

# Headlines Himalaya

April 04– April 11

No 399

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For the 399<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 30 news from 11 sources and selected 28 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, agricultural land have been left barren due to shortage of rainwater and seeds of endemic rice species is preserved by co-operative in Far Western Region. In India, local people have criticized the waste management plan made by government and campaign was started for wise use of water in Shimla. In China, Tibet autonomous Region has benefited through “Greenification Project”. In Bhutan, medicinal plants has become source of income. In Pakistan, search operation has come to end for the 23 landslides victims trapped in Kohistan landslide.

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

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## INDIA

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*Greenification Project Benefits Tibet*

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*Thimchhu Clean Campaign*  
*Medicinal Plants Enhance Income*

## PAKISTAN

*Rescuers End Search Operation for Landslide Trapped Victims*

### MEN ARRESTED WITH LEOPARD SKINS

Two men were arrested with skins and bones of rare leopard (*Panthera Pardus*) in Kanchanpur district, Far-Western Nepal. Captured animal parts were handed over to the District Forrest Office for further investigation. In the last year alone, more than a dozen skins and bones of tiger and leopard have been seized by the police in the district. According to arrested smugglers, the animals are being killed in the forest areas along the India-Nepal border.

April 05

Kantipur Daily

<http://epaper.ekantipur.com/kantipur/2016-04-05/15#>

### TARAI FOREST FIRES

About a dozen of districts in Terai have been affected by forest fires this year due to futile control program. According the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), over 250 forest fires has been recorded all over Nepal since February by the MODIS satellite.

April 05

Gorkhapatra Daily

### VISITORS TO API NAMPA INCREASE

The number of visitors to Api Nampa Conservation area has increased. According to the Office of Conservation area, in last eight months 11 foreigners have already travelled to this area, while there were just nine in last year. The tourist numbers are expected to double in next year in the conservation area that includes 21 VDCs of Darchula district.

April 06

Kantipur daily

<http://epaper.ekantipur.com/kantipur/2016-04-06/18>

### FOREST FIRES OUT OF CONTROL IN DHADING

Large scale forest fires, aggravated by the ongoing drought have led to a serious risk to community forests of Dhading district, Central Nepal. The dry season has led to a maximum no. of wildfires in the district with the government and NGO interventions proving limited and ineffective.

April 07

Annapurna Post Daily

<http://annapurnapost.com/EpaperDetails.aspx/paper/9285>

### VIRAL DISEASE DISTRESSES REMOTE UHIYA

Residents of remote Uhiya VDC in Gorkha district, Central Nepal are suffering from a viral disease for the past two months. Some of the residents were just recovering from diarrhea before they were struck down by the viral disease. Unavailability of medicines in local health post has further exacerbated the problem. Some people are reported to have lost their lives while most people above 40 and under 15 are suffering from the disease.

Annapurna Post Daily

<http://annapurnapost.com/EpaperDetails.aspx/paper/9288>

### DIARRHOEA IN JAJARKOT

Human right commission has directed Nepal Government to control the spread of Diarrhea in Dasera and Dhime villages of Jajarkot district. The government is especially concerned about the disease turning into an epidemic if left unchecked. The disease has also affected students appearing in SLC examination.

Nagarik Daily

April 07

<http://nagarikplus.nagariknews.com/component/flippingbook/book/2558-nagarik-07-apr-2016/2-nagarik.html>

### LIVELIHOOD AFFECTED BY RISING TEMPERATURES

Sudden rise in temperatures in the past week has seriously affected the livelihoods of people in Parsa, in Central Nepal. The temperatures recorded were 39°C, 40°C and 39°C on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively. The heat and humidity is threatening the livelihoods of daily wage laborers like rickshaw drivers and farmhands, as working conditions grow especially difficult.

April 08

Annapurna Post Daily

#### **DROUGHT IN PARBAT**

The Farmers in 12 VDCs of Parbat, Western Nepal, have left their land barren due to the ongoing drought since September. Maize is farmed in 14,825 hectares and is the second most grown crop in Parbat. However, the farmers of Karkineta, Lukhudeurali, Pakhapani and other VDCs have not been able to sow maize in their fields yet due to the lack of rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities.

April 09

Nagarik daily

<http://nagarikplus.nagariknews.com/component/flippingbook/book/2561-nagarik-09-apr-2016/2-nagarik.html>

#### **BIRATNAGAR HEATS UP**

Biratnagar, a city in Eastern Nepal, experienced an unusual cold wave and thick fog in the morning followed by a hot wave in the afternoon of April 7. The town has been burning up by rising temperatures with the beginning of summer. The unexpected alteration in weather pattern was reported to be a result of long-term drought which has loaded the atmosphere with dust particles, which otherwise would be swept down by winter rain.

