

Headlines Himalaya

Nov 21– Nov 27

No. 431

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For the 431st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 19 news from 12 sources and selected 18 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, the risk of Imja Glacial Lake Outburst Flood has been lessened by the eight months long arduous effort of Nepal Army personnel. Paddy production has risen in Jhapa by 15 percent in contrast to previous year. State Government in Jammu is cracking the whip against brick kilns for violating norms of pollution. In Bhutan, local community are showing interests over kiwi cultivation.

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

Rise in public land encroachment
Imja lake outburst possibility diminished
Increased paddy production in Jhapa
Palpa in need of essential medicines
Rukumkot under acute water shortage
Completion of the upper Madi hydro project
Buffer zone locals in panic
Vulture population diminishing
Two nabbed with pangolin scales and deer horns
Smuggled owls retrieved from airport
Plastic free ward in Pokhara

INDIA

Chilgoza forest in danger
Farmers in problem with undersupply of quality dap
Meghalaya towards open defecation free zone
Brick kilns strictly monitored

CHINA

Local tourism getting promoted

BHUTAN

Increasing interest in kiwifruit cultivation

PAKISTAN

Women-oriented market by women

RISE IN PUBLIC LAND ENCROACHMENT

Incidences of building illegal shelters have increased recently on the public land at Bagarphant and Khabara of Beni, western Nepal. Locals complained about the deceitful activities of few people claiming as homeless and taking control of the public land.

Nov 21

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-21/encroachment-upon-public-land-goes-up-in-beni.html>

IMJA LAKE OUTBURST POSSIBILITY DIMINISHED

The high altitude Imja Glacial Lake in Solukhumbu district, eastern Nepal which was at the brink of outburst has successfully been controlled by the eight months arduous effort of Nepal Army personnel. The water level has currently been reduced by 3.4 meters. This is a Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project funded by United Nations Development Programme.

Nov 23

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-23/possible-risk-of-imja-glacial-lake-outburst-down.html>

INCREASED PADDY PRODUCTION IN JHAPA

Jhapa, eastern region of Nepal has seen an increase of 15 percent in paddy production compared to previous year. This year the production is 4.69 metric tonnes per hectare. The improved yield is thought of as a result of better quality of seeds and the decrease in pests.

Nov 23

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/paddy-production-jhapa-15-pc/>

PALPA IN NEED OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

Most of the health posts in Palpa, western region of Nepal have been facing shortages of essential medicines since November 12, 2016. The scarcity persists despite the provision of free medicine by the government. Stocks of the medicines have been reported to be very poor since last year.

Nov 23

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-23/shortage-of-essential-medicines-in-palpa.html>

RUKUMKOT UNDER ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

Rukumkot village, western Nepal is reeling under the problem of acute water scarcity since last four years. Failure of the only drinking water project in the village has limited the water use for almost 900 households. Unchecked population growth has aggravated the situation.

Nov 24

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-24/water-shortage-in-rukumkot.html>

COMPLETION OF THE UPPER MADI HYDRO PROJECT

The 25MW Upper Madi Hydropower Project based in Kaski is all set to start the production of energy. Various test runs are currently being carried out to ensure efficient production. The investments for this project were from Chinese and Nepali firms at 80 and 20 percent respectively.

Nov 24

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/upper-madi-hydropower-project-completed/>

BUFFER ZONE LOCALS IN PANIC

With frequent human-wildlife conflict in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, locals have demanded appropriate defence mechanisms from mega animals like tigers (*Panthera tigris*) and rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). Some individuals have lost their lives to tiger attacks while most of them have suffered crop damages

from rhinos and elephants. The electric fences that were installed eight years ago were also reported to be mildly effective at present.

Nov 27

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-27/locals-demand-check-on-wild-animal-menace-in-buffer-zone.html>

VULTURE POPULATION DIMINISHING

The number of vultures in the banks of Kaligandaki River, Palpa, south-west Nepal is reported to have been diminishing these days. Vulture nests were determined as around 300 a decade ago, but the recent enumeration has led to the record of 15-20 only. Lack of effective conservation effort is attributed for their decline.

