

Headlines Himalaya

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No. 478

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For the 478th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 35 news from 11 sources and selected 34 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, locals benefit from community forests, CIB holds pangolin dealers and farmers rejoice tax relief. Forecast indicates favourable weather in north India and Kashmir plunges into water crisis. In China, authorities provide good treatment to an injured snow leopard and Lhasa exhibits commendable progress in environmental protection. Investment on renewable energy increases in Bhutan and vegetables prices sky rocket in 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

National GDP basket to be revised
Paddy production quadruples in Bhaktapur
Fire causes property damage in Morang and Bhaktapur
Carcasses pose a problem in Kathmandu
Excessive lead in paints impacts children health
Madi and Seti Rivers attract international rafters
Community forestry benefits locals
CIB arrests Pangolin dealers
Wildlife crossings fail to facilitate movement of larger fauna
Gyrocopters add to tourist attractions in Pokhara
Bee farming generates ample profit
Jyapu museum fiesta promotes arts and crafts
Shortage of fertilizers hit Far western Nepal
Officials urge locals not to tease Wild Elephants
Solid waste extracted from rivers in Kathmandu crosses 42 metric tons
Kartik Naach begins
Farmers enjoy tax relief
Hailstorm destroys paddy farms

INDIA

Weather forecast suggests favourable weather in North India
Natural wealth of Dima Hasao awaits exposure
Kashmir suffers water crisis
H1N1 testing lab yet to operate

CHINA

Aerial photos reveal increase in size of Qinghai Lake
Infrastructure development accelerates in Tibet
Medical and health condition improves in Tibet
Qinghai goes green
Danba Tibetan folk festival commences
An injured Snow Leopard receives treatment
Lhasa makes good progress in environmental protection

BHUTAN *Bhutan increase investment on renewable energy*
Policy on energy encourages saving electricity consumption
Sander wood business culprits face an increased sentence

PAKISTAN *Prices of vegetables sky rockets*
Gilgit River turns to a polluted stream

Nepal-Himalaya

NATIONAL GDP BASKET TO BE REVISED

Central Bureau of Statistics has decided to include new goods and services to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) basket. The GDP basket which failed the anticipated revision in 2015 because of the devastating earthquake, is planned to come into effect in 2019. The revised GDP basket will include sectors of Information and technology which have not been included till date. The revision is expected to boost the national economic output and provide path for further development.

Oct 23

<http://bit.ly/2z3fOvI>

PADDY PRODUCTION QUADRUPLES IN BHAKTAPUR

Plantation of improved hybrid seedlings of paddy, LPM BR 1628 and LPM BR 1632, in Bhaktapur district, central Nepal, has resulted a four times greater production this year. The test plantation was conducted under the China-Nepal Agriculture Technical Cooperation Project. A total of 67 species of Chinese rice have been planted for test production to enhance agricultural production in Nepal.

Oct 23

<http://bit.ly/2imrRtg>

FIRE CAUSES PROPERTY DAMAGE IN MORANG AND BHAKTAPUR

A short circuit led fire in Morang, central Nepal and a fire due to unknown cause in Bhaktapur, central Nepal have led to property damages. The fire in Morang had caused property damage worth NPR 6,700,000 while a person was injured in Bhaktapur. The fires were brought under control with the help of locals and fire engines.

Oct 23

<http://bit.ly/2z37tYC>

<http://bit.ly/2A5bPfl>

CARCASSES POSE A PROBLEM IN KATHMANDU

With more than 200 carcasses every month from Kathmandu Metropolitan City and other surrounding municipalities, lack of burial sites have hindered the management of dead animals. Besides the lack of proper landfill site, protest from the locals is a constant problem, which prevents the managers from disclosing the exact location used for the disposal.

Oct 23

<http://bit.ly/2h1sfko>

EXCESSIVE LEAD IN PAINTS IMPACTS CHILDREN HEALTH

A test carried out in samples of wall paints and surface coats from Kathmandu and Birgunj in central Nepal showed that the paints contained up to 40 percent excessive lead concentration in them. Of the 362 children tested, 60 percent carried excessive lead concentration in their blood samples.

Oct 23

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20361>

MADI AND SETI RIVERS ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL RAFTERS

Madi and Seti rivers in Tanahun district, western Nepal, now offer rafting services. The adventure sport starts at Madi river bridge carrying tourists from the US, Japan, England, Finland, India, Korea, China, the UK, Denmark, France and Germany in 15-20 boats daily to end at Gaighat after a 32 Km journey along the river.

Oct 24

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20385>

COMMUNITY FORESTRY BENEFITS LOCALS

Community forests in Rolpa district, western Nepal, are earning millions from the sale of resin. The 2.59 million kilograms of resin extracted from 205 out of 625 community forests in the district had generated NPR 2,640,000 for the community forests while NPR 3,000,000 was allotted for the District Co-ordination Committee (DCC) during the last fiscal year.

