

Headlines Himalaya

March 17- 23, 2015

No. 346

Editorial Team – Jeevan Rai & Karun Dewan

For the 346th issue, we reviewed 20 news reports from 8 sources and selected 12 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, stone quarries have been discovered while wild buffaloes have been rescued in India. In Tibet, China, wetland area is increased while snow leopards have been observed in Bhutan. And leopards have been killed through poisoning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwest 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!

NEPAL *Stone Quarries Discovered*
Waste Management Obstruction
Leopard Terror
Cardamom Easing Life
Solar Power To Chepangs

Water Woes
Wildfires Decrease

INDIA *Flying Squirrel Rescued*
Wild Buffaloes Relocated

CHINA *Increased Wetlands*

BHUTAN *Snow Leopard Sighted*

PAKISTAN *Leopard Poisoned*

Nepal-Himalaya

STONE QUARRIES DISCOVERED

In an effort to make the supply of stones, sands and pebbles sustainable, the department of Mines and Geology has discovered 95 new stone and aggregates quarries across the nation. They were distributed at 18 different places in 14 districts. Inadequate basic infrastructures like roads and electricity might delay the extraction in near future.

March 18

<http://new.myrepublica.com/society/item/17466-95-new-stone-quarries-discovered.html>

<http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/34918.html>

WASTE MANAGEMENT OBSTRUCTION

Waste management has been ineffective and irregular in Kathmandu, central Nepal in the shortage of vehicles to carry waste. Around 70 percent is still on the streets due to obstructions created by locals in Sisdol dumping site. They have been demanding compensation for a 4 year old boy killed by a private tripper carrying waste. One excavator, two dozers

and one loader had then been set on fire.

March 19

<http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/34949.html>

LEOPARD TERROR

A common leopard (*Panthera pardus*) that escaped out from Bardia National Park, far western Nepal has caused terror in adjoining 3 VDCs. It has injured 21, two of whom are in critical condition. Most of them were woman and senior citizens. Though the injured say it was a leopard, officials deny this saying the injury was caused by a rabid dog.

March 19

<http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/34990.html>

CARDAMOM EASING LIFE

Large cardamom is now a major source of livelihood for the farmers of eastern Nepal. In the first six months of the present fiscal year, 1,400 tons were exported from six districts earning NPR 1.48 billion to its farmers. India is the major market followed by Gulf countries. Apart from large cardamom, agro-products like tea, meat, fresh vegetables, lentils, ginger are also main exports of the region.

March 18

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/03/18/business/large-cardamom-growers-in-east-take-home-rs1.5b/402976.html>

SOLAR POWER TO CHEPANGS

Chepangs, an indigenous community of Chitwan district, central Nepal, has been provided with 48 solar panels. It is expected to improve living standard of the community allowing children to study at nights. The cost of each panel is NPR 11,000 of which NRS 5,600 is government subsidy.

March 21

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Chepangs+get+solar+panels+in+remote+Chitwan+village&NewsID=448799>

WATER WOES

Water scarcity has been affecting many parts of the country. Residents of Darbung VDC, Gorkha, western Nepal are forced to manage with just two gallons of water per day. After water pump failure to extract water from Madi river, residents of Damauli, Tanahun district are being forced to drink muddy waters of local streams. Acute water shortage has forced people to migrate from their ancestral home in Bijuwapani VDC in Panchthar district, eastern Nepal.

March 18, 19, 21

<http://new.myrepublica.com/society/item/17619-water-scarcity-displacing-villagers.html>

<http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/34957.html>

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Damauli+dwellers+reeling+under+water+crisis&NewsID=448451>

WILDFIRES DECREASE

Wildfire has been limited to 12 from 200 in average within 24 hours in 2009 due to calm weather, up-to the third week of March this year across the country. Experts suggest to remain on alert as the season of wildfire is still not over. Nepal has been listed as "most vulnerable to wildfires" by US-based National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

March 22

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/03/22/national/weather-behind-fewer-wildfire-cases-in-march/403129.html>

India-Himalaya

FLYING SQUIRREL RESCUED

A sporadic small mammal, Hodgson's giant flying squirrel (*Petaurista magnificus*) was rescued from two strangers of Dirang Basti, Arunachal Pradesh, northeast India. The rare species of eastern Himalaya range from Myanmar to Nepal glides among sub-tropical and temperate forests is protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 of India.

March 18

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/rare-flying-squirrel-rescued-in-arunachal/>

WILD BUFFALOES RELOCATED

Two Asian Wild Buffaloes (*Bubalus arnee*) after more than two years of ex-situ rehabilitation were discharged in the Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam, Northeast India. They were earlier rescued under different situations by IFAW-WTIRun Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) from the Kaziranga National Park (KNP). The large bovine is native to the Indian Sub-continent and Southeast Asia and listed as Endangered in IUCN Red list since 1986.

March 18

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/two-hand-raised-wild-buffaloes-released-in-assam-sanctuary/>

China Himalaya

INCREASED WETLANDS

Tibet forestry officials have claimed 38,000 plus wetlands with an area of 6.72 million ha within its boundaries, claiming it to be the second-largest wetland area in Tibet Autonomous Region, southern China. About 66 percent, i.e. 43 million ha of wetlands is protected by 23 projects investing USD 56 million for its conservation and maintenance. The survey initiated in 2010 ascertained 524,000 more hectares of wetlands in the region than previously. Human intervention and exploitation were reasons behind 99 % of lately established wetlands.

March 20

http://english.chinatibetnews.com/hb/hbtp/201501/t20150130_288293.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

SNOW LEOPARD SIGHTED

Three snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*) have been sighted while pursuing their prey at Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP) around 4,050m above sea level, northern Bhutan. Their population has been estimated in between 11-17 supported by previous blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) survey.

March 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/elusive-snow-leopard-sighted-at-jdnp/#.VQ14vNKUfIY>

LEOPARDS POISONED

The poisoned corpse of three leopards abandoned at roadside was discovered by regional Wildlife Department from Abbotabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, northeastern Pakistan. IUCN has ranked it as a 'near threatened' endangered species and are generally killed for skins

March 19

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=Nzg1NTg=>