

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 340<sup>th</sup> issue, we reviewed 20 news reports from 11 sources and selected 11 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, poachers are turning out to be the wildlife conservationists while in India landslides have affected tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. In Tibet, China, restoration of 14 cultural artifacts has been completed and livelihood of people in Trashigang district, Bhutan is improving through animal husbandry. Likewise, in Pakistan water schemes are likely to solve water crisis in Peshawar and Rawalpindi districts of KP.

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**      *Poachers Turn Conservationists*  
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*Victims Deprived of Compensation*  
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*Vegetable Farming by Rautes*

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**PAKISTAN**      *Water Schemes Benefit*

## Nepal-Himalaya

### POACHERS TURN CONSERVATIONISTS

Poachers in Dhading district central Nepal are transforming as conservationists as they have realized that conservation is key to the balanced ecosystem. Locals used to be troubled by several wild animals earlier including the endangered red panda in the local forest. Locals were using bamboo forests of the area for making household wares and this had significantly diminished bamboo forests. Bamboo forests are the perfect habitat for red pandas. There is now a realization that conserving bamboo forests is good for livelihood as well as the red pandas.

February 2

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/02/02/national/hunters-turn-into-conservationists/401140.html>

### BETTER MANAGEMENT OF LANDFILLSITE DEMANDED

Locals around the vicinity of Okharpauwa landfill site are demanding proper management of the site in Nuwakot, central Nepal. According to them, all 21 municipalities in the valley should allocate budget and should invest in proper management of the landfill site. In another case, a massive cleanliness campaign has started in 33 municipalities of Nepal to promote environment friendly technologies.

February 3, 5

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91477](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91477)

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91615](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91615)

#### NEPAL FETED FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Nepal has received global recognition for its conservation efforts by celebrating zero poaching years in 2011 and 2013 respectively. According to the conservationists, Nepal's efforts are complemented by efforts of all the tiger range countries too towards ending the increasing demand of endangered wildlife in the international market. Recently, Nepal has accomplished another milestone by meeting international standards for tiger conservation.

February 3, 7

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/02/03/national/nepal-feted-for-zero-poaching-yrs/401201.html>

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91747](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91747)

#### VICTIMS DEPRIVED OF COMPENSATION

Locals of Rajapur in Bardiya district in mid western Nepal are suffering from land erosion and flashflood in the Karnali River since long but the local as well as national authorities have not undertaken initiative to protect their lives and property. Similarly, the families who were attacked by wild elephants some weeks back also have not got relief or compensation yet in Bahundangi, Jhapa eastern Nepal.

February 4, 5

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/02/04/national/flood-victims-rue-govt-apathy/401248.html>

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/02/05/national/victims-of-tusker-attack-deprived-of-compensation/401292.html>

#### USE OF ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY BUSES

Old passenger vehicles have been replaced with environment friendly Euro III standard model buses in Pokhara, western Nepal. According to the Pokhara Bus Entrepreneur's Committee, the buses that were brought in use before 2002 will be replaced within next three years. The new environment friendly bus costs around NPR 3.5 million.

February 5

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91622](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91622)

#### VEGETABLE FARMING BY RAUTES

'Rautes', an indigenous group in Nepal, have taken up commercial farming due to the rampant deforestation. Known as 'The King of forests', they used to roam around the jungle for food and habitat. But now they have started vegetable farming and consume the cooked vegetables. The Vegetable Germ plasm Promotion and Seed Production Centre of Dadheldhura in far western Nepal provides them with vegetables' seeds and provide training on irrigation system and to treat various plants diseases.

February 6

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91723](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91723)

## India-Himalaya

#### CONSERVATION OF BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

An initiative for maintaining ecological condition of Brahmaputra River has commenced in Guwahati, Assam northern India. Local communities and other related stakeholders residing alongside the river are actively participating in the initiative. As per the initiative, several cleaning drives would be conducted and community residing alongside would be made aware of the need to conserve the environmental condition of the river.

February 2

<http://www.niticentral.com/2015/02/02/mission-clean-brahmaputra-launched-in-guwahati-299047.html>

#### LANDSLIDE AFFECTS TOURISM

A 5 km long artificial lake created due to a landslide blocking a tributary near the Kargil headquarters has blocked the famous Zaskar River in Ladakh located in Jammu and Kashmir, northern India. As a result 4,000 people living in the lowlands are prone to flash floods when the ice melts. According to the Division Commissioner of Kashmir, in order to contain the situation, teams have been sent out to restrict the movement of residents and a famous 150,000m Chadar trek has been closed, which has affected tourism in the area.

February 4

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/ladakh-zaskar-river-blocked-after-landslide-creates-an-artificial-lake-in-the-mountains/526556-3-245.html>

### China Himalaya

#### TIBETAN KEY CULTURAL RELICS RESTORED

Renovation of 14 cultural artifacts have been completed in Tibet Autonomous region, southwestern China. According to Tibet Cultural Relic Bureau, the renovation projects completed accounts for 35 per cent of the total Tibet regional key cultural relic protection locations. So far, China has protected 40 key cultural relic protection sites and six museums during the 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan by directing a total investment of 161 thousand dollars.

February 4

[http://www.vtibet.com/en/news\\_1746/ctbnews/201502/t20150204\\_276883.html](http://www.vtibet.com/en/news_1746/ctbnews/201502/t20150204_276883.html)

### Bhutan-Himalaya

#### CHEESE PRODUCTION IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD

Locals of Merak and Sakteng, located in Trashigang district eastern Bhutan are delighted to receive economic benefit from production of Gouda cheese that has improved their living condition. The area was famous for fermented or smelly cheese but now they have switched to Gouda cheese production due to its higher return on sale and support received from the department of livestock (DOL). A kilogram of Gouda cheese production costs about Nu 250, while they can be sold at Nu 550.

February 6

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/highlanders-go-the-gouda-way/#.VNT1x8bfLdk>

### Pakistan- Himalaya

#### WATER SCHEMES BENEFIT

Water problem is likely to get solved in Peshawar and Rawalpindi in northern Pakistan as the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved five water projects in the area. As per the projects, four dams and two irrigation weirs would be constructed in Khyber Agency. Thus formed irrigation canal would provide water to about 1,079 ha of land for cultivation.

February 5

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1161540/water-schemes-in-fata-planned>