April 09

Nagarik daily

<http://nagarikplus.nagariknews.com/component/flippingbook/book/2561-nagarik-09-apr-2016/2-nagarik.html>

#### **MAN ARRESTED WITH TIGER SKIN**

TikaramTharu from Baniyabhar, Bardia has been arrested for being in possession of a Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera Tigris Tigris) skin by a team of Central Intelligence Bureau (CIB), Nepal. The 39 year old might have obtained the skin from a tiger killed about two weeks ago in Bardia National Park. This year alone, 4 tigers have already been killed in buffer zones.

April 09

Kantipur Daily

#### **LAND- PLOTTING LEADS TO DRYING OF IMPORTANT WETLANDS**

Dozens of wetlands located in Budhabare VDC, Dhankuta district, Eastern Nepal are drying up due to extensive plotting work on the land for construction of buildings. Connection of village to road networks has attracted many migrants, leading to increment in price of land and ultimately construction on ecologically important wetlands.

April 09

Nagarik Daily

#### **PARK-PEOPLE CONFLICT IN DHORPATAN**

Locals claim that the government's decision to move armed forces in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Western Nepal, is against article 169 of ILO convention. Millions of revenue is collected by the reserve every year from the hunters of blue sheep, which the locals claim have not been used in the development of the region chiefly inhabited by indigenous communities. The reserve is spread over Rukum, Myagdi and Baglung districts of Western Nepal.

April 10

Kantipur Daily

#### **DENSE PINE FORESTS CONVERTED TO BARREN LAND**

The accelerating deforestation has cleared many hectares of pine forests in Dadeldhura and Doti, Mid-Western Nepal. The districts were known for having the most pine forested areas only a decade and a half ago. Over these years, 294 community forests in Dadeldhura and 353 in Doti felled pine trees to collect resin, halving the no. of trees in the districts.

April 10

Kantipur Daily

#### **WATER MILL LIGHTS UP THE WHOLE VILLAGE**

Water mill used to grind grains, has been used for the production of 3 KW of electricity by the residents of Manthali VDC, Makwanpur district, in Central Nepal. The mill is a multipurpose scheme, with the released water being used for irrigation as well. The electricity generated by the mill has lit up the whole village.

April 10

Kantipur Daily

#### SEEDS OF ENDEMIC CROPS PRESERVED: A STEP TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY

Anamol Agro Cooperative Organization of Kanchanpur, Far Western Nepal has started to collect and preserve seeds of two dozen endemic rice species. The organization has set up a community seed bank for the purpose and the seed is being distributed to many parts of Nepal including National Agriculture Research Council (NARC). The indigenous Tharu people claim that the local rice species are pest-resistant and suitable to local climate and soil.

April 10

Kantipur Daily

## India-Himalaya

#### RHESUS MACAQUE DECLARED VERMIN IN SHIMLA

The government has declared Rhesus macaque (*Macacamulatta*) as a vermin in Shimla Municipal Corporation, in North-Western India. The permission to cull the marauding monkeys is valid for the next six months in the municipal limits. The monkeys pose a threat to human life, crops and other state property. However, Delhi based animal rights activists have lodged a written complaint against the mass culling.

April 05

[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/51695706.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/51695706.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/Rights-activist-takes-up-fight-for-monkeys/articleshow/51691094.cms>

#### VILLAGE UNDER THREAT FROM ELEPHANT ATTACK

A wild elephant crushed five members of a family to death in Assam's Biswanath Chariali district, bordering Arunachal Pradesh, in Northeast India. The elephant had run loose from Behali Reserve Forest, Sonitpur district, Assam. All Adivasi Student Association (AASA) and AATSA blocked the national highway for one hour to protest against the forest department's failure to protect the villages.

April 06

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/In-Assam-5-of-a-family-trampled-to-death-by-wild-elephant/articleshow/51709310.cms>

#### ACUTE WATER CRISIS IN SHIMLA

As many as 13 water schemes in Baldeinya, Pujarli, Dummi, Darbog, Satlai, and Kotipanchayats in Shimla, northern India, have either dried up or are suffering from reduced water levels. This has created an acute water crisis in the villages leading to protests by the local stating state inadequacy and failure of the government to provide drinking water.

