

An Environmental Watchdog Newsletter

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 372nd issue, we reviewed 17 news reports from 10 sources and selected 15 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, landslide has blocked the roads while destruction of crops by monkey create problem in India. In Tibet, China black necked cranes have increased. Apple plantation has decreased in Bhutan and innovative mobile phone has been introduced to deal with disasters in north-west Pakistan.

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

Landslide Havoc
Skin Diseases After Earthquake
Red Pandas Study
Food Crisis
Tourism In Manaslu
Hospital Woes

INDIA

Landslide Block The Highway
Monkey Menace
Investment In Sewerage Management
Modern Trout Farming
Water Crisis

CHINA

Increase in Black-Necked Cranes

BHUTAN

Apple Plantations Decrease
Mumps And Chicken Pox In Thimpu

PAKISTAN

Innovation To Deal With Disaster

LANDSLIDE HAVOC

Landslide had blocked the roads connecting seventeen Village Development Committee (VDCs) in the daldale-Bulingtar at Dumre, Nawalparasi, southern Nepal. The hazard had damaged 300 meters of road affecting VDCs like Bulingtar and Dandajheri and it caused difficulties in transporting foods and essentials to areas. Also the price of essentials and food had risen due to difficulties in transportation.

September 16

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/landslide-obstructs-daldale-bulingtar-road-section-in-nawalparasi/>

SKIN DISEASES AFTER EARTHQUAKE

Earthquake affected people living in temporary camps have been suffering from scabies, fungal infections and other skin diseases in Manthali, Ramechhap district, central Himalayan. This season is also responsible for the spread of skin diseases. The affected patient got treatment from Tamakoshi cooperative Hospital. Fungal infections are found inside shaded areas of the tent and transmitted to people living in the vicinity. Children are also suffering from diarrhea, fever, cough and headache. Lack of proper drainage system has been found in the camp the people

September 17

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-17/quake-displaced-people-suffer-from-skin-diseases.htm>

RED PANDAS STUDY

The recent research showed 218 red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) in their natural habitat in Mechi zone of eastern Nepal. The Red Panda Network and its associates had found 134 pandas in Taplejung district, 43 in Panchthar and 40 in Ilam districts. The main reason for the threats to red pandas in the area were mainly the traditional ways of farming, motor roads, illegal encroachment, deforestation, dependence on nigalo (Himalayan bamboo: *Arundinaria falcata*) for cattle, traps and wildfire.

September 18

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/mechi-has-218-red-pandas/>

FOOD CRISIS

Road has been blocked by flood leading to food crisis in different VDCs, including Oyakjung, Jaljale, Simle, Ishibu and Samdu in the Tehrathum district, eastern Nepal. The sixty seven kilometer road has been obstructed for the past two months due to frequent landslides and increased water level in the stream.

September 21, 2015

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-21/obstruction-of-road-leads-to-food-shortage.html>

TOURISM IN MANASLU

Rainy season after the April earthquake caused landslide which had reduced the tourist flow in Manaslu Conservation Area in Gorkha, northern Nepal. There were 100 tourists in the area to climb the Mt. Manaslu this week. The blockage of road had created problem in transportation so most of the tourist used the helicopter to reach the area. Tourism is the major source of income in the area.

September 21

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-21/20150921110458.html>

HOSPITAL WOES

There has been an increase in patient suffering from scrub typhus, diarrhea, pneumonia, typhoid and cold in the Khotang District Hospital of Khotang, eastern Nepal. Recently admitted patients undergo treatment on the floor due to lack of beds in the hospital as there are only 15 beds available. The disturbance caused by ongoing protests in Tarai-Madhes caused the scarcity of medicines in the area. The epidemic disease scrub typhus has been detected among 14 patients in the district.

September 21

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/khotang-patients-suffer-for-want-of-hospital-beds/>

India-Himalaya

LANDSLIDE BLOCKS HIGHWAY

Cracks that had been seen since last one month caused landslide and has damaged the road on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad highway near Khanpora in Kashmir of northern India. Road has slide about seventy feet after the hazard. Locals, police, army had rescued the affected people in the area. Efforts are being made to reconnect the roads with the rest of the valley.

