

Headlines Himalaya

Nov 20- Nov 26 (2017)

No. 482

Editorial Team: Palistha Shrestha and Simrik Bhandari

For the 482nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 20 news from 13 sources and selected 19 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, rice import escalated even at the increase in paddy production across the country. The mysterious death of pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*) have baffled the devotees and pilgrims in Barahakshetra, Sunsari, eastern Nepal. In India, Assam has been identified as a potential state for organic-farming. In China, Abalones (*Haliotis* sp.) are shifted to the warmer waters of Putian, south eastern part, to escape the cold water of Rongcheng, northern territory. Rise in Banana (*Musa* sp.) farming led it to commercial production in Bhutan.

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

Origin of the dwellers revealed
Rice import escalated even at the increase in Paddy production
Mysterious death of Pigeons
Onion price hike
Dealer overextend the price of sweet orange
Tigers affected due to highway

INDIA

Farmers training camp organized
Assam: a potential state for organic farming
Prohibition on garbage burning
Srinagar experiences coldest night in the decade
Feathers turning white: mystic case in Crow
Pollution hampering children's growth
Manas National Park in ominous state

CHINA

Abalones shifted to warm water of Putian
China created most complete Yak gene pool
Green burials in Tibet
Bar-headed geese migrates to Lhasa River valley

BHUTAN

Commercial farming of Banana in Bhutan

PAKISTAN

Enraged sugarcane farmers

ORIGIN OF THE DWELLERS REVEALED

It has been found out that the dwellers of Upper Mustang, western Nepal, to be resettled primitively from the north and the Tibetan plateau, Central Asia and East Asia, 3,000 years ago, from a scientific research. The DNA of the ancient people, when compared to the modern people, matched closely with the indigenous Tibetans. As per the lead scientist, the high altitude regions were inhabited at the last, so the project is being carried out to study the effects of elevation on people.

Nov 21

<http://bit.ly/2icGIA7>

RICE IMPORT ESCALATED EVEN AT THE INCREASE IN PADDY PRODUCTION

The increase in the production of paddy (*Oryza sativa*) to 5.23 metric tonnes in 2016-17, hasn't assisted in decreasing the import of rice. The import has escalated by forty percent, according to Nepal Rastriya Bank (NRB). However, the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) has a goal of 5.4 million tonnes production for the current fiscal year with no plan to downscale the import.

Nov 22

<http://bit.ly/2Ad05KV>

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF PIGEONS

The death of pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*) on the roof in Barahakshetra, Sunsari, eastern Nepal, one after another, has left the devotees and pilgrims in the state of confusion. As per the resident, the pigeons looked sickly and collapsed after feeding on lime. However, the concerned authorities are carrying out the investigation to find out the actual cause of death.

Nov 22

<http://bit.ly/2zLz8Pc>

ONION PRICE HIKE

The price of onions (*Allium* sp.) has spiralled to NPR 115 on Friday from NPR 78 on Sunday. The flow from India was restraint after the yield was plummeted by the flood on August. In spite of having high capability of producing onions, Nepal has been reined by dearth storage.

Nov 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/31469/>

DEALER OVEREXTEND THE PRICE OF SWEET ORANGE

The consumers are forced to pay thrice the amount of sweet oranges (*Citrus* sp.) as the distributor has been meddling with the business. The price of sweet oranges has increased by NPR 50-100 this year. . The public have been complaining about the high price of sweet oranges whereas the farmers of Sindhuli, central Nepal, are surprised with the market price.

Nov 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/31473/>

TIGERS AFFECTED DUE TO HIGHWAY

A study that is being conducted shows that the tigers (*Panthera tigris* sp.) are being affected by the heavily used Mahendra highway, East-West highway. Camera trapping methodology is being used for this study, and an overall of 30 cameras have been installed on either side of the highway. According to the research officer, the tigers have been seen on the southern side, but they haven't travelled across, due to the busy highway.

Nov 26

<http://bit.ly/2Acy85q>

FARMERS TRAINING CAMP ORGANIZED

The Agriculture Department has organised a day long farmer's training camp on Soil Moisture Management in Assam, north eastern India under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC). The farmers were made aware about the conservation of soil moisture and other components. The major components of the project are vulnerability analysis and baseline data, sensitization, crop system planning, farmer field demonstration, orientation of climate smart agriculture, seed support to farmer, integrated farming, residual recycling, soil testing, nutrient and pest management technology, water harvesting and protected cultivation. The farmers were briefed on centrally sponsored schemes of the agriculture department.

Nov 21

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

ASSAM: A POTENTIAL STATE FOR ORGANIC FARMING

According to a recent study, conducted by the (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP), almost entire region of north eastern parts of India has a future in organic farming. In order to uplift the organic cultivation, ICAR-NBSS & LUP has been working on locating the areas where potential for organic farming exists.

