

# Headlines Himalaya

June 25 - July 1 (2018)

No. 511

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For the 511<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 23 news from 11 sources and selected 23 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, monsoon triggered landslide afflicting lives of the people in different parts of the country. Likewise, the northern states of India are under the grip of monsoonal disasters. In Tibet, a geological park is opened up for the visitors lately. While in Pakistan, human-wolf conflict surmounts as free ranging wolves prey upon livestock.

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 put settlements at risk*
  - Making independent on paddy*
  - Digital board for tourism*
  - Three killed due to landslide*
  - Extreme temperature hits far western Nepal*
  - Free fruit saplings for farmers*
  - Interaction programme for tiger conservation*
- INDIA**
- Cleanliness drive by Pollution Control Board*
  - Radar technology for water level alerts in railway*
  - Tourist hotspot emerges in Jammu*
  - Landslide blocks National Highway*
  - Monkey disturbs tree-tracking devices*
  - River crosses flood mark*
  - Wild animals recovered from farmhouse*
- CHINA**
- Cultural exhibition in Lhasa*
  - Tree planting smoothly carried out*
  - Ecotourism booms in Legpo Valley*
  - Geological Park officially opens*
- BHUTAN**
- EIA certificate halts road construction*
  - Farmers returning to traditional maize farming*
  - First satellite launched*
- PAKISTAN**
- Forests benefits farmers and environment*
  - Attack on cattle*

### LANDSLIDE PUT SETTLEMENTS AT RISK

Fifteen settlements of Tehrathum district, eastern Nepal are at high risks of landslide due to continuous rainfall since few days. According to the Disaster Rescue Committee, the victims of the disaster area have been alerted to move to safe areas as soon as possible. The district has also categorized the disaster area to different level so that it will be easier to rescue. Although different organizations are trying for minimizing the risk, efforts made by them have not been much effective.

**June 25**

<https://bit.ly/2unU8WK>

### MAKING INDEPENDENT ON PADDY

The government of Nepal has done 5 years agreement with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) with the aim to make Nepal independent in the production of paddy (*Oryza sativa*). Nepal has been trying to provide new species of paddy to farmers that are resistant to both flood and drought. Till today, IRRI has provided 50 types of paddy species to Nepalese farmers. According to the agreement, IRRI will provide trainings to scientists, farmers and will conduct field survey related to paddy. Around 60 lakh metric tons of paddy is needed to fulfil the demand of people every year and last year only 43 lakh metric tons of paddy was harvested.

**June 25**

<http://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/news/50481/>

### DIGITAL BOARD FOR TOURISM

Digital display board has been set up in Rasuwa district, north central Nepal. The digital board has been set up with the aim to promote religious, historical and touristic areas of Langtang National Park. Along with this, the information of endangered species like Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and the services to be provided by the local government bodies to local people and tourists can be displayed in the board. In addition to this, the board helps to disseminate various programs of national importance among the local people.

**June 25**

<http://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/news/50475/>

### THREE KILLED DUE TO LANDSLIDE

Three people from the same family died as they were buried by landslide triggered by continuous downpour on Baglung district, western Nepal. Along with this, livestock were also buried on the same landslide. The landslides occurred in several other places which have caused huge loss of lives and properties. Some of the local routes have been blocked due to landslide.

**June 26**

<https://bit.ly/2zm6SCE>

### EXTREME TEMPERATURE HITS FAR WESTERN NEPAL

The temperature in far western Nepal has surged to 41 degree Celsius affecting normal life, including the life of children, aged and working class people. Due to high temperature, health issues like fever, headache, nausea and vomiting have been frequently seen in the people and they are forced to stay indoor to avoid the scorching heat. Agricultural lands of the area are tremendously affected by this condition, thus leaving the farmers worried.

**June 28**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/24389>

### **FREE FRUIT SAPLINGS FOR FARMERS**

Around 13 thousand saplings of monsoonal fruits have been distributed freely by District Agriculture Development Office to the farmers of Rasuwa, north central Nepal who had lost their grains and seeds during the flood and landslide of last year. According to one of the officers, saplings of cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*), lemon (*Citrus sp.*), orange (*Citrus reticulata*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), and litchi (*Litchi chinensis*) have been distributed among the farmers of the area.

