

Headlines Himalaya

Oct 17– Oct 23

No. 426

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For the 426th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 19 news from 12 sources and selected 18 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Krishnasar Conservation Area in Bardiya, witnesses gradual decline in Blackbuck population from 300 last year to 215 this year whereas, increased conservation concern and effort has resulted in rise of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) population across the country. In India, water level decreased to 75 percent of their total capacity from 76 percent last week in major 91 reservoirs. The world's highest wind power station owned by the Tibet branch of national grid opens in Nagqu, northwest Tibet with five power plants having capacity of 10.66 million KWH.

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

Blackbuck population decreases
Red panda population rises
Extended clean-up campaign
Banana import protested
Trekking charm affected by roadways
Chinese tourists increasing
Man caught with pangolin scales
Govt apathy to Nepali Cardamom
Domestic tourists on the rise
Arrival of migratory birds

INDIA

Man-eater tigress at large
Sheep and goats killed by leopard
Water level decreased in major reservoirs

CHINA

Habitat loss of snow leopard in Qinghai-Tibet plateau
21 million tourists in Tibet
Highest wind power station in Tibet

BHUTAN

Bird flu outbreak under control

PAKISTAN

Urge to conserve snow leopard

BLACKBUCK POPULATION DECREASES

Out of 300 blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*) recorded last year in Krishnasar Conservation Area at Bardiya, mid-western Nepal, this year only 215 were recorded. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) from forests in Tulsipur and Bechaipur have caused the decline of nearly 3 dozen blackbucks inside the Krishnasar Conservation Area within the last 3 months. Despite regular patrolling done by security officers, leopard attacks have not been controlled yet.

Oct 17

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/printedition/news/2016-10-17/blackbuck-number-dwindles-inside-krishnasar-area.html>

RED PANDA POPULATION RISES

Increasing concern towards conservation and progress in habitat management has resulted in increase of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) population. With the estimated population of 1000 in Nepal, density of Red Panda is found higher in Illam, Taplejung, Panchthar and also in Kanchanjungha, Langtang and Makalu-Barun Conservation Areas. Red panda Network has been running conservation programme in 27 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of eastern Nepal.

Oct 17

www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/31274

EXTENDED CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Eighteen week long Phirke-Bulaundi river clean-up campaign which concluded at the dam site in Fewa Lake has been extended into an Extensive Pokhara Clean-up Campaign. The extended campaign began from the cultural heritage site at Gainghat in Pokhara-1 and collected about four tons of garbage in the 19th week. In the 20th week, clean-up program spread to Bagbazaar chowk, Taxichowk, Bhimkali Patan to Tundikhel and collected about seven tons of garbage and campaigned to stop disposing garbage haphazardly.

Oct 17

<https://m.setopati.net/news/17488/>

BANANA IMPORT PROTESTED

Farmers of Kanchanpur and Kailali districts, far-western Nepal staged demonstration in front of the main entrance of the Gaddachauki Customs Office, Kanchanpur as a protest against free importation of Indian bananas. Protest focussed on the import of bananas without lab test thus increasing the health risk of public and harming the investment of local farmers. .

Oct 17

<https://m.setopati.net/news/17513>

TREKKING CHARM AFFECTED BY ROADWAYS

With better transportation facilities, the trekking duration in Annapurna Circuit has decreased by a week's duration instead of 3 weeks and lowering the charm of trekking. Globally popular, attractive and most adventurous trekking routes have been converted into dusty roadways thus diverting tourists and causing huge income loss to the Annapurna region. There are still some thrilling and potential trekking routes through Thorala Pass, Dhaulagiri Icefall, Dhorpatan-Jaljala area, Lete-Kalopani area and Fu-Siruwang area.

Oct 18

www.nepalmountainnews.com/cms/archives/100900

CHINESE TOURISTS INCREASING

Increased numbers of Chinese tourists are entering Nepal from the northern transit route in Rasuwa. Over 100 Chinese tourists are entering Nepal daily with a total of 21,016 since April 12, 2016 through Kerung via Rasuwagadhi. Increased arrival has changed the outlook of marketplaces and flourishing trade and business.

Oct 19

www.kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-19/arrival-of-chinese-tourists-on-an-upward-spiral.html

MAN CAUGHT WITH PANGOLIN SCALES

The Central Investigation Bureau of Nepal Police arrested a man with 0.7 kilogram Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) scales from Panauti, Kavrepalanchok, central Nepal on October 16. An investigation revealed that the scales and skin of the Pangolin worth US\$1403.23 per kg and US\$2806.47 per kg respectively in the international market, had been imported from Madanbas, Chyasinkharka of the district. The culprit is proceeded for legal action under the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Oct 19

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/kavre-man-held-pangolin-scales/>

GOVT APATHY TO NEPALI CARDAMOM

Nepali cardamom occupying 68 percent share in the international market is facing problems due to government apathy. National Commercial Agriculture Research Centre established by the government a decade ago to promote farming of high value cash crops such as cardamom and tea lacks own building, vehicles, scientists, technical staffs and laboratory equipment. Government statistics showed that Nepal exported large cardamom worth NPR4.61 billion in the fiscal year 2013-14 year whereas it was worth NPR3.83 billion in fiscal year 2014-15. Cardamom is produced in various districts like Dhankuta, Illam, Panchthar, Taplejung, Sankhuwasabha, Terhathum and Bhojpur but due to lack of government assistance Nepali Cardamom is lacking its actual value.

