

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 548th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 48 news from 20 sources and 41 selected happenings from five countries.

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SECURITY FORCES PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN BHAKTAPUR

Sixty seven personnel from Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police have been trained in Bhaktapur district, Central Nepal on disaster risks reduction and rescue operations. In a programme organized in Suryabinayak Municipality of the district, materials worth NRP 1,000,000 used for disaster risks reduction and management was handed over to the District Disaster Management Committee of Bhaktapur by Nepal Army.

Mar 11

<https://bit.ly/2FkAlqU>

DoF ISSUES ORDER TO CONTROL WILDFIRES

The Department of Forest (DoF) has issued a directive to the Division Forest Offices to protect forests from the wildfires. The incidents of the wildfires have been increasing each year mainly in the chure areas and other western region. Such incidents happen in many places with increasing temperature resulting in loss of human lives, cattle and wildlife.

Mar 11

<https://bit.ly/2OIFsai>

RIVER DIVERSION THREATENING HUMAN SETTLEMENT

A human settlement of about 95 hectares along river bank and a bridge are at risk due to diversion of Karnali river and haphazard collection of stones, gravel and sand in Tikapur Municipality-8, Kailali, far western Nepal.

Mar11

<https://bit.ly/2JATEHj>

<https://bit.ly/2uqJSgu>

KMC PLANS FOR SEGREGATING SOLID WASTE AT SOURCE

Solid waste management has been a serious problem as the locals of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), Central Nepal didn't segregate solid waste at the source. The chief of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Environment Division Chief stressed that there has to be the mutual coordination among the municipalities of the Kathmandu valley for the collection, transportation and management of solid waste. The chief of the Solid Waste Management Division argued that the transportation cost could be minimized by segregating solid waste at the source.

Mar11

<https://bit.ly/2YkVL5x>

CROCODILES TRAPPED IN FISHING NET

Seven gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) have been found dead in the Rapti river, Chitwan National Park, South-central Nepal in this fiscal year. According to the chief conservation officer, another 7 gharials have been rescued from the illegally trapping in fishing net. People have been using net illegally for fishing which also trap the gharials. He also informed that by 2018 survey, there were 219 gharials in CNP and surrounding areas.

Mar12

<https://bit.ly/2HVB4HL>

<https://bit.ly/2FogQ6s>

CONSERVATION DRIVE INITIATED TO SAVE RED PANDA

Conservation drive has been initiated to save Red Panda (*Ailurusfulgens*) in Putha Uttarganga and Sisre Rural Municipality of Rukum district, Western Nepal,. Preliminary survey would be conducted either that place is suitable niche for red panda or not. These were found at the elevation of 2200 to 4000 m from the sea level where Nigalo (*Drepanostachyumintermedium*) and sufficient amount of water available.

Mar12

<https://bit.ly/2CBuCSt>

AUTOMATIC BROOMERS ARRIVE IN KATHMANDU

Four automatic broomers have been introduced by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and have been stored in heavy equipment office, Minbhavan, Kathmandu, Central Nepal. The regular road clean up would be started from April 15. Mayor of Kathmandu municipality has informed that the broomers would be used in Kathmandu valley as well as in Lalitpur.

Mar12

<https://bit.ly/2UPInVY>

HEAVY SNOWFALL CAUSES DEATH OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

1135 domestic four footed animals have been killed in Lomanthang, Mustang, Western Nepal due to heavy snowfall. They died in the grazing land due to lack of shelter and food. The police fear that there could be more deaths as the investigation is still underway.

Mar12

<https://bit.ly/2Oo6EPH>

RENOVATION OF BHAIYAPUKHU

A preliminary report on renovation of the historical BhajyaPukhu (BhajuPokhari) in Bhaktapur, Central Nepal has suggested that the pond was built in the 12th century. The Mayor of Bhaktapur municipality has pointed out the need of intensive study and rigorous discussion to validate the preliminary findings. The Bhaktapur municipality has started renovating the heritage.

Mar12

<https://bit.ly/2CDu12L>

<https://bit.ly/2Oo734f>

GREEN STICKERS IN THE HOTELS

For the first time, stickers and certificates has been distributed to 18 hotels and restaurants in the Kavre, Dhulikhel, Central Nepal by the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control on the basis of food quality. The Jointsecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has handed out the stickers along with certificates. The move is expected to provide hygienic food to locals and tourists and transform Dhulikhel into a tourist hub.

