

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 292<sup>nd</sup> issue, we reviewed 22 news reports from 11 sources and selected 12 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, endangered species pangolin are on the verge of extinction while, in India trout farming improves economic condition of the local people. Meanwhile in Tibet, China, new high technology has been used for conservation of Antelope and in Bhutan even cyclone could not affect crop yield. Similarly, Peshawar, Pakistan becomes free from Poliovirus.

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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## Nepal-Himalaya

### NEED OF DISABLE FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

According to the census, 1.94 per cent of the population is disabled in Nepal. They do not receive priority in developing infrastructure. This results in serious problems for the disabled while travelling in Kathmandu valley and elsewhere. There is an urgent need of safe and easy roads for the disabled as it is their right as citizens to walk on the roads safely and comfortably.

February 25

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/02/25/development/disabled-friendly-roads-must-be-a-priority/385831.html>

### PANGOLIN ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION

Pangolins, one of the endangered species of Nepal, are on the verge of extinction due to illegal trade from Tehrathum, Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung and Dhankuta districts, in eastern Nepal to India and China. Pangolin scales fetch NPR 15,000 to 45,000 per kilogram in local market.

February 27

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/02/27/top-story/smuggling-of-pangolin-scales-on-rise/385944.html>

#### LANDSLIDES IN BAITADI

A landslide in Malladehi VDC in Baitadi district, western Nepal has displaced 35 families. Sand mining on the foot of the hill is considered to be the main reason for the landslides and sixteen families are already taking shelter in the land of local community forest to protect themselves from the hazard. This landslide has also swept rural tracks which has isolated the village from other villages.

February 27

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2014/02/27/news/baitadi-landslide-displaces-35-families/259805.html>

#### ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

People from Panitanki village of Kavrepalanchowk district, in central Nepal have started to utilize their traditional knowledge to adapt to the changing climate. They have started taking new steps by utilizing waste water in irrigation, harvesting rainwater and utilizing it for different purpose against unpredictable weather.

March 1

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/international/31639-solutions-to-a-looming-crisis-climate-change-challenges-creating-further-complications-for-nepal%E2%80%99s-mountain-farmers/>  
<http://www.countercurrents.org/sangeetha010314.htm>

#### HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Construction of electric fence to protect banana plantation has led to the death of a male elephant from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in Sunsari, eastern Nepal. There are altogether 11 wild elephant in the reserve which roam around adjoining villages in search of food at night. But due to these fences they are being killed untimely.

March 2

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/03/02/national/wild-elephant-electrocuted/386096.html>

## India-Himalaya

#### RHINO POACHING INCREASES

A rhino was killed by a group of suspected militants equipped with AK series rifles at Kaziranga National park, near Gorakati anti-poaching camp bordering Karbi Anglong district in Assam, north-eastern India. Forest staffs tried to retaliate the poachers immediately after hearing the gunshot but went in vain. The government is planning to set up at least eight towers for round-the-clock surveillance at the park.

February 25

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/wild-wacky/Kaziranga-loses-another-rhino-horn-chopped-off/articleshow/30977880.cms>

#### TROUT FISH FARM BOOSTS IN HIMACHAL

In order to boost fish production, central government of Himanchal Pradesh, northern India and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has sanctioned 538,084 USD and 194,000 USD respectively. According to government figures, the fish production in 2013 was at 8,560 tonnes which included 205 tonnes of trout. Trout farming generates 213 days of employment in a year which provides 41 per cent of the average household income of families dependent on it.

February 26

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/rainbow-trout-set-to-propagate-in-himachal-114022600615\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/rainbow-trout-set-to-propagate-in-himachal-114022600615_1.html)

## China Himalaya

### CHINA ENDEAVORS TO PRESERVE TIBETAN LANGUAGE

Chinese government is supporting bilingual education at schools in Tibet, southern-western China and other ethnic regions. The Chinese and Tibetan government has invested more than 163 million USD since 2008 to boost technological application of the Tibetan language. Moreover, the schools have also obtained more than 40 sets of Tibetan-Chinese bilingual textbooks covering arts as well as sciences to ensure that the students are well-grounded in both languages.

February 26

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201402/t20140226\\_1975589.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201402/t20140226_1975589.html)

### ANTELOPE CONSERVATION BY HI-TECH

The forestry department of Tibet has launched a study to count the population of Tibetan antelopes, their migration map along with their habit and living environment for the better preservation of this animal by using a high tech collar. Altogether 13 collars have been installed in the antelopes. This has helped obtain some first-hand information regarding their migration.

February 27

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201402/t20140227\\_1975911.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201402/t20140227_1975911.html)

### INCREASING GREENARY IN LHASA

People's living standard in Lhasa, Tibet has been improving after the increase in green space in the area. The per capita green space has reached 9.6 square meters by the end of year 2013 which is 1.6 times more than that in year 2007. Since 2009, the afforestation areas have also added up to 26,660 ha covering over 18 per cent of the city.

February 27

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201402/t20140227\\_1975853.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201402/t20140227_1975853.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### CROPYIELD UNAFFECTED BY CYCLONE

Paddy production in Bhutan is expected to touch a high record of 88,000 metric tons, in spite of cyclone Phailin damaging the crops across the country. Improved irrigation, mechanized farming and high-yielding varieties are considered to be the main contributory factors for this high yield of the crops. The aggregate cereal production in 2013 is estimated to be 192,900 metric tons.

February 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/rice-harvest-likely-to-register-record-high/#.Uw6ygPmSztp>

## Pakistan-Himalaya

### PESHAWAR FREE FROM POLIOVIRUS

Environmental water sample which were collected from the sewerage lines of Shaheen Muslim town in Peshawar, northern Pakistan has given a negative result for the poliovirus test for the first time in the last 20 months. It is a great achievement for the district as it was declared as a world polio reservoir by World Health Organization last year. Besides that water samples collected from other cities were also found to be negative which is a great leap towards the goal of worldwide polio eradication.

February 28

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1090067/water-sample-from-peshawar-area-tests-negative-for-poliovirus>