Oct 24

<http://bit.ly/2hutOEx>

CIB ARRESTS PANGOLIN DEALERS

Crime Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police arrested three individuals for stocking Pangolin (*Manis sps*) scales from Dhading district, central Nepal. The trio were arrested while looking for perspective buyers of the two kilograms of pangolin scales they had. They have been handed over to District Forest Office (DFO) for further investigation.

Oct 24

<http://bit.ly/2huSoFn>

WILDLIFE CROSSINGS FAIL TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF LARGER FAUNA

The wildlife crossings constructed near Chitwan National Park in central Nepal are coming of no use to larger mammals such as Elephants (*Elephas maximus*) because the structures are too narrow. The four underpass crossings constructed with NPR 50 million have been found not in level with the grounds rendering them useless even to smaller animals. The engineers however claim that the structures had just minor flaws which can be fixed easily.

Oct 24

<http://bit.ly/2lCfzSz>

GYROCOPTERS ADD TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN POKHARA

After ultra-light aircraft and paragliding, tourists visiting Pokhara, western Nepal, can now enjoy the skies and site seeing with gyrocopter helicopters with two gyrocopters making seven to eight flights daily, the clients are mostly foreigners

Oct24

<http://bit.ly/2h26jFN>

BEE FARMING GENERATES AMPLE PROFIT

Farmers in western Nepal have been improving their livelihood since the past decade with the help of commercial bee farming which provides NPR 150,000 to NPR 200,000 annually. Two species of bees, *Apis cerena* and *Apis mellifera*, are being used to produce honey. The honey from *A. cerena* is sold at NRP 1,200 per kg while the honey from *A. mellifera* is sold in half that value.

Oct 25

<http://bit.ly/2xJsVxY>

JYAPU MUSEUM FIESTA PROMOTES ARTS AND CRAFTS

Jyapu Samaj in Lalitpur central Nepal organized 'Jyapu Museum Fiesta 2017' at ten different venues showcasing the traditional arts and crafts of the city. The fiesta, which saw an influx of a very large no. of visitors, provided a glimpse of the musical instruments, tools, crafts, farming tools, clothing items and different forms of arts in the ancient Malla dynasty.

Oct 25

<http://bit.ly/2yjleTL>

SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZERS HIT FAR WESTERN NEPAL

Farmers in the lowland Terai districts of Kanchanpur and Kailali and the districts in the hilly region of far western Nepal face acute shortage of chemical fertilizers in the market during the sowing season of potatoes and mustard. More than 30,000 metric ton of fertilizers are still required to fulfil the demand. The Agriculture Materials Company Limited Regional Office, Dhangadi reported that it would take a few more days for the demand to reach the region.

Oct 26

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/no-fertilisers-west/>

OFFICIALS URGE LOCALS NOT TO TEASE WILD ELEPHANTS

The officials of Chitwan National Park in central Nepal have advised the locals not to agitate the wild Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*) as the animals tend to get irritated by the preventive measures such as gun shots and use of fire. The officials have urged the locals not to go after wild elephants for the prevention of their own properties.

Oct 27

<http://bit.ly/2IAEOVg>

SOLID WASTE EXTRACTED FROM RIVERS IN KATHMANDU CROSSES 42 METRIC TONS

More than 42 metric tons of solid waste has been extracted from Bagmati River and its tributaries during different campaigns in Kathmandu Valley, central Nepal, on the occasion of the on-going mega clean-up campaign. Garbage amounting 14 metric tons was extracted from Gujeswari area alone.

Oct 28

<http://bit.ly/2ikNTgk>

KARTIK NAACH BEGINS

Kartik Nach, which is a 27 days running traditional cultural dance, has started in Patan Durbar Square, in Lalitpur district, central Nepal. The 376 years old tradition is performed every year which presents different cultural myths and events mentioned in the religious texts.

Oct 28

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/kartik-nach-performed/>

FARMERS ENJOY TAX RELIEF

The ginger farmers in eastern Nepal now are free from the 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) that was previously applied to fresh ginger in the Indian market. The GST had hindered the export since twenty days. Nepal is the third largest exporter of ginger after China and India.

Oct 29

<http://bit.ly/2A5VgQv>

HAILSTORM DESTROYS PADDY FARMS

Paddy farms in Dhading district in central Nepal were destroyed due to hailstorm. Katunje, Marpark and Gangajamuna rural municipalities and Nilkantha Municipality of the district have been affected by the natural disaster.

Oct 29

<http://bit.ly/2xIP5QQ>

India-Himalaya

NATURAL WEALTH OF DIMA HASAO AWAITS EXPOSURE

Dima Hasao in Assam, northern east India, with 80% of the land under forest cover, is the greenest district of Assam. But its rich floral and faunal diversity still lacks exploration, assessment and documentation, leading to the lack of wildlife sanctuary or any national park in the area.

Oct 25

<http://bit.ly/2lzagmM>

WEATHER FORECAST SUGGESTS FAVOURABLE WEATHER IN NORTH INDIA

Tourists opting for a visit to the states of Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in north India are likely to have a perfect weather this season, as predicted by the weather forecast. The forecast tells that the days will be comfortable with clear sky conditions, whereas nights will be very cold.