September 16

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=158859>

MONKEY MENACE

The farmers suffered from a loss of crops worth over Rs 200 crore due to damage by monkeys in Himachal Pradesh, northern India. In the past one year alone, the simians have caused a loss of more than Rs 200 crore to the state's farmers by destroying their crops. According to the agriculture department, the monkeys damaged agriculture crops worth Rs 185 crore and horticulture crops worth Rs 38 crore in various districts of the state last year. There are an estimated 40,000 monkeys in Shimla district alone.

September 17

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/horticulture-crops-worth-rs-38-crore-destroyed-in-same-period/article1-1390824.aspx>

INVESTMENT IN SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT

Himachal Pradesh Urban Development Ministry is making efforts for proper management of sewage to all households in urban local bodies in Himachal Pradesh, northern India. Each year Rs. thirty crore was allocated for sewerage schemes but this year a total of Rs. 215.18 crore had been invested for sewerage project and NRs. 6 crore has been earmarked for operation and maintenance of the existing schemes.

September 20

<http://www.siasat.com/news/himachal-provide-sewerage-link-all-urban-areas-839301/>

MODERN TROUT FARMING

Foreign consultants and technology has contributed to increase the production and sale of Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in Kashmir, northern India. The modernization has included breeding, rearing, hatching and sale components and has also focused on marketing through freezing and refrigeration. The state has a huge potential for fish farming and can facilitate farming in the area.

September 21

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/trout-farming-set-to-go-modern/136071.html>

WATER CRISIS

Water scarcity is a major problem in Shillai of Himanchal Pradesh, northern India. Only about 10% of the populations of 5000 have sufficient water at present. The locals have raised the issue with the authorities but due to the migration of unregistered voters in the area, the authorities have not done anything for a solution.

September 21

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/potholed-roads-water-shortage-bane-of-shillai/136037.html>

China Himalaya

INCREASE IN BLACK-NECKED CRANE

The population of endangered black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) has increased over the past three decades in the Qinghai-Tibet plateau. The number of Endangered Black-necked cranes has increased by 194 between 1984 and 2015. Poaching has almost disappeared in the reserve through surveillance and the involvement of local people in conservation. The population of the rare cranes has been recorded to around 7,000 this year.

September 17

http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xw/201509/t20150917_3941758.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

APPLE PLANTATIONS DECREASE

The number of Apple trees had been decreased by 28,511 between 2012 and 2014 due to the construction of buildings and other activities of urbanization in Paro and Thimpu in Bhutan. The number of fruit bearing trees also decreased from 243,976 trees in 2012 to 217,317 in 2014. Production record in the year 2013-2014 showed the lowest harvest in the past six years i.e. 8,032 MT to 7,051 MT. In the past few years, land prices in Thimphu and Paro have increased and this encouraged landowners to convert their orchards into other uses for sale.

September 15

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/apple-orchards-shrinking/>

MUMPS AND CHICKEN POX IN THIMPU

The information received by National Early Warning, Alert and Response Surveillance System (NEWARS) of mumps and chicken pox in Mongar, Gasa, Haa, Dagana and Thimpu, central Bhutan were investigated and verified by the officials at the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) A total of 109 individuals with chicken pox and 377 with mumps were recorded. Both being viral diseases are highly contagious since no vaccines are available in the country. Isolation of an infected patient, adequate rest, and intake of fluid were the only possible treatment and possible therapies.

Sept 19

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/early-warning-system-alerts-mumps-and-chicken-pox-outbreak/>

INOVATION TO DEAL WITH DISASTER

Pakistani researchers have developed an efficient ways to deal with disasters like floods and earthquake through solar-powered mobile phone network in Pakistan. People can manually choose the signals received in their mobile after installing the rescue base station and then call, send messages and even browse (internet) data free of charge. This helps generate an automatic database of people in distress, and eventually helps both the rescue and relief teams and the victims.

September 21

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1208386/when-disaster-strikes-pakistanis-develop-solar-powered-mobile-phone-network>