April 06

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/water-shortage-sparks-protest/218719.html>

#### RAIN AND SNOW IN CHAMBA

Thunderstorms and downpour in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, Northern India, harmed Rabi crops in the region. Cold wave conditions in low-lying areas also resulted in sudden snow in high peaks of Chamba.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/rain-snowfall-in-chamba/219220.html>

#### WATER CRISIS LEADS TO CAMPAIGN

Save the water campaign was launched by the Shimla Municipal Corporation, Shimla, in Northern India under the banner "Water is guest, use it wisely". The campaign was launched to promote mindful use of water in the city that is reeling from acute shortage of water. Not only has the demand increased from 60-70 liters per day to over 130 liters per day, the crisis is also threatening the tourism industry of Shimla.

April 07

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/save-water-campaign-launched/219231.html>

<http://www.newsx.com/national/25267-shimla-faces-water-scarcity-threat-in-tourism-industry>

#### STEPS TO CHECK WATER-BORNE DISEASE

Deputy Commissioner of Himachal Pradesh, North India, has directed district level offices to review the steps taken to prevent the occurrence of water-borne diseases in Una district, Himachal Pradesh. Overhead water tanks in all government institutions are required to be checked and cleaned periodically, particularly in the wake of summer.

April 08

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/steps-to-check-water-borne-diseases/219221.html>

#### CRITICISM ON GOVT. WASTES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Himachal Pradesh government faced the wrath of National Green Tribunal (NGT) for filing a “half-baked report” on waste management plans and commercial activities in the eco-sensitive Rohtang Pass area. The bench headed by NGT asked the government about its plans to control waste generated by tourist activities in the area as it is affecting the livelihoods of locals.

April 09

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/govt-faces-green-tribunal-s-ire-for-filing-half-baked-report/219655.html>

#### FOREST PATROL FOR GREEN WEALTH

Minister for Forests, Ecology, and Environment commanded the Forest Department to ensure regular patrolling of forest to avoid timber theft, encroachments, and fire in Jammu and Kashmir, India. He also asked officials to plant medicinal and ornamental plants along the roads of the hilly area to support locals and stakeholders. The minister has already directed officials to dispose of seized stocks, animals, and vehicles after imposing a penalty on the defaulters.

April 09

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/community/minister-for-regular-forest-patrol-to-avoid-thefts/219712.html>

## China Himalaya

#### GREENIFICATION PROJECT BENEFITS TIBET

The Tibet Autonomous Region’s ‘greenification’ project for the “Two Rivers & Four Rivers” (the YarlungZangbo River, the Lhasa and Nujiang Rivers, the Nianchu River, the Yarlung River and the Shiquan River) has resulted in planting of more than 1.2 million trees in 7284 Hectares of land. The project began in 2014 with the objective of conserving water resources as well as for the dual purpose of windbreak and sand fixation. The planted trees have a survival rate between 90-95 %.

05 April

[http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/green\\_tibet/1459906238746.shtml](http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/green_tibet/1459906238746.shtml)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

#### THIMCHHU CLEAN CAMPAIGN

Tashi InfoComm employees collected trash along the Thimchhu, west-central Bhutan on the eight anniversary of Tashi Cell. The volunteers collected about 240 sacks of waste that included mainly pet bottles, plastic bags especially chips packets, and rags. Thimchhu is considered one of the dirtiest areas in the city, with the centenary farmer’s market at one side and settlements on the other side contributing to the pollution.

April 07

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/tashi-infocomm-employees-collect-240-sacks-of-trash/>

#### HAILSTORM DAMAGES CROPS

Around 400 households have been affected by the hailstorm in Norgayganggewog, Samtse and Kashigewog, Wangdue, in Bhutan. The hailstorm caused damage to over 300 Cardamom and Maize farms: Cardamom is the main cash crop in the affected gewogs. Locals have requested seedling support from the authorities for next year, as 100 kg of potato seeds costs up to USD 30.

April 08

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/hailstorm-damages-crops-in-samtse-and-wangdue/>

#### MEDICINAL PLANTS ENHANCE INCOME

Thirty villagers of Deptsang in Lauri, Samdrupjongkhar District, Bhutan have planted local herb *Paris polyphylla* which has great medicinal value. They can make at least USD 60.12 for a kilogram of dried *thoksam* where a kilogram of fresh one is worth just USD 4.51. Previously villagers depended upon cash crops worth USD 450.89 a year.

April 09

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/villager-group-grows-medicinal-plant/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

#### RESCUERS END SEARCH OPERATION FOR LANDSLIDE TRAPPED VICTIMS

A massive landslide buried 23 people in Kohistan district, Northern Pakistan. Rescuers could only rescue five injured people during their search and rescue operation. The end of the rescue operation pushed the total death from heavy rains to 117 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

April 08

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=MTA1NzQ0#sthash.7PwobWsf.dpuf>