Mar12

<https://bit.ly/2FxsgpM>

AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH

In South Asia an estimated 130,000 children under five have been killed due to air pollution every single year as their lungs and other organs are still developing. It is a staggering fact that twelve million babies have been breathing air that is six times more polluted than the international limits set by the World Health Organization i.e. three quarters of the global.

Mar13

<https://bit.ly/2JAUNi5>

HUNTING PERMIT IN DHORPATAN

Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Baglung, Western Nepal has granted permission to hunt 10 naurs also called Himalayan blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) and 4 jharals (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) in the second season of this fiscal year. Department of National Park and wildlife conservation has selected 5 companies to hunting. There are 7 hunting blocks in Dhorpatan and the selected companies would be given separate blocks for hunting. The hunting companies have to pay NPR 1,351,000 and NPR 1,350,000 for each of Naur and Jharal.

Mar13

<https://bit.ly/2FxP6xr>

RELIEF AID TO VICTIM OF WILDLIFE ATTACK

677 people have been provided relief aid worth NPR 3,239,071 to wildlife victims in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, Central Nepal. According to the relief aid guidelines, compensation is provided to the victims of 14 wild animals including elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Crocodile (*Gavialis gangeticus*).

Mar 14

<https://bit.ly/2urewGE>

RELIED AID TO WILD FOREST FIRE

As many as eight houses has been reduced to ashes in the fire and some families has been displaced when separate wildfires in community forests spread to human settlements in Khotang, eastern Nepal. The municipality chair has distributed 60 kgs of rice, 10 liters of oil, tents and other essential basic things to each affected families. The spread out fire has destroyed the house of Mapka'sLewa area, Aishelekharka Rural Municipality-7.

Mar15, 16& 17

<https://bit.ly/2Wj05Al>

<https://bit.ly/2Ym3Tmc>

<https://bit.ly/2FxRep2>

<https://bit.ly/2FpRCoc>

ONE CAUGHT WITH TIGER'S SKIN

60 years old man has been arrested with tiger's skin measuring 1 metre in length and half metre in breadth in Gulmi, Central Nepal. The police has been investigating the case.

Mar17

<https://bit.ly/2UcRNMU>

BIRD-FLU PREVENTION DRIVE IN HETAUDA

More than 10,000 fowls has been slaughtered from 8 poultry farms and buried in safe place in Hetauda, Central Nepal. Authorities are planning to slaughter additional 41,500 chickens in the area. A team of veterinarians has been deployed in affected areas and their vicinity to suspect and control the spread. CDO has decided to slaughter

poultry in the metropolis to prevent possible outbreak of H₅N₁ influenza virus and to compensate the farmers. High alert has been maintained in Chitwan, Central Nepal following the manifestation of bird flu in the neighbouring Makwanpur district.

Mar 16 & 17

<https://bit.ly/2uubJfK>

ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF RIVER RESOURCES IN EASTERN NEPAL

District Monitoring Committee, Bhadrapur, Jhapa, Eastern Nepal, has monitored eastern rivers and warned that strict action would be taken against the people involved in illegal extraction of river products by flaunting government-set criteria. The provincial government has been given the authority to provide licence for aggregate mining from rivers and streams.

Mar17

<https://bit.ly/2FxPdsR>

YOUTH CRITICALLY INJURED IN BEER ATTACK

A youth has been critically injured in Rupakot Majhuwagadi Municipality-10, Khotang, Eastern Nepal while fetching grass after two hour walk from his home. He has been referred to Trauma Center, Kathmandu from the district hospital. He has facial injuries and scratches all over his body.

Mar 17

<https://bit.ly/2HXkZ4n>

India-Himalaya

SNOWFALL IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

A fresh bout of snowfall occurred in the higher reaches, including Kufri and Manali, of Himachal Pradesh, northern India whereas other parts of the state, Shimla witnessed light rains.

Mar 11

<https://bit.ly/2Hs7gTs>

GARBAGE TREATMENT PLANTS IN PALAMPUR

The state government has given its nod for the setting up of the garbage treatment plants at Ghuggar and Khalet panchayats, which are two thickly populated areas of Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, Northern India and fund worth \$ 260,054 had been transferred in the account of respective panchayats.

