

Headlines Himalaya

July 23 - July 29 (2018)

No. 515

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For the 515th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 21 news from 9 sources and selected 20 happenings from five countries. Farmers adopted the tunnel farming techniques for the better cultivation in western Nepal. "Solar Campus Campaign" in Assam inspired students to reduce carbon footprints. Celebration of Global Tiger Day 2018 extended to various regions of Nepal and India with an emphasis on the species conservation. Youths stepping out for the preservation of native orchids in western 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

New technology in cultivation
MSP increases for paddy
Compelled to drink contaminated water
Shortfall of fertilizer
Tourism promotion in Kanchanpur
Water level rises in Kaligandaki
Death of eleven tigers
Landslide blocking road
International Tiger Day celebrated

INDIA

Erosion; A serious problem in monsoon
Utilization of internet in forest sector
Installation of 330kw solar panel
Mysterious death of buffaloes
Campaign emphasises sanitation awareness
Celebration of Global Tiger Day

CHINA

Carp swim upstream for breeding
Success of Tibet's nature conservation

BHUTAN

First youth festival celebrated
Youths in orchid conservation

PAKISTAN

Lower DIR flood kills people

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN CULTIVATION

The farmers of Surkhet, western Nepal have applied modern technology in the cultivation of vegetables for the purpose of better income with less investment and effort. The farmers have been growing vegetables in a tunnel wrapped with wire net to prevent the attack from pests and the temperature is also maintained inside the tunnel. They have been practicing drip irrigation too which has solved their problem of water scarcity. According to the farmers, the new technology has solved their problems regarding insect pests and they have got the best result with better benefits.

July 25

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

MSP INCREASES FOR PADDY

According to the Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, a high level government committee meeting on July 24 has approved the increment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy (*Oryza sativa*) to NPR 2,460.57 per quintal for this fiscal year as recommended by the advisory body of the Agriculture Ministry. For implementation, it needs to be approved by the cabinet. This secures a profit of 30 percent for farmers.

July 25

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

COMPELLED TO DRINK CONTAMINATED WATER

One hundred and eighty families of Salyan, western Nepal have been dependent on the contaminated water of Babai River. The local people do not boil or filter the water due to which they have to suffer from various water borne diseases. According to the Chairman of Drinking Water Project Construction Consumer Committee, the water source had dried up nearly 13 years ago so they have to depend on river water. Not only the health risk but the education of children has also been affected as they had to go to the rivers to fetch water.

July 25

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

SHORTFALL OF FERTILIZER

The paddy farmers of the Siraha, eastern Nepal are facing the shortage of fertilizer. Around 72,908 sacks of fertilizer are needed on 60,757 hectares of land. The farmers have been deprived of required amount of fertilizer and have to pay extra amount for it. The farmers have complained that the traders and company officials are charging them more.

July 26

<https://bit.ly/2vVURz9>

TOURISM PROMOTION IN KANCHANPUR

The locals of Kanchanpur, far western Nepal have constructed a traditional style building in Bhamkepani area to establish a Tharu museum for attracting tourist. It has been constructed using wood and mud at a cost of NPR 600,000. The road that leads to the museum has already been surfaced with gravel for the ease of transportation.

July 26

<https://bit.ly/2MFxr8p>

WATER LEVEL RISES IN KALIGANDAKI

Due to the rainfall in lower Mustang and Myagdi, western Nepal district, the water level in Kaligandaki River has been raised. The District Administration Office has advised the local people to be alert who goes near the river area for the collection of woods. The police is also involved in this process of spreading awareness among people to prevent any type of disaster.

July 27

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

DEATH OF ELEVEN TIGERS

In Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, eleven tigers (*Panthera tigris*) have died in three years due to various factors such as fight with one another, ageing, poison etc. According to the Information Officer of CNP, with the rise in the number of tigers and lack of adequate space, the tigers have been attacking each other which might be the cause of increased death. The officers are working together for the control of the death.

July 29

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/57755>

LANDSLIDE BLOCKING ROAD

The Butwal-Palpa, western Nepal section of Siddhartha highway has been blocked since early morning of July 29 due to landslide caused by continuous rainfall. It is the sixth time that the road has been blocked at the same place. It has caused a lot of problems to travellers as well as locals as the clearing of debris is not being carried out smoothly due to continuous downpour. Similarly, deposition of landslide debris since last month at seven different places of Palpa has prevented the smooth travelling of people on which the concerned authorities have been turning blind eye.

July 29 & 27

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

<https://bit.ly/2KJwuK4>

INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY CELEBRATED

On the occasion of the International Tiger Day 2018, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) in Kathmandu, central Nepal has organized a program with participation of all 13 heads of government to reveal the result on the total population of tigers in Nepal on the basis of the tiger census conducted on November 2017. This national survey has failed to disclose the required information in which the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) has pointed the delayed completion of work as a major reason.