**June 30**

<https://bit.ly/2J5XKlr>

### **INTERACTION PROGRAMME FOR TIGER CONSERVATION**

An interaction programme has been held at Gulariya, mid western Nepal about the conservation of tigers (*Panthera tigris*) across the country. Officials from Ministry of Forest and Environment, Departments of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Bardiya National Park had participated in the event where they discussed on number of tiger and their action plans. According to an official, the concerned agencies have been trying for the proper habitat management for the conservation of tigers.

**July 1**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/24497>

## **India-Himalaya**

### **CLEANLINESS DRIVE BY POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

Cleanliness drive was organized in the Shimla, northern India by Pollution Control Board of Himachal Pradesh in association with a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in which the Municipal Corporation also participated. The Member Secretary of State Pollution Control Board had launched the drive and actively participated with employees of the state board and volunteers of the NGO.

**June 25**

<https://bit.ly/2JdSyMw>

### **RADAR TECHNOLOGY FOR WATER LEVEL ALERTS IN RAILWAY**

Radar system technology has been installed in the Saraighat Rail-cum-Road Bridge in Assam, north eastern India for early warning on water level rise. This system automatically measures the rise in river and sends message to the pre-determined mobile phones. This technology helps in reducing the casualties in railway that might occur due to lack of early warning.

**June 26**

<https://bit.ly/2KN7dDO>

### **TOURIST HOTSPOT EMERGES IN JAMMU**

Bhaderwah, Jammu, northern India has been emerging as a new major tourist hotspot as more than two lakh tourists has already visited the destination since April 1. All the hotels and the guesthouses are occupied by the tourists and local people have opened their houses for tourists to make them comfortable there. The only problem in this area is the less publicity, as the related authorities are turning blind eye on them and the locals are not being supported financially for the promotion of tourism.

**June 30**

<https://bit.ly/2KX0ere>

### **LANDSLIDE BLOCKS NATIONAL HIGHWAY**

Landslides due to heavy rainfall in Uttarkashi, northern India have jammed the Rishikesh-Yamunotri National Highway blocking hundreds of the pilgrims visiting Char Dham on early Friday morning. Workers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been clearing the debris to open the traffic. Meanwhile, on Thursday evening, an Indo Tibet Border Police (ITBP) soldier was killed when a rock hit him while he was walking.

**June 30**

<https://bit.ly/2u70evf>

### **MONKEY DISTURBS TREE-TRACKING DEVICES**

Government initiatives to protect valuable forest by using tracking devices in trees has been in problem due to the monkeys as they twiddle the device which disturbs the power and Wi-Fi. A device called Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) is being used in each tree for the protection against illegal felling as the latest government initiative to ensure the trees safety.

**June 30**

<https://bit.ly/2KvREJn>

### **RIVER CROSSES FLOOD MARK**

Heavy rainfall in Kashmir region, northern India has resulted in the rise of Jhelum River crossing the flood declaration mark, putting the region in danger of flood. The rise in the level of the Jhelum River and its tributaries has increased at the alarming rate of one foot per hour on Friday. The authorities have alerted the residents nearby.

**July 1**

<https://bit.ly/2u7NrbU>

### **WILD ANIMALS RECOVERED FROM FARMHOUSE**

Wild animals kept in the farmhouse in Himachal Pradesh, northern India have been recovered by the District Forest Officials. Among the recovered, one animal was Himalayan Goral (*Naemorhedus goral*) which is protected under Schedule-III of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Captive breeding of species that are protected by law is illegal.

**July 1**

<https://bit.ly/2zw86vw>

## **China Himalaya**

### **CULTURAL EXHIBITION IN LHASA**

The three-day cultural exhibition conference on culture of ancient Zhangzhung in the Ngari region was held in Lhasa, south western China. It attracted various experts and scholars from overseas too. This conference had a discussion over the research, protection and pass on of ancient civilization where various materials related to the ancient Zhangzhu were displayed.

