

# Headlines Himalaya

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No. 490

Editorial Team: Rajita Budhathoki and Suveksha Jha

For the 490<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from 12 sources and selected 20 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, the first biogas power plant is constructed in Syangja, western part of the country. Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal takes a leap of action for conserving rare species. Solid waste management initiative in Dehradun, northern India begins through the installation of plants in the region. Himachal Pradesh, northern India witnesses its first solar powered irrigation. High altitude clean heating program get started for the first time in Tibet in the Qinghai Province of north western China. 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

*New concept for irrigation*  
*Six duck species lost*  
*Bio gas power plant in Syangja*  
*Incorrect use of herbs*  
*Development of disease resistance potato*  
*Increased in apple production*  
*Sudden weather changed disrupting the livelihoods*  
*Chitwan National Park takes a leap of action for rare species*  
*Injured python rescued*  
*Garlic price soared in Solukhumbu*  
*Timur production escalated*  
*Forest land encroached in Jhapa*

## INDIA

*Solution for solid waste management*  
*Himachal Pradesh witnesses its first solar powered irrigation*  
*Daily wage rise for Kashmir's labourers*

## CHINA

*Tibet's first high altitude clean heating program*  
*The Tibetan carpet fair*  
*Tibet sees more people jump the poverty line*

## BHUTAN

*Primary school wins prize for waste management effort*

## PAKISTAN

*Animal lovers unite at pet show*

### NEW CONCEPT FOR IRRIGATION

People of Banskharka, Myagdi, western Nepal has started a new concept for irrigation facility along with the use of quality fertilizer for orange (*Citrus* sp.) production. Farmers have made 10 plastic ponds having a capacity of 10,000 litres in order to collect water which can later be used for irrigating the farms. Although, farmers have been earning more than NPR 20 million per year from orange production, which proves to be a good income, but lack of irrigation facility during dry season has pose difficulties for the continuity of the production.

**Jan 22**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50189>

### SIX DUCK SPECIES LOST

According to recent census, six species of duck have been lost from Chitwan Wetlands, south central Nepal. As per the bird census that was conducted by the Chitwan National Park and Bird Education Society the number of birds inhabiting the wetlands is 5,576 and the number of birds inhabiting other areas is 6,215. Among 54 species recorded last year, only 48 duck species were found this year. They recorded 213 types of water birds living in and around the wetland areas of Chitwan. The duck species such as (Sindurey Hans, Phurkey Hans, Hari Hans, Sunchuri Hans, Soiro Puchchharey Hans and the Swtaankhibhaun Hans) were not found in the district.

**Jan 22 & 23**

<http://bit.ly/2s3C1Yc>

<http://bit.ly/2FKCCQg>

### BIO GAS POWER PLANT IN SYANGJA

The first bio-gas power plant has been operated in Syangja, western Nepal investing around NPR 500 million in an area of about 2.03 hectare. The plant designed in order to replace the solid excreta and to manage the energy for the plant has been producing one tonnes of gas, 350 kW of electricity and 15 tonnes of biological sewage per day.

**Jan 23**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50217>

### INCORRECT USE OF HERBS

Unaware of the importance of herbs, the farmers in the various parts of Gulmi, western Nepal have been using these valuable herbs in the forms of woods and grasses. More than three community forests, Bharsey, Madonna, Thapley, Resunga and Salime have precious and multi-herbal herbs like Sugandhawal (*Polianthes tuberosa*), Jatamasi (*Nardostachys jatamansi*), Kutaki (*Neopicrorhiza scrophulariifolia*), Dalchini (*Cinnamomum verum*), Chiraito (*Swertia chirayita*), Kurilo (*Asparagus racemosus*), Lokta (*Danphe panachea*), Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*), Amala (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Bell (*Aegle marmelos*), Tejpat (*Cinnamomum tamala*) and many more but they have been decaying in the forest. According to the officials, at past, Sugandhawal, Timur, Kurilo, and fruits of Sugandha were sold at NPR 240, NPR 800, NPR 120 and NPR 250 respectively, but at present these have been used for feeding animals and burning woods only.