July 30

<https://bit.ly/2KJJ2RQ>

India-Himalaya

EROSION; A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN MONSOON

Brahmaputra and its tributaries have caused floods and erosion in many places of Sonitpur and Biswanath district, north eastern India. According to sources, around 100 kilo meter area has been eroded. Yearly this problem hunts the locals but the government and other concerned authorities had never addressed the issue. . Different organizations have been pressurising the government to scrutinize the problem along with the rehabilitation interventions.

July 25

<https://bit.ly/2MavZ1h>

UTILIZATION OF INTERNET IN FOREST SECTOR

In the presence of authorized personnel, Chief Minister inaugurated the Assam, north eastern India, forest online revenue e-procurement sale and transit system. The state government has floated the revenue e-procurement sale and transit system of the forest department because the movement of trucks from the forest areas was done without valid permission throughout the state. This will help in well management of forest revenue and this system is starting from Cachar Forest Division.

July 25

<https://bit.ly/2Ot5CAx>

INSTALLATION OF 330KW SOLAR PANEL

A 330 kilowatt (KW) solar panel has been installed by the Royal Global University (RGU), Guwahati, north eastern India under the initiative programme, "Solar Campus" with the aim to manage energy costs and promote energy education. Further, its main focus is to reduce carbon footprint using smart lightning techniques and energy efficient lightning throughout the college, such as "day light harvesting". This university has adopted "3-R" (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) principle in order to prevent pollution and keep environment clean.

July 26

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

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF BUFFALOES

In a rural village of Manipur district, north eastern India, buffaloes (*Bubalis bubalis*) have died due to mysterious disease. Altogether death of 21 buffaloes has been reported. In this, the Joint Director of State Veterinary has predicted food poisoning as the cause of death when no other signs of disease has been reported.

July 27

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

CAMPAIGN EMPHASISES SANITATION AWARENESS

Awareness campaign has been conducted by the Department of Rural Sanitation district at the office of Block Programme Manager Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRLM), northern India. The main motto of this program was to raise awareness among the people especially those who are working in the health sectors about the importance of keeping the environment clean and open defecation free.

July 28

<https://bit.ly/2nqtJV4>

CELEBRATION OF GLOBAL TIGER DAY

The Assam State Zoo, north eastern India with the support of Tansukhrai Ratanlal Jewellers has celebrated International Tiger Day. The main aim of this program was to raise awareness about the importance of tiger (*Panthera tigris*) conservation. The day was celebrated with the participation of school children, conservationists and distinguished personalities by conducting various programmes such as painting competition and a play on 'Save the Tiger'. Speaking on the occasion, the Director of Tansukhrai Ratanlal Jewellers urged everyone for the conservation of tiger and its habitat.

July 29

<https://bit.ly/2Otg4bn>

China Himalaya

CARPS SWIM UPSTREAM FOR BREEDING

Each year more than thousands of Qinghai Carp (*Gymnocypris przewalskii*) travels upstream into the freshwater rivers to breed. This year as well the carps travelled a long journey to return to Quanji Rivers of Tibet Autonomous Region, south western China in order to breed. These Qinghai Carp which is called as Huang fish are indigenous to Qinghai Lake and it was included in "China's Red List of Endangered Species."

July 25

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

SUCCESS OF TIBET'S NATURE CONSERVATION

A press conference was held at Tibet, south western China, in a title, "Ecological Progress on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau". Speaking on the conference, one of the staffs of Tibet Autonomous Region's Department of Environmental Protection reported that 34.35% of the region's area i.e. 41,220,000 hectares has been covered with 47 nature conservation zones. This increment in the area of conservation sites has helped in the growth of rare and endangered species in the region.

July 26

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

FIRST YOUTH FESTIVAL CELEBRATED

The first National Youth Festival has been held in Thimpu, west central Bhutan in order to motivate the youths about volunteerism on the theme "Be the change you want to see". Altogether 225 youth participated in the festival from nine youth-led groups. In this festival, youth groups put up stalls featuring their achievements in various fields, involved in cultural performances and literary activities and some of them also shared their experiences related to volunteerism.

July 23

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

YOUTHS IN ORCHID CONSERVATION

Due to the weak management of the Community Orchid Center (COC) of Bongo village, western Bhutan, the center has been taken over by Youth in Agriculture Program (YiAP), which is a commercial agriculture group. The center was established for conservation of local orchid for income generation, conservation of the community forest and research purpose. Currently, there are only two species of orchid *Cymbidium* and *Dendrobium* available at COC but the YiAP has been putting their efforts to increase the species of orchids by blending research with documentation.

July 27

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

Pakistan- Himalaya

LOWER DIR FLOOD KILLS PEOPLE

The flash flood that occurred due to heavy rain in Lower Dir district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in northern Pakistan, swept away four people including two children and two women. The dead bodies were recovered from the stream. As per sources, the deceased people belong to Takht Village, northern Pakistan.

July 29

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