nov-2015/gas-crisis-worsens-in-rawalpindi>

SNOW LEOPARD ATTACKS

The residents of Parkusap Mastuj village of Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of northwestern Pakistan were in fear when three goats were killed by snow leopards (*Uncia uncia*) in the area. The number of snow leopard was seen after three years and the villagers were forced to guard their homes throughout the night to prevent possible attack by the wild animals on the human settlement. It is believed that the wild animals migrate to the lower altitude due to snow in the higher altitude during winters.

November 16

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1220021/snow-leopards-kill-three-goats-in-chitral>