

# Headlines Himalaya

February 9-17, 2015

No. 341

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For the 341<sup>st</sup> issue, we reviewed 19 news reports from 10 sources and selected 12 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, White-Rumped vultures (*Gyps Bengalensis*), a vulture species on the verge of extinction is increasing its number while in India more than 200 students including faculties of Assam University were against killing of rhinos in protected areas of Salichar. In China, Tibet had heaviest snowfall after two decades, and Bhutan legalized fishing in the Haachu for socio-economic development. Likewise, in Pakistan modern picnic spots, skiing tracks, hotels and Chairlift Development projects have promoted tourism.

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	<i>Sanitation Concerns at Shelters for Flood-Victims</i> <i>White-rumped Vultures Increasing In Number</i> <i>Rampant Deforestation in Bajura District</i> <i>Encroached Lands Freed by Locals</i> <i>Growing Number of Tigers in Nepal Demand More Space</i>
INDIA	<i>Snowfall in Kashmir</i> <i>Students Against Rhino Killing</i> <i>Safe Water Supply in Assam</i>
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PAKISTAN	<i>Malam Jabba Projects Promoting Tourism</i>

## Nepal-Himalaya

### SANITATION CONCERNS AT SHELTERS FOR FLOOD-VICTIMS

Due to inadequate arrangements by the government, flood and landslide victims in Surkhet District, Western Nepal are still deprived of basic facilities like drinking water and hygienic living conditions. Water scarcity and open defecation are a few reasons that are increasing the risk of a disease outbreak. Records show that 5,603 people are still living in temporary shelter forced to compromise with sanitation.

February 9

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91847](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91847)

### WHITE-RUMPED VULTURES INCREASING IN NUMBER

An annual survey carried out by Bird Conservation Nepal on the vulture's natural habitat along with counting the birds across the Tarai lowlands revealed rise in number of White-Rumped vultures (*Gyps Bengalensis*), a vulture species that is on the verge of extinction, from 43 in 2011-12 to 68. In the course of the survey, three nests of Redheaded vultures were also recorded, stated the Vulture conservation program officer at BCN. They were spotted in Salghari of Tansen-12 and

Baughapokharathok VDC-5 respectively both in Palpa district located in Western Nepal and in Lanha VDC-6 of Jajarkot district located in Mid Western Nepal.

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[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91835](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91835)

#### RAMPANT DEFORESTATION IN BAJURA DISTRICT

Porkhe forest area of Bajura district, Far- Western Nepal spread over 8 ha is rapidly shrinking in size due to unchecked timber smuggling worth millions of rupees annually. Rise in encroachment is another reason for deforestation in the area. Research shows that, more than 500 families of Martadi and Pandusain VDC have cut down trees for cultivation without permits from the District Forest Office (DFO).The forest boasts a wide variety of trees.

February 10

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=91836](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91836)

#### ENCROACHED LANDS FREED BY LOCALS

According to a ranger at Bawaiyachor Area Forest Office, a group of locals in Myagdi district, Western Nepal cleared 50 ha of encroached lands of 42 community forests in the district from illegal settlers, through peaceful negotiations among stakeholders. Forest products like firewood and herbs illegitimately and timbers were being used to build huts and livestock sheds. Khumlyamae Community Forest at Bawaiyachour VDC stated that, a minimum penalty charge of NPR 25,000 and suspension of any government facilities would be enforced on those who disregard the evacuation orders.

February 12

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=92025](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=92025)

#### GROWING NUMBER OF TIGERS IN NEPAL DEMAND MORE SPACE

Successful tiger management programme and effective poaching control mechanisms have led to a rise in number of tigers, with current numbers estimated to be 198, up from 121 in 2009. A research suggests the need of additional 828,200 ha of protected area to meet the goal of 250 tigers. According to an ecologist with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal is being lauded for the achievements in tiger conservation, but the need for additional space and possible rise in human-wildlife conflicts are major challenges facing the country.

February 12

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/02/12/top-story/as-numbers-rise-big-cats-need-more-space/401581.html>

### India-Himalaya

#### SNOWFALL IN KASHMIR

The hills of Kashmir valley, Northern India experienced fresh snowfall while plains of the Valley were lashed by rains. Three inches of snow accumulated thus the traffic was disturbed from 8 a.m to 10:30 a.m in the morning. Dozens of villagers were affected by the snowfall and rain fall. The moderate to fresh snowfall was recorded which was expected to promotes the ecotourism.

February 9

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/fresh-snowfall-hills-kashmir/>

#### STUDENTS AGAINST RHINO KILLING

More than 200 students including faculties of Assam University protested against killing the rhinos in protected areas of Salichar, north east India. The signature drive 'Save Rhino' was carried out along with a memorandum which was supposed to be presented to the State and Central governments. Different awareness and activeness issues were raised for the protection of one horned rhino which is endemic in the region.

February 10

<http://www.assamtribune.com/feb1115/state052.txt>

## SAFE WATER SUPPLY IN ASSAM

As many as 297 water supply schemes are out of order in Assam state, north east India. More than Rs 500 million has been sanctioned to revive the schemes as water of 20 districts are contaminated with arsenic. The schemes are intended to provide safe drinking water.

February 14

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=feb1515/at053>

## China Himalaya

### HYDROPOWER IN CHINA

In south west China large hydropower station is planned in the middle reaches of the Yalong River in Sichuan's Garze Tibetan autonomous prefecture with the capacity of 3 million kilowatts power generation and a total reservoir capacity of 10.8 billion cubic meter investing about 107 billion USD. The river's hydropower resources will provide sustainable clean energy for the regional economy of southwestern and eastern China. The first generator will come into service at the end of 2021 and the entire station is to be completed in 2023.

February 14

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201502/t20150214\\_2281644.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201502/t20150214_2281644.html)

### HEAVY SNOWFALL IN LHASA

Tibet had heaviest snowfall after two decades seen as a good omen for the upcoming Tibetan year of the "wooden sheep". The roofs, vehicles and mountaintops were covered with a thick white blanket. It was difficult to clear the snow on the road but the people were too excited as it enhances harvesting. The regional weather bureau showed Lhasa received 17.3 mm of snow on Friday.

February 14

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201502/t20150214\\_2281641.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201502/t20150214_2281641.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### FISHERY LEGALIZED IN HAACHU

The national centre for riverine and lake fisheries, under the department of livestock legalized fishing in the Haachu dzonkhags district for the socioeconomic and tourism development. The ownership will be given to the community and are supposed to be responsible for issuing fishing permits in a sustainable manner. Developmental activities and illegal fishing were the main reasons for the decreased number of fish.

February 14

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/fishing-to-be-allowed-in-the-haachu/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### MALAM JABBA PROJECTS PROMOTING TOURISM

Joint venture undertaken by three government departments for three modern picnic spots, skiing tracks, hotels and Chairlift Development projects, in Malam Jabba located in Northwestern Pakistan will not only promote tourism, but will positively affect the locals by creating employment opportunities and enhancing revenue generation. The project is being built on 111 ha of land and is intended to attract national and foreign tourists.

February 13

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1163338/work-on-malam-jabba-projects-to-resume-after-snow-melts>