

Headlines Himalaya

Sept 10 – Sept 16 (2018)

No. 522

Editorial Team: Shweta Khadka and Indu Pokhrel

For the 522nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 25 news from 15 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. Illam in eastern Nepal sets an example for being the first municipality with cent percent child school enrolment. Detection of *Campylobacter* in monkeys (*Rhesus macaque*) residing in pilgrimage sites of central Nepal. Rudraksha (*Elaeocarpus ganitrus*) business has peaked significantly in eastern Nepal. Bhutan introduced Asia's biggest wildlife quiz to uplift young minds in biodiversity.

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

Drive to conserve centuries-old mango garden
Epidemics claim lives
Dwindling sugarcane farming
Locals inclining towards goat farming
First municipality with cent percent child enrollment
Macaques detected with Campylobacter
World Clean-up Day celebrated
Environmentalists concerned over deforestation
Human-wildlife conflict in Dadeldhura
Increase in business of Rudrakshas

INDIA

Training camp for farmers
Havoc of wild elephant
Birth of Black Panther cubs
Inauguration of trade center
Power shortage affects tea market
Innovative way of promoting cleanliness

CHINA

Cultural expo for tourism development

BHUTAN

Introduction of Asia's biggest wildlife quiz
Destructive rainstorm
Farmer agitated of disease attack
Shortage of water

PAKISTAN

Completion of renovation work

DRIVE TO CONSERVE CENTURIES-OLD MANGO GARDEN

Residents of Rainas municipality in Timure in Lamjung district, western Nepal with the help of Government's National Seed Vision 2013-25 have started conservation programs to protect the local mango species (*Magnifera indica*). The locals aim to preserve the two centuries old mango garden and pass it down to the younger generations. The garden has 18 local species of mango trees on 2.5 ha of land.

Sep 10

<https://bit.ly/2P8lpFO>

EPIDEMICS CLAIM LIVES

An unidentified disease has claimed three lives while more than 400 have fallen ill in Kanchanrup municipality in Saptari district, south eastern Nepal in last 15 days. According to Section Chief of Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), it is suspected to be Scrub typhus (*Orientia tsutsugamushi*) or Influenza (*Orthomyxo virus*) for which the study is going on. Recently, Swine flu (H1N1 virus) infection has also been detected in the same area that has already taken four lives. In Doti district, far western Nepal, cases of typhoid (*Salmonella typhi*) infection has increased this year.

Sep 10, 11 & 15

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

<https://bit.ly/2Os07G0>

<https://bit.ly/2y9MVLQ>

DWINDLING SUGARCANE FARMING

Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) farmers in Nawalparasi district, western Nepal have decided discontinue the cultivation of sugarcane in the next agricultural season because of low r payments from sugar mills for past few years. The sugarcane farming has dropped and the cultivation area has shrunken by more than 6000 ha and production has diminished from 33 to 26 million tons between fiscal year 2013 and 2017.

Sep 10

<https://bit.ly/2Nf8hwD>

LOCALS INCLINING TOWARDS GOAT FARMING

Residents of Sindhupalchowk district, central Nepal have been investing in goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) farming after the increase in demand for goat meat. Local people have chosen goat farming over other farming options and foreign employment due to high profit in this business. Farmers have established cooperatives to work together in groups.

Sep 11

<https://bit.ly/2Qm0mQ0>

FIRST MUNICIPALITY WITH CENT PERCENT CHILD ENROLMENT

With the admission of all the children of school going age in schools, Illam municipality, eastern Nepal has become the first municipality with hundred percent enrolments. There are 5031 students in total in 54 community schools of the municipality. According to the Mayor of the municipality, the children from minority groups such as Dalits, under privileged and impoverished communities get enrolled in schools.

Sep 12

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

MACAQUES DETECTED WITH CAMPYLOBACTER

Campylobacter, a diarrhoea causing bacteria has been detected by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) in faces of monkeys (*Rhesus macaque*) at Pashupati and Swayambhunath in Kathmandu, central Nepal. Besides diarrhoea, *Campylobacter* can cause several other diseases like Arthritis, heart inflammation and irritable food bowl. According to a medical director at CIWEC Hospital, this bacterium is one of the major causes behind food and water borne disease in the country. *Campylobacter* can be transmitted from animals to humans and vice-versa as per the Disease Surveillance Officer at the Centre for Molecular Dynamics Nepal (CMDN), Kathmandu.

Sep 13

<https://bit.ly/2QrtZ2D>

WORLD CLEAN-UP DAY CELEBRATED

World Clean-up Day has been marked throughout Nepal on Sunday with the participation of total 148 groups from 25 districts. Local governments, community groups, educational institutions and local organizations have celebrated the day by organizing clean up and awareness activities with slogan "Hamro Fohor, Hamro Jimmewari". An estimated 396 tons of garbage was collected from 340 dumping and littering sites in Nepal.

Sep 15

<https://bit.ly/2zL4zYg>

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CONCERNED OVER DEFORESTATION

Government's decision to construct Nijgadh International Airport in Nijgadh, Bara district, central