

Headlines Himalaya

Nov 28 – Dec 4

No. 432

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For the 432nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 20 news from 11 sources and selected 19 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, air quality monitoring stations have started their operations with the data available online. Tiger population have increased by 700 in past six years in 13 different countries, including Nepal. In China, e-commerce of *Cordyceps* has been launched successfully. Hazelnut farmers are ambitious about good hazel nut yield in Bhutan.

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

Smugglers face 10 years imprisonment
Air quality monitoring stations start functioning
Only 8 Tuins replaced by suspension bridges
Children suffering from malnutrition in Bajhang
Microhydel projects unsustainable in Parbat
River clean up extract 15 metric tonnes waste
Tiger population increased in last 6 years
Food aid lying undistributed at the storehouse
Elephant attacks claimed 35 lives in last 17 years
Children terrified to go to school

INDIA

Inadequate rain trouble farmers in Himanchal Pradesh
Leopard attack claims one
Gyatso wins wildlife service award
Forest fire in Banihal

CHINA

E-commerce for cordyceps in Tibet
Increased wild animals in Sanjiangyuan

BHUTAN

Fire destroys storehouse in Bumthang
Farmers in Chukha prepare for good hazelnut yield

PAKISTAN

Vitamin and mineral deficient women and children

SMUGGLERS FACE 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

The District Court of Dhading, central Nepal, has pronounced 10 years prison sentence along with the fine of NPR 60,000 to five men involved in smuggling of endangered Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) for its wool. The smugglers were filed a case when the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) retrieved huge amount of Tibetan Antelope's wool in 2013.

Nov 29

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/10110>

AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS START FUNCTIONING

Department of Environment has started operating three air quality monitoring stations in Ratnapark, Pulchowk and Dhulikhel, central Nepal, this week. Concentration of four types of air pollutant gases; CO₂, SO₂, NO and O₃ and computing dust particles in PM10, PM 2.5 and PM1, wind speed, wind direction, air temperature and relative humidity are measured. The collected data are available on the government's webpage of pollution.

Nov 30

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/air-quality-monitoring-stations-begin-operation/>

ONLY 8 TUINS REPLACED BY SUSPENSION BRIDGES

The government's statement to replace all the 171 dangerous Tuins (traditional wire river crossings) around the country with safer and more durable suspension bridges is proceeding at a snail's pace. Only 8 Tuins have been replaced in six districts since October 2015.

Nov 30

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-30/8-tuins-replaced-since-oct-2015.html>

CHILDREN TERRIFIED TO GO TO SCHOOL

Children living near the buffer zone of Bardiya National Park, mid-west Nepal, have been frightened to go to school, after a student was killed by a wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*) last month. Locals have already been demanding electric fence installation to the National Park. There are about 50 children near the buffer zone who use the forest route to go to school every day.

Nov 30

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-30/children-terrorised-by-wild-elephants.html>

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION IN BAJHANG

Above 15% of children below the age of 5 in Bajhang district, far western Nepal, are under the grip of malnutrition as shown by a study conducted by District Health Office. Among 2796 children, 410 were diagnosed as malnourished. Of them, 112 children were found with severe malnutrition condition while, 298 others suffered from mild malnutrition. There are approximately 22,000 children under the age of five in Bajhang.

Dec 1

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-01/malnutrition-stalks-children-in-bajhang.html>

MICROHYDEL PROJECTS UNSUSTAINABLE IN PARBAT

Eight out of eleven micro hydro projects are no longer in use in remote Parbat district, western Nepal. Supply of electricity from the national grid in villages is the reason behind shut down of local micro hydro plants. The power plants were installed a decade ago with support from UNDP, World Bank and the government of Nepal.

Dec 3

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15927>

RIVER CLEAN UP EXTRACT 15 METRIC TONNES WASTE

On the 186th week of Bagmati River cleaning campaign, 15 metric tons of waste were collected and managed from urban rivers of Kathmandu valley, central Nepal. Various government officials, Nepal Police, Nepal Army, activists, students and local people were part of the drive.

Dec 3

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-03/20161203135643.html>

TIGER POPULATION INCREASED IN LAST 6 YEARS

Numbers of tiger (*Panthera tigris*) have reached to an approximate of 3900, increased by 700 since past 6 years in 13 different countries including Nepal. There are 198 tigers in Nepal currently which was 121 in 2010. The International Community has a goal to double the tiger population by the end of 2022.

Dec 3

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-03/20161203194352.html>

FOOD AID LYING UNDISTRIBUTED AT THE STOREHOUSE

About 7,000 quintal rice remains undistributed in various Nepal Food Corporation's godowns since last 6 years provided by the government of Japan for food assistance. Ministry officials, however, intend to perform the lab test and sell the stock if it seemed edible.