**Jan 24**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50255>

### **DEVELOPMENT OF DISEASE RESISTANCE POTATO**

Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NAR) has developed new embroidery potato (*Solaneum tuberosum*) for the first time by crossing into a new species. The program has distributed 10 species of potatoes to the farmer so that, farmers can take a good income by planting them, according to the climatic condition. The program has sent new seeds to seed quality level checkpoints.

**Jan 24**

<http://bit.ly/2s6ki21>

### **INCREASED IN APPLE PRODUCTION**

Transportation linkage in Jumla, far western Nepal has satisfied and encouraged farmers with a good income in the district which has increased the apple (*Malus* sps.) production by 15 percent. Among, 18 thousand houses, 16 thousand have benefitted from apple cultivation by exporting NPR 160 million of apples in the places like Surkhet, Nepalgunj, mid western Nepal, Biratnagar, eastern Nepal and Kathmandu, central Nepal.

**Jan 24**

<http://bit.ly/2E3dqs3>

### **SUDDEN WEATHER CHANGED DISRUPTING THE LIVELIHOODS**

Sudden weather change due to the westerly winds, in the central and western mountainous regions of Nepal has resulted in a moderate rain and snowfall and thus, affecting the normal life across the country. According to the Meteorological Forecasting Division (MFD) under the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Dadeldhura, far western Nepal have witnessed the heaviest rainfall of 12 mm and Bhairahawa, western Nepal have a record of 6 mm rainfall, while Kathmandu, central Nepal has received 2 mm rainfall along with the lowest temperature of 7.3 degree Celsius.

**Jan 25**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/21659>

### **CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK TAKES A LEAP OF ACTION FOR RARE SPECIES**

Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal has succeeded in conserving different rare species by reducing poaching of animals to zero and improving its internal management. According to the park authorities, greatest feats such as transfer of rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), wild buffaloes (*Bubalus arnee*) and musk deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) to the park, rescue of tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*) and rhinos, rehabilitation of a male gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) and management of grasslands has been achieved. The various conservational activities such transferred of five rhinos to Shuklaphanta National Park, captivation of endangered vulture species (*Gyps himalayensis*) in vulture breeding centre and release to the wild are few of the examples in order to prove its achievements in conserving wild species.

**Jan 25**

<http://bit.ly/2FKPAOf>

### **INJURED PYTHON RESCUED**

A seventeen feet long and 40 kg weight Python (*Pythonidae* sp.) found injured in the joint forest of Dhanusha, central Nepal was successfully rescued by the team of District Forest Office and Mithila Wildlife Trust. After rescuing, the Python was left in the protected forest of Dhanushadham.

**Jan 25**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50325>

### **GARLIC PRICE SOARED IN SOLUKHUMBU**

The high demand of Garlic (*Allium sativum*) has resulted in the increased price of local garlic in the market of Solukhumbu, north eastern Nepal. During the harvesting season, garlic has been sold at NPR 100 but at the end of the season, the price has reached to NPR 420 per kg. Despite the high demand, the production is relatively low in order to meet the needs of the people.

**Jan 25**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50294>

### **TIMUR PRODUCTION ESCALATED**

The price of Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*) has increased significantly in Salyan, mid western Nepal, this year. Altogether, 443 houses have started timur cultivation in the district generating around NPR 30 million. The demand of timur has inclined not only within the country but also from the neighbouring countries resulting in an export of timur worth NPR 390 million.