Mar 12

<https://bit.ly/2TUf8ny>

LANDSLIDE HITS JAMMU-KASHMIR

Landslide occurred at around 4 am in Doda, Jammu-Kashmir, northern India. No casualties have been reported but around 13 shops were damaged in Bathri market.

Mar 13

<https://bit.ly/2JDIM07>

BUYING PLASTIC WASTE TO CHECK POLLUTION

In Ashwani Khud, Shimla, northern India, the Shimla Municipal Corporation will purchase plastic waste to check pollution and the state government informed the National Green Tribunal that plastic waste would either be used for road construction or in waste to energy plant.

Mar 14

<https://bit.ly/20Izefg>

PLANTATION DRIVE AT DACHIGAM

Department of Wildlife Warden Central Division Srinagar, Jammu-Kashmir, northern India organized a mega plantation drive in core area of Dachigam National Park and was attended by school children from various schools, members of civil society, NGOs, executive director WCF, and National society for protection of water resources.

Mar 14

<https://bit.ly/2uqm78r>

LANDSLIDE THREATS OVER NORTHERN INDIA

A house was buried under landslide occurred in Solang village in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, northern India and the house owner is safe as he escaped before slip. Villagers are spending sleepless nights that they feared that a landslide could damage their houses anytime. Landslide struck a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district where two persons died and three others injured and a group of labourers got trapped under the debris after the landslide occurred at Khari-Mahoo road near Aarmarg, Jammu-Kashmir, northern India.

Mar 15 & 17

<https://bit.ly/2Oq0Wwg>

<https://bit.ly/2YjZaS5>

SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Due to fresh snowfall in the higher reaches many places of Himachal Pradesh, northern India witnessed low temperature. The minimum temperature in Dalhousie of Chamba district was recorded -0.1 degree Celsius, -8 degrees Celsius in Keylong, -2 degrees Celsius in Kalpa, 1 degree Celsius in Manali and Kufri, while that in state capital Shimla was 5.5 degrees Celsius.

Mar 15

<https://bit.ly/2Tue2cP>

LEOPARD ATTACKS IN RAJOURI, JAMMU-KASHMIR

Leopard attacked three people in a dense forest while grazing livestock in Rajouri district of Jammu-Kashmir, northern India. They were rescued by villagers but got serious injuries while saving themselves from the repeated attacks of the leopard.

Mar 15

<https://bit.ly/2HXldbj>

OPERATION TO CLEAR SNOW ON MUGHAL ROAD

District Administration Shopian, Jammu-Kashmir, northern India commenced snow clearance operation on 84 km long Mughal road and it would take around 20 days to clear snow from the road depending on the amount of snowfall and landslides hindering the operations.

Mar 17

<https://bit.ly/2UQaPWt>

China Himalaya

SHUANGHU, SAFE HEAVEN FOR WILDLIFE

Shuanghu county, located 5,000 m above sea level in Tibet, southwest China, is home to the world's third largest glacier, the Purog Kangri. Wild animals such as kiangs (*Equus kiang*), Tibetan antelopes (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) and yaks (*Bosgrunniens*) wandering on meadows at the foot of snow mountains can be found. There are 135 conservation staff members working in Shuanghu's 15 wildlife management and conservation stations to improve protection of wild animals. In 2018, the county government suspended construction of tourism-related support facilities around the Purog Kangri glacier to better protect the environment.

Mar 11

<https://bit.ly/2CDxvIV>

INCREMENT IN AFFORESTATION AREA

Tibet, southwest China has seen its forest area increased by 372,413 ha and forest coverage rose from less than 1 % in 1951 to 12.14 % last year. The ecological protection campaign and projects has improved the environment in Tibet and contributed in local tourism development and poverty alleviation.

Mar 13

<https://bit.ly/2OqYDZT>

BUILDING NATIONAL PARKS

China plans to build five national parks in the Tibet region, southwest China as the part of the nation's growing effort to protect the environment while improving locals' livelihoods by boosting ecotourism on the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau. According to director of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, five locations encompass areas around Qomolangma, Bome and Medog counties, the Zanda Earth Forest in western Tibet, the Changtang Plateau, and Serling Tso, which is Tibet's largest lake.