Dec 2

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-02/7000-quintal-rice-lies-undistributed-in-nfc-godown.html>

ELEPHANT ATTACKS CLAIMED 35 LIVES IN LAST 17 YEARS

A report disclosed by Bardiya National Park, mid-west Nepal, revealed that at least 35 people have lost their lives in separate elephant (*Elephas maximus*) attacks from Bardiya in past 17 years. The government of Nepal has already provided monetary relief of NPR 25,000 to NPR 100,000 to the affected families.

Dec3

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-12-03/35-killed-by-attacks-from-elephants-in-17-yrs.html>

India-Himalaya

INADEQUATE RAIN TROUBLE FARMERS IN HIMANCHAL PRADESH

Farmers in Himanchal Pradesh, northern India, are worried about the wheat production due to deficit in rainfall. As reported by weather bureau, rainfall deficit was 100% from Oct 1 to Nov 26 with the cumulative rainfall just at 5.3 mm which was 91% less than the normal precipitation (56.3 mm) and this dry condition is forecasted to continue till December 2. The target of 16 lakh tonnes of food production of the state agriculture department has been badly threatened by climate change.

Nov 28

<http://food.ndtv.com/food-drinks/himachal-sees-80-deficit-rains-may-hit-wheat-crop-1631069>

LEOPARD ATTACK CLAIMS ONE

Cases of human-wildlife conflict have become frequent in Himanchal Pradesh, northern India. A resident of Bharari, Bilaspur district, was reported to be killed by an adult leopard whilst a villager in Bhunad, Chamba district was severely injured in another separate incident of a bear attack. Though the forest department had already set up three cages to trap the leopard, it is still at large.

-Nov 30

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/One-dead-in-leopard-attack-in-Himachal/articleshow/55697134.cms>

GYATSO WINS WILDLIFE SERVICE AWARD

Lobsang Gyatso, widely known as 'Anna Lama' has bagged the prestigious Wildlife Service Award of the Sanctuary Wildlife Awards, 2016. Nyamjang Chhu river of Mon Tawang, north-western part of Arunachal Pradesh in India is recognized as one of the only two sites in India for black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*). Gyatso with his Save Moon Region Federation (SMRF) successfully stopped the 780-MW Nyamjung Chhu river hydel project because of its environmental impact in the Tawang region.

Dec 2

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=dec0316/oth055>

FOREST FIRE IN BANIHAI

Forest fire that broke out in Krawa, Liva and Mamma of Chamalva of Banihal town in Ramban district of Jammu have engulfed at least four compartments since Dec 2. According to sources, many trees has been burnt down in fire while on contrary, some officials claimed that it was only ground fire. The forest department, fire tenders and the locals are in a collective effort to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading further.

Dec 3

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=190523>

China Himalaya

E-COMMERCE FOR CORDYCEPS IN TIBET

The first ever e-commerce platform for trading *Cordyceps* has been launched by the Tibet Commodity Trading Center that primarily focuses on linking the customers directly to the sale stores thereby, minimizing the steps in-between, cost along with stabilizing and promoting industrial growth. Tibet being the main production site for *Cordyceps* (a rare, non-renewable and essential Chinese medicinal herb), accounts for 30% of annual national output. The model of "Internet + Cordyceps" could also be used for other Tibetan specialty products.

Dec 3

<http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/news/1480727654250.shtml>

INCREASED WILD ANIMALS IN SANJIANGYUAN

Wild animals in Sanjianguan Nature Reserve, an area of Tibetan Plateau in Qinghai province, have been increasing every year particularly Tibetan antelope, Kiangs and Tibetan gazelles. Improvement in wildlife protection and awareness has contributed to the success.

Dec 4

<http://eng.tibet.cn/life/news/1480813880332.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

FIRE DESTROYS STOREHOUSE IN BUMTHANG

A fire incident has been reported from Bumthang, central Bhutan, on Nov 26 around 4:30 pm. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined though the fire was successfully extinguished by the help of locals, police and two fire engineers. Property worth Nu 1.3m is estimated to have been destroyed.

Nov 28

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/fire-razes-storehouse-in-bumthang/>

FARMERS IN CHUKHA PREPARE FOR GOOD HAZELNUT YIELD

Hazel tree (*Corylus*) cultivators in Chukha, western Bhutan, are expecting a pleasant harvest as the plants are doing very well. One of the hopeful farmers said he has planted 3500 hazelnut samplings on 18 acres of land and

is expecting a profitable outcome while some farmers are planning to shift to kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*) cultivation due to other concerns. The hazelnut venture that started in 2011 is expected to plant 10 million hazelnut trees in next five years.

Nov 30

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/high-hopes-for-hazelnut-growers-in-chukha/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

VITAMIN AND MINERAL DEFICIENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

As proclaimed by the country's director at a workshop entitled "Situation of Malnutrition in Pakistan", around 50 percent of women and children are attributed to malnutrition due to deficiency of essential vitamins and minerals like iron, folic acid and zinc while death of children below 5 years has reached 45 percent. The event held on Wednesday also clarified that only robust, healthy and mentally sound population can contribute towards national development and lead to growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Dec 1

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=01_12_2016_004_008