Nov 27

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15768>

TWO NABBED WITH PANGOLIN SCALES AND DEER HORNS

Nepal Police have arrested two individuals with pangolin (*Manis sps*) scales worth almost US\$ 1400 and five deer horns. The individuals were caught selling these items in Jorpati, Kathmandu, Central Nepal. The investigation is underway to unearth more behind the monkey business.

Nov 24

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/9769>

SMUGGLED OWLS RETRIEVED FROM AIRPORT

Two individuals were found to be involved in illegal possession of six owls inside their suitcases, in Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, Central Nepal. The individuals were scheduled to travel from the Qatar Airlines and were caught with birds during the security check. Owls retrieved are rare in occurrence and high monetary value in black market.

Nov 26

<http://www.nagariknews.com/news/9571>

PLASTIC FREE WARD IN POKHARA

According to Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City, ward number 18 is free of plastic waste. This is the result of banning plastic made materials and awareness among locals in the area.

Nov 26

<http://www.ratopati.com/news/96390/>

India-Himalaya

CHILGOZA FOREST IN DANGER

The only Chilgoza forest of tribal Kinnaur and Pangi area of Northern India is losing several trees due to haphazard exploitation. Trees are dying due to fungal disease caused by un-scientific way of seed extraction. Experts have suggested forest department to close exploitation and to start nursery with commercial production practice.

Nov 25

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/stop-exploiting-chilgoza-forest-scientists/328008.html>

FARMERS IN PROBLEM WITH UNDERSUPPLY OF QUALITY DAP

Farmers in Jammu state of India are facing problems due to dearth of good quality Di-Ammonium Phosphate fertilizers. With the arrival of Rabi crop time, farmers are compelled to use fertilizers of private companies. Farmers have alleged the state government of not fulfilling its obligation to provide quality fertilizers in time.

Nov 25

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=189962>

MEGHALAYA TOWARDS OPEN DEFECATION FREE ZONE

With the initiation of "Swachh Bharat" initiative of Indian Prime minister, Meghalaya state of north-eastern India has achieved significant result of 85% households with toilets. Total 3, 49,910 toilets have been constructed with next 61,700 toilets on pipeline of construction within fiscal year 2016-17. Four hundred and eleven thousands toilets are all set to be constructed to make Meghalaya an open defecation free zone.

Nov 26

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/85-rural-households-in-meghalaya-gets-toilet/>

BRICK KILNS STRICTLY MONITORED

State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) of Jammu, India has developed survey units to monitor use of pollution control devices in brick kilns following the complaints about norms violation. Central Pollution Control Board has made the use of pollution control measures mandatory with directives to authorities to provide detailed report on impacts of brick kilns.

Nov 27

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/pollution-control-board-to-crack-whip-on-brick-kilns/329120.html>

China Himalaya

LOCAL TOURISM GETTING PROMOTED

Since tourism is the Tibet Gyantse's prime industry for economic development, 2017 "Charming Gyantse, Tour to Red River Valley" tourism promotion was carried out in Lhasa under the tourism brand "Red River Valley". The strategic concept of improving local economy by tourism with the full utilization of local cultural resources was put forward by Gyantse County's government in 2013. With the generation of US\$ 7066547.75 as tourism revenue, the country has witnessed 139,000 tourists in 2016.

Nov 24

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1479951496223.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

INCREASING INTEREST IN KIWI FRUIT CULTIVATION

The cultivation of Kiwi fruit (*Actinidia*) in Bhutan is being popular as determined through the Kiwi Festival organized for creating awareness on kiwi cultivation and business anticipation by the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) at Wangkha in Chukha, western Bhutan. Under the One District, Three Products (ODTP) project of BCCI, two kiwi fruit farms have produced about 50 kg of fruits in about 18 months. BCCI had already distributed 200 saplings to two farmers in 2015 whereas 1500 saplings this year to more than 20 people of Chukha at considerable rate.

Nov 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/kiwifruit-cultivation-gaining-popularity/>

WOMEN-ORIENTED MARKET BY WOMEN

The city of Rawalakot, Jammu Kashmir, northern Pakistan is witnessing a market place governed by women and for women, especially in such a male dominated society. The market's main objective is to make women economically and mentally strong. Apart from buying and selling, women can discuss their personal issues with one another and conclude solutions against domestic violence, honour killings, acid attacks and likewise.

Nov 27

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/168065-A-market-for-women-run-by-women>