Mar 13

<https://bit.ly/2HDbkR4>

TREE AGE TO RECORD GLACIER CHANGES

Chinese researchers have managed to use tree ages to accurately record glacier changes that happened centuries ago in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The professor of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, looks for clues on the glacier fore fields, the landscape formed by retreating glaciers and conducted research based on the use of historical pictures and field surveys of trees on 10 glacial deposits and fore fields in the southern and western plateau regions in China, Nepal and Pakistan from 2013-2017.

Mar 14

<https://bit.ly/2UVwfS7>

AUTHORITIES CALL FOR POLLUTION PREVENTATION

Local authorities called for more pollution prevention at the annual conference of the region's Ecology and Environment Department Tibet, southwest China. According to department head, local government invested more than 1.48 billion US dollars in ecological construction projects and now forest coverage is on the rise, exceeding 12%, and reached 742,000 hectares by last year.

Mar 16

<https://bit.ly/2Uawdc1>

Bhutan-Himalaya

BHUTAN RECEIVES GREEN DESTINATION AWARD

In recognition of Bhutan's consistent effort in preserving its rich culture and traditions, environment and social well-being among others, Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) has been awarded with Green Destination Gold Award by the ITB Berlin in Germany. Bhutan scored over 90% from 100 sustainable indicators under six themes for the award..

Mar 11

<https://bit.ly/2FpSmtz>

DEMAND FOR DESHOG

Deshog, traditional Bhutanese paper is made from the bark of Daphne plant (*Daphne* sps). In Bumdeling, Trashiyangtse, eastern Bhutan, there is demand for the paper but shortage of raw materials and manpower is affecting the production.

Mar 12

<https://bit.ly/2JGdHUW>

A NEW BIRD SPECIES RECORDED

Buff-breasted babbler (*Trichastomatickelli*) is recorded as a new bird species as it was spotted in Panbang, Zhemgang, south of Bhutan on March 6. It is listed as least concern i.e not globally threatened. With this, Bhutan now has 740 bird species

Mar 12

<https://bit.ly/2CMAIij>

INCREMENT IN USAGE OF FERTILISERS

In Phobji and Gangtey, central Bhutan, almost everyone grow potato as their main source of income and every year, farmers competing in using more fertilisers. Farmers spend as much as 1440 USD on fertilisers. The increasing usage of fertilisers has become a concern for local leaders and agriculture officials.

Mar 13

<https://bit.ly/2Fx1q00>

BUDGET FOR BIOGAS PLANT

In Trongsa, central Bhutan, local government leaders raised concern over the budget allocation for construction of biogas plants. For the fiscal year 2019/20, 15,246 USD is allocated for the construction of 30 biogas plants in Trongsa.

Mar 14

<https://bit.ly/2JDdAJS>

PHUENTSHOLING BANS ON ENTRY OF PLASTICS

The Phuentsholing Thromde has started restricting the entry of plastics at the border gate in Phuentsholing, southern Bhutan starting from March 1 and around 20 youths were employed for a month at four entry points to inspect and seize plastics, besides creating awareness on the ban. The ban on plastics would be officially effective from April 1 and penalties would be imposed to businesses and shop owners selling goods in plastic carry bags.

Mar 12

<https://bit.ly/2CEkXKY>

NO PROTECTION WALLS ALONG SHETIKHARI RIVER

Numerous flashfloods occur in Gelephu, southern Bhutan but there isn't any protection wall along Shetikhari river. With this floodplains are widening after every monsoon and if interventions are not carried out timely then dungkhag, southern Bhutan could suffer major catastrophe.

Mar 16

<https://bit.ly/2Osc784>

Pakistan- Himalaya

CLEANLINESS AND TREE PLANTATION DRIVE

In Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan, district administration will launch a cleanliness and tree plantation drive starting March 18, under the government's Clean and Green Pakistan programme focusing on cleaning streets in rural and urban areas, raising awareness of hygiene through a public hand-washing campaign and tree plantation.

Mar 15

<https://bit.ly/2FpJJPO>

TREE TSUNAMI PROJECT IN PESHAWAR

Federal Minister of State for Climate Change inaugurated 10 billion tree tsunami project at Pakistan Institute of Forest in Peshawar, northern Pakistan. The project is in line with Vision 2025 of Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform aiming at increasing forest cover of Pakistan up to 25% of the total area.

Mar 16

<https://bit.ly/2WJEDj>