Oct 26

<http://bit.ly/2z3dfHs>

KASHMIR SUFFERS WATER CRISIS

Scanty rain and receding glaciers have led to water crisis in Kashmir, northern India, because of which the government officials have asked the public to use water judiciously. The scanty rain has affected 32 water schemes and bore wells also dried up in some places making the case worse. According to the Meteorological Department of Kashmir this year Kashmir has recorded the lowest average rainfall in the past 10 years.

Oct 26

<http://bit.ly/2gSOa9X>

H1N1 TESTING LAB YET TO OPERATE

The virology laboratory at Government Medical College, Srinagar which was set up 2 years ago at the cost of USD 860,000 has not been able to provide reliable testing for influenza and other viral diseases. This ill-preparedness for the diagnosis of Influenza has taken lives of three people.

Oct 26

<http://bit.ly/2husbGR>

China Himalaya

AERIAL PHOTOS REVEAL INCREASE IN SIZE OF QINGHAI LAKE

The area of Qinghai Lake in Qinghai, northwest China, has reached 449,700 hectares, the highest record since 2001, according to data from the Qinghai Institute of Meteorological Sciences. The lake has been expanding since 2005 due to abundant precipitation in surrounding areas and increased snow melt.

Oct 23

<http://bit.ly/2lBtich>

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATES IN TIBET

China's central government continues to increase support for infrastructure construction in southwest China's Tibet and Tibetan-inhabited areas. Highway distance has increased from 62,500 kilometres in 2012 to 82,100 kilometres in 2016, which accounts to an increase of 25.9 percent.

Oct 23

http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201710/t20171023_3641884.html

MEDICAL AND HEALTH CONDITION IMPROVES IN TIBET

During a panel discussion at the 19th National Congress of the CPC, a delegate from Nagchu People's Hospital in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China revealed that the medical and health service supply in Tibet has become more refined and targeted; China has put health agenda on its top priority and primary goal for its development.

Oct 24

http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201710/t20171024_3643151.html

QINGHAI GOES GREEN

The forestation rate in Nanbei Mountain has spiked up from 7.2% to 75% in Qinghai. Qinghai has launched more than 40 ecological reform plans, including setting up the public interest positions on ecological management.

Oct 26

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1509071333895.shtml>

DANBA TIBETAN FOLK FESTIVAL COMMENCES

People of Danba, eastern border of Tibet, participated in Sichuan Danba Jiarong Tibetan Folk Festival. The festival which featured cultural along with food festivals ran from October 26 to 28.

Oct 26

http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201710/t20171026_3646936.html

AN INJURED SNOW LEOPARD RECEIVES TREATMENT

An injured snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) received treatment at a temple in Nangchen County, northwest China's Qinghai Province. Two rangers found the leopard with injuries in its leg and took it into nearest temple. With the support of Beijing Forest University, a nature conservation organization and local peoples, the leopard received a good treatment.

Oct 26

http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201710/t20171026_3646935.html

LHASA MAKES GOOD PROGRESS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The concept of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets", deeply rooted into the minds of people from Lhasa, south central part of Tibet, has promoted environmental protection in the region. The city has been able to make remarkable achievements due to its focus on building ecological security barriers and promoting ecological progress.

Oct 27

http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201710/t20171027_3648386.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

BHUTAN INCREASE INVESTMENT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Bhutan's dependency on non-renewable energy continues to decline as the country plans to generate more electricity from solar and wind turbines in the next five years. Bhutan entered into a new era of renewable energy in 2015 when two new wind turbines in Wangdue, central Bhutan, started to produce electricity.

Oct 26

<http://bit.ly/2A6jNF6>

POLICY ON ENERGY ENCOURAGES SAVING ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Bhutan can earn USD 9.55 million from saving electricity consumption in industry, buildings, and appliances sectors annually, states the recent report by Department of Renewable Energy (DRE). Draft of the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy is in its final stage.

Oct 28

<http://bit.ly/2z3XBvo>

SANDER WOOD BUSINESS CULPRITS FACE AN INCREASED SENTENCE

The High Court of Bhutan has increased the sentence for two individuals accused for sander wood business from imprisonment of one year to three years. Bhutan is party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 2002 and sander wood is a protected species in CITES.

Oct 28

<http://bit.ly/2ijYeJo>

Pakistan-Himalaya

PRICES OF VEGETABLES SKY ROCKETS

The price of vegetables has spiked up in Rawalpindi, northernmost part of Pakistan as the government administration failed to control the price. The price of onion has risen to USD 0.95 from per kg from USD 0.28 per kg while the price of tomato has increased to USD 2.85 per kg from USD 0.47 per kg.

Oct 26

<http://bit.ly/2xKfVZ6>

GILGIT RIVER TURNS TO A POLLUTED STREAM

Gilgit River, originating from fresh water reservoirs in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges, which acts as a source of drinking water for around 150,000 people in the Gilgit town, has turned to a polluted stream. Lack of a proper sewerage system in the town has led to mixing of drainages from the households of Kashrote, Domiyal, Baseen into the river giving an ugly look to the river.

Oct 26

<http://bit.ly/2z5DnBp>