

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 557 and 558th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 17 news from 9 sources and 17 selected happenings from five countries.

Wildfire that had started in the mid-May in Kailali District of western Nepal has affected 40% of the forest area. Nepali survey team installed GPS devices on the Everest summit to get the accurate measurement of its height. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has initiated to measure the depth of Phoksundo Lake of Dolpa District. 'One Person, One Plant' campaign has been launched to support the implementation of the Afforestation Year 2019. The testing of organophosphates and carbamate on fruits and vegetables, which had been halted previously due to the lack of testing kits and technical experts, is resuming soon in Kathmandu, Central Nepal. Fisheries Minister of Himanchal State of northern India banned the fishing activities in all reservoirs till July 31. A gasoline- powered vehicles has been started a trial run of clean energy buses in Mount Qomolangma National Nature Reserve of the Tibet autonomous region. A 17km solar fencing installed last year in Radhi gewog has helped to mitigate wildlife conflict in the region. Zerbali (*Grevillea victoriae*) is on the verge of extinction as people in Chitral of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan has stopped growing it.

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FOREST FIRE IN WESTERN NEPAL

Wildfire that had started in the mid-May in Kailali District of western Nepal has affected 40% of the forest area that accounts about 60,000 hectares. Nepal has been losing around 200,000 ha of forest annually since 2005.

May 21

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

HEIGHT MEASUREMENT OF THE MT. EVEREST

Nepali survey team installed GPS devices on the Everest summit to get the accurate measurement of its height. Twelve different observation stations have been set up around Mt. Everest. The Government of Nepal-Department of Survey has gathered the data and will make the result available to public by the end of this year.

May 23

<https://bit.ly/2MPWPg2>

FOCUS ON OPERATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Central Nepal is planning to operate electric vehicles with an aim to reduce air pollution in the city from vehicular emission. City environment is expected to be improved with this measure.

May 23

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

MEASURING THE DEPTH OF PHOKSUNDO LAKE

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has initiated to measure the depth of Phoksundo Lake of Dolpa District in western Nepal. This has been done to solve the dispute on the claim that the Phoksundo Lake is the deepest lake of the country.

May 26

<https://bit.ly/2F8NTfs>

NINETY FAMILIES TRAPPED AS INDIA DIVERTS KOSHI FLOW

More than ninety families of Saptari District of eastern Nepal were trapped by the Koshi River when Indian side diverted its water to the western side on May 24th. This act has led to the loss of residents' belongings including timber, livestock and boats.

May 26

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

EXPEDITION BRINGS DOWN ELEVEN TONS OF TRASH FROM MT. EVEREST

A 12-membered garbage collection expedition brought nearly 11 tons of garbage along with four bodies of dead climbers down to Namche Bazar. This cleanup campaign had lasted for a month.

May 27

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

'ONE PERSON, ONE PLANT' CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED

'One Person, One Plant' campaign has been launched to support the implementation of the Afforestation Year 2019. The Ministry of Forests and Environment has planned to conduct afforestation programs by mobilizing community based forest groups and will also organize an international seminar on community forestry and promotion of forest products.

May 27

<https://bit.ly/2Kk7nSq>

KATHMANDU UNPREPARED TO MANAGE ITS WASTE

Since the construction of a new landfill site at Bancharedanda (bordering area of Nuwakot and Dhading districts of Central Nepal) is very unlikely to be completed before monsoon. So, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City is forced to use the dumping site in Sisdole despite it being filled beyond its capacity. Sisdole was meant to be a dumping site for three years but with it being used continuously for fourteen years, the waste has taken the shape of a hill.

May 27

<https://bit.ly/2wSwx1l>

REPRESENTATIVES JOIN FARMERS TO PLANT MARSİ RICE

A campaign to preserve the native rice species named Marsi rice (*Oryza punctata*) has commenced with the joint effort from local representatives of Hima Rural Municipality of Jumla District of far-western Nepal. Marsi rice has high demand recently due to its great nutritional value.

May 28

<https://bit.ly/2FkG9Hx>

FORESTS AND RIVER AS A DUMPING SITE

After about 65 tons of wastes is collected by Bharatpur Metropolitan City has been dumping its wastes on the banks of Narayani River since last nine years. About 65 tons of wastes is produced in the city daily.

Jun 1

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

AUTHORITIES TO RESUME PESTICIDES TEST ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The testing of organophosphates and carbamate on fruits and vegetables, which had been halted previously due to the lack of testing kits and technical experts, is resuming soon in Kathmandu, Central Nepal.

Jun 2

<https://bit.ly/313382U>

India-Himalaya

SHIFTING TO ORCHID CULTIVATION

Horticulture Department plan to provide plant materials and other infrastructure to the farmers of Shopian and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir of northern India who are willing to shift from illegal cultivation of poppy and cannabis to cash crops. This program aims to prevent youth from the involvement in using drug.

May 23

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

BAN ON FISHING

Fisheries Minister of Himanchal State of northern India banned the fishing activities in all reservoirs till July 31. About US \$45 per month would be provided to each fisherman working in the reservoirs during the ban.

May 31

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

China Himalaya

CLEAN ENERGY BUSES AT QOMOLANGMA RESERVE

A gasoline- powered vehicles has been started a trial run of clean energy buses in Mount Qomolangma National Nature Reserve of the Tibet autonomous region with the aim of controlling air pollution and promoting tourism development of the region.

May 22

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

BAN ON RELEASING EXOTIC SPECIES IN WATER RESOURCES

Release of exotic species, artificially bred species or genetically modified species have been banned in Yushu in northwest China's Qinghai Province effective from July 1. Yushu is home to the headwaters of three major rivers -- the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang.

Jun 2

<https://bit.ly/2Kh9d6D>

Bhutan-Himalaya

SOLAR FENCING ALLEVIATES WILDLIFE CONFLICT

A 17km solar fencing installed last year in Radhi gewog has helped to mitigate wildlife conflict in the region. This helps to protect farmland from attack of wild boar, monkeys and domestic animals and caused to greater harvest this year.

May 22

<https://bit.ly/2FaWBK2>

Pakistan- Himalaya

ZERBALI ON VERGE OF EXTINCTION

Zerbali (*Grevillea victoriae*) is on the verge of extinction as people in Chitral of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan has stopped growing it. However, this plant has medicinal value . The extinction of the this plant has also led to disappearance of cuckoo, a dove-sized migratory bird.

May 23

<https://bit.ly/2WJv9hj>