**Jan 28**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50411>

### **FOREST LAND ENCROACHED IN JHAPA**

Ratuwamai Tree Plantation Project, Jhapa, eastern Nepal has been facing huge land encroachment in a recent period. A total of 203 hectares of 2,753 hectares of the project's area has been encroached, among which 24.62 hectares land is occupied by individuals, while 90 hectares is encroached upon by various organizations. The Village Development Committee, Federation of Ethnic Nationality, Community Forest Consumers' Group, Drinking Water Consumers' Committee, religious sites, play grounds and graveyard have been accused of encroaching on the forest land at Dudhe, Satakshidham and Jhiljhile areas of the region.

**Jan 27**

<http://bit.ly/2E2ISDR>

## **India-Himalaya**

### **SOLUTION FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Dehradun, northern part of India has started the best use of solid waste management compost plant by converting it into manure. The Municipal Corporation aimed to earn revenue by selling the manure generated through the solid waste management plan which became a reality since 2017.

**Jan 23**

<http://bit.ly/2nJDFIT>

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH WITNESSES ITS FIRST SOLAR POWERED IRRIGATION**

The Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion (HPCDP) Project of northern India has inaugurated the state's first irrigation scheme which runs under solar energy in Lower Badheda village of Una district. Consequently, this project draws water from the underground aquifer which benefits 35 families owing about 265 canals of land by improving irrigation facilities, crop diversification and marketing of farm produce. Thus, this project sets a good example of eco-friendly irrigation scheme.

**Jan 25**

<http://bit.ly/2EFzDtb>

### **DAILY WAGE RISE FOR KASHMIR'S LABOURERS**

Jammu government, northern India, issued of 50 percent increment in the wage of the Daily Labourers. This announcement would support the Daily wage Earners as well as Casual Labourers of the Government Departments, Municipalities and Local Bodies. Labourers will be paid receipt of around UDS 4 from 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan, 2018.

**Jan 25**

<http://bit.ly/2E2IUeX>

## China Himalaya

### **TIBET'S FIRST HIGH ALTITUDE CLEAN HEATING PROGRAM**

In the Qinghai Province of north western China's high-altitude freezing area, the first heating program has been in full operation. This project aims to provide clean heating energy to about 5,000 homes saving up to 20,712 tons of coal, an equivalent of 51,635 tons carbon in a calendar year.

**Jan 24**

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1516760747139.shtml>

### **THE TIBETAN CARPET FAIR**

Tibet, south western China, once the largest exporter of wool and woollen items has not lost its fame regarding the manufacture of hand woven carpets. The second Tibetan Carpet Industry Trade Fair of Tibet held in south western China have brought thousands of handicraft enterprises products together to attract new customers.

**Jan 25**

<http://bit.ly/2BTys1B>

### **TIBET SEES MORE PEOPLE JUMP THE POVERTY LINE**

Under China's next 3-year plan to eradicate poverty from the country, 260,000 people during the past two years saw themselves cross the poverty line with per capita non-refundable income of around USD 1650 for urban and rural residents. Over the past five years, Tibet has remained as one of the fastest growing provincial-level regions.

**Jan 25 & 27**

<http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/aid/1516845474290.shtml>

<http://bit.ly/2GNpSJZ>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS PRIZE FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT EFFORT**

Tshatsi Primary School in Pemagatshel, south eastern part of Bhutan has gathered a massive media attention for waste management by using 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). This campaign was initiated by one of the teachers and his students last year. They was rewarded a cash prize of USD 470 in the 'Design for Change Bhutan-ICAN' in the same year.

**Jan 23**

<http://bit.ly/2nJbPfx>

### ANIMAL LOVERS UNITE AT PET SHOW

Amidst the news of violence and terror spreading around, the love among the animals have brought people together in Peshawar, northern Pakistan. This was the first time such an activity was held in a city with the aim of bringing pet lovers together. In the show, around 25 dogs (*Canis sps.*), 20 cats (*Felis sps.*), a horse (*Equus sps.*) and a hen (*Gallus sps.*) were brought together under one roof by the animal lovers.

**Jan 28**

<http://bit.ly/2EH2ptw>