Nov 22

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

PROHIBITION ON GARBAGE BURNING

The district administration of Dibrugarh, Assam, north eastern India has passed an order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code which bans burning all forms of garbage and waste materials in the municipality and the surrounding areas. The action has been taken in order to control the rising level.

Nov 22

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

SRINAGAR EXPERIENCES COLDEST NIGHT IN THE DECADE

The temperature of Srinagar, one of the cities in Kashmir, northern India, has felt to its lowest, minus 3.1 degrees Celsius. The night temperature in Srinagar continued its downward spiral with the city experiencing the coldest November night in a decade.

Nov 25

<http://bit.ly/2AeKkt3>

FEATHERS TURNING WHITE: MYSTIC CASE IN CROW

Corvus sp. (Crows and ravens) in a Sonitpur district of Assam, north eastern India, have been reported to die after their feathers turned into white. A month before, the villagers had thought it to be a case of albino, when they first spotted a crow with white feathers. The locals are more concerned about the infection in poultry through this disease. The carcasses of birds have been taken for further investigations.

Nov 25

<http://bit.ly/2zKbL8l>

POLLUTION HAMPERING CHILDREN'S GROWTH

A top official of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in his visit to India to release a multi-country survey report on children's concerns, has reported pollution to be the major factor hampering children's growth in India. Concerns such as violence, sexual assault within families, child marriages, poverty, healthcare, child pornography and trafficking were discussed in a meeting, with Women and Child Development Minister.

Nov 25

<http://bit.ly/2Btk6L6>

MANAS NATIONAL PARK IN OMINOUS STATE

It has been reported that the workers in Manas National Park of Assam, north eastern India, continues to face hardships as State government fails to hand over the funds released by the Central government, months back to the park authorities. Manas National Park is on a recovery process and the conservationists are worried about the Park's long-term wellbeing because of the current situation.

Nov 26

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

China Himalaya

ABALONES SHIFTED TO WARM WATER OF PUTIAN

Abalones (*Haliotis* sp.) have been transferred to the warmer water of Putian, south eastern China, to escape the cold water of Rongcheng, north eastern China. They will be relocated to Rongcheng in upcoming summer to avoid the heat in Putian. This move, of about 3.6 million abalones, is done to protect them from changing water temperature in the sea.

Nov 22

<http://bit.ly/2AcmaJ1>

CHINA CREATED MOST COMPLETE YAK GENE POOL

Yak Industry Technology in Tibet with the help of Southwest Minzu University, has produced the most complete yak gene pool in China containing 30 different breeds of yak (*Bos* spp.) found in China. The laboratory has initially produced more than 4,000 yaks with meat producing capacity increased by 10.22% and had promoted more than 600 improved varieties of yaks. It has been reported that 24 key genes have been selected for yak milk production, meat production, stress resistance and other related traits, which provides a direction for selection and utilization for the candidate genes in yak breeding.

Nov 22

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

<http://bit.ly/2Ae7klK>

GREEN BURIALS IN TIBET

Tibetan government is on its way to make a green sky burial practice even greener by installing modern furnaces at sky burial sites to burn clothes, bed sheets or other worldly possessions of the deceased to leave a smaller environmental footprint. Sky burial is an ancient Tibetan culture which practices leaving their dead to be devoured by scavenging birds mountaintops that lack power and water supply. Three furnaces have already been installed and the government will push for its use in all 156 major sky burial sites in the region after the approval of the locals. The government has earmarked USD 57.6 million to renovate Tibet's sky burial sites over the five years to 2020 AD.

Nov 23

<http://bit.ly/2zwvft3>

BAR-HEADED GEESE MIGRATES TO LHASA RIVER VALLEY

Bar-headed geese (*Anser indicus*) have been reported to be seen on the lake at Longwangtan Park in Lhasa, capital of Tibet, south western China. The migratory birds have returned to the Lhasa river valley to spend the winter season, in November.

Nov 26

<http://bit.ly/2hX1DOo>

Bhutan-Himalaya

COMMERCIAL FARMING OF BANANA IN BHUTAN

Over 10,000 banana (*Musa* sp.) trees have been planted over about hundred acres of land, previously left bare in a village in Bhutan. The plantation started in June this year with three varieties of banana with 28 households involved in the farming. It is reported that the bananas are mostly used in making banana chips and supplying to the schools.

Nov 20

<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=84829>

Pakistan-Himalaya

ENRAGED SUGARCANE FARMERS

Protest rally was demonstrated by farmers in Peshawar, north western Pakistan, against mill owners for delaying the crushing season of the sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*). According to the sugarcane farmer's, mills owners in collaboration with the provincial government were exploiting thousands of farmers by delaying crushing season in the province to force farmers to sell their cash crop at lower price. The growers have demanded the government to address mills owners to start crushing season immediately and increase price of 40 kilograms sugarcane from about USD 1.7 to 2.8.

Nov 22

<http://bit.ly/2hW8KGR>