**June 27**

[http://en.kangbatv.com/xw\\_22752/201806/t20180627\\_3889075.html](http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201806/t20180627_3889075.html)

### TREE PLANTING SMOOTHLY CARRIED OUT

Tree planting trial in alpine cold regions has been successfully carried out in Nagqu, Tibet's Autonomous Region. Tree planting experimental and demonstration base was built investing about USD 2,566,386, where 11 kinds of rare trees were planted which also included trees like Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), Tibetan Szechuan Poplar (*Populus szechuanica*).

**June 27**

[http://en.kangbatv.com/xw\\_22752/201806/t20180627\\_3889549.html](http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201806/t20180627_3889549.html)

### ECOTOURISM BOOMS IN LEGPO VALLEY

Legpo valley located in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region is rich in vegetation, clear water, impressive natural scenery and unique ethnic customs is being promoted for ecotourism. The muddy houses and the roads leading to the village have been replaced by the comfortable big houses with underground heating facilities. Every house is facilitated with water, electricity, broadband network, bathroom and road..

**June 28**

[http://en.kangbatv.com/xw\\_22752/201806/t20180628\\_3890609.html](http://en.kangbatv.com/xw_22752/201806/t20180628_3890609.html)

### GEOLOGICAL PARK OFFICIALLY OPENS

Dachaidan Wusute Water Yudan Geological Park has officially opened in Qinghai's, south western China for visitors. This park covers an area of about 6,000 hectares comprising beautiful landscapes like Yadan landform reflecting in the water, flocks of aquatic birds. Many visitors from several areas were there at the opening day. The opening of Water Yadan Geological Park is an opportunity for tourism development of Qinghai.

**June 28**

[http://eng.tibet.cn/eng/index/focus/201806/t20180628\\_5995943.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/eng/index/focus/201806/t20180628_5995943.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### EIA CERTIFICATE HALTS ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The construction of Shingkhar-Gorgan, eastern Bhutan road awaits the environment clearance certificates for further construction of road. National Environment Commission (NEC) had denied an environment clearance certificate previously due to old Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report developed in 2012 and the report had not studied the area properly as the assessment was done of different area.

**June 27**

<https://bit.ly/2KL1kXW>

### FARMERS RETURNING TO TRADITIONAL MAIZE FARMING

Farmers in Dophuchen (Dorokha), western Bhutan are compelled to return to traditional maize (*Zea mays*) farming due to low price and dying of cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) plants. According to the farmers, they should concentrate on maize, millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), mustard (*Brassica spp.*), and paddy (*Oryza sativa*) farming for some years and then again plant cardamom, which would bring balance on farming. They further added that along with the price, even the harvest has drastically reduced due to some diseases and reported that the government has not done any research related to the cardamom cultivation and disease.

**June 28**

<https://bit.ly/2L4bpLE>

### **FIRST SATELLITE LAUNCHED**

Bhutan's first satellite, CubeSat BHUTAN-1 has been launched for the International Space Station (ISS) on 29 June from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, USA. It was developed by the Bhutanese engineers at Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. The satellite will produce high resolution images of the country with the aid of the high quality cameras fixed on it. The satellite will pass around the country four to five times a day for three to four minutes.

**June 30**

<https://bit.ly/2u5pPVg>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **FOREST BENEFITS FARMERS AND ENVIRONMENT**

Farmers in Peshawar, northern Pakistan have been economically benefited by the commercial forestry farming. Forest has given high financial returns after the gap of five years and which could not have been obtained from other cultivation. According to the officials, these forests have been contributing in the carbon sequestration to the tune of 8,000,000 tons, which help in reducing the negative impact of climate change.

**June 25**

<https://bit.ly/2L7FjPe>

### **ATTACK ON CATTLE**

Dozens of the domestic cattle in the Chitral area, northern Pakistan have been attacked by the Himalayan wolves (*Canis himalayensis*) which were set free by the farmers for grazing. According to the former member of district council, the wolves had attacked in the night time which made farmers difficult to guard and protect their cattle from wolves as they are not allowed to kill the wolves due to ban imposed by the law. This has caused substantial loss to the farmers as cattle farming is a major source of livelihood in the area.

**June 30**

<https://bit.ly/2J8fEnF>