Oct 21

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/printedition/news/2016-10-21/cardamom-farmers-rue-lack-of-govt-assistance.html>

DOMESTIC TOURISTS ON THE RISE

World famous tourist spot, Pokhara, western Nepal saw an increasing number in domestic tourists. Lakeside and several hotels in Pokhara which used to be full with foreigners are now filled with Nepalese internal tourists that indicate the development of internal travel among Nepalese.

Oct 21

www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/31425

ARRIVAL OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

Arrival of migratory birds has started in the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in eastern Nepal soon after the end of monsoon facilitated by clear skies. Migratory birds from China, Mongolia, Siberia and different parts of the world come to Nepal mainly for breeding and in search of favourable habitat in this season. Out of 879 bird species in Nepal, more than 500 are found in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and is one of the important tourist spots with about 400 tourists visiting the area for bird watching and other research purposes.

Oct 22

www.kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-23/migratory-birds-start-arriving-in-koshi-tappu.html

India-Himalaya

MAN-EATER TIGRESS AT LARGE

The tigress (*Panthera tigris*) that killed two people till now and wounded other two in Ramnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, northern India is yet to be captured by the forest and administration officials. Though camera trapping, helicopters and drones have been used, forest officials have not been able to locate the tigress.

Oct 19

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/ramnagar-residents-blame-political-parties/312192.html>

SHEEP AND GOATS KILLED BY LEOPARD

Ten sheep and goats had been killed by the attack of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in Nujjar Basti of village Balwana in Tehsil Mohalla, Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, northeast India. According to the villagers, they have complained several times about the presence of leopard in the area to the Wildlife Department authorities without any response.

Oct 20

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/chenab-valley/story/231362.html>

WATER LEVEL DECREASED IN MAJOR RESERVOIRS

Water level has decreased to 75 percent of their total capacity from 76 percent last week in major 91 reservoirs in India. According to the Union Water Resources Ministry, since last week the water has decreased from 119.174 billion cubic metre (BCM) to 117.729 BCM. The total capacity of these reservoirs is 157.799 BCM. Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are the states that recorded less storage of water compared to the record of last year whereas Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka have reported better stock compared to last year.

Oct 21

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/water-level-91-major-reservoirs-decreases-75-per-cent/>

China Himalaya

HABITAT LOSS OF SNOW LEOPARD IN QINGHAI-TIBET PLATEAU

According to the latest report, with continuous rise in temperature of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau which is twice as fast compared to other places in the northern hemisphere the loss of habitat of snow leopards (*Uncia uncia*) is becoming evident. Snow leopard plays a very important role in balancing the ecosystem of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

Oct 18

<http://eng.tibet.cn/life/news/1476772969660.shtml>

21 MILLION TOURISTS IN TIBET

According to Regional Tourism Development Commission, been visited by 21 million Chinese and foreign tourists in the past nine months, increasing the tourism revenue by 25.9 percent. The annual Shoton festival which was held from September 1-7, the regional capital of Lhasa saw over 2 million tourists with the increase in tourist revenue by 17.4 percent year on year. With regard to the region's 13th five year plan (2016-2020), the regional government has targeted to receive over 30 million tourists by 2020.

Oct 20

<http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/news/1476933023124.shtml>

HIGHEST WIND POWER STATION IN TIBET

The world's highest wind power station owned by the Tibet branch of national grid opens in Nagqu, northwest Tibet. Five power plants introduced by the Nagqu wind power station at present have the capacity of 10.66 million KWH. The power station plans to build 33 wind power plants with total capacity of 49.5 MW sufficient to Nagqu Prefecture and the whole region of Tibet.

Oct 20

http://en.tibetmagazine.net/news/201311/t20131113_2470098.htm

Bhutan-Himalaya

BIRD FLU OUTBREAK UNDER CONTROL

The Regional Livestock Department Centre (RDCL) confirmed the control of Bird flu outbreak in Alubari of Wangkha, western Bhutan with the preventive culling in three local poultry farms, dismantle of six poultry coops and disinfecting the vehicles and affected areas. The operation was coordinated by RDCL with the joint effort of health ministry, Livestock department (NCAH Serbithang), Dzongkhag livestock sector, Royal Bhutan Police, BAFRA, and Gewog administration after 13 birds tested Bird flu positive in one local backyard poultry farm at Alubari in Bjabcho gewog.

Oct 17

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/bird-flu-outbreak-at-wangkha-under-control/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

URGE TO CONSERVE SNOW LEOPARD

On the occasion of International Snow Leopard day, WWF- Pakistan urged Mountain community to develop the attitude of coexistence with wildlife particularly with regard to snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*). The study conducted by WWF-Pakistan showed that habitats of snow leopards were shrinking due to climate change or warmer temperature as snowline during the last 25 years had shifted upward by about one kilometre affecting the estimated population of 200-400 snow leopards in Pakistan as they require lower temperatures. Apart from climate change, the study determined others factors such as retaliatory killings, poaching etc. as major causes for decline of the species.

Oct 23

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1291656/mountain-communities-urged-to-change-behaviour-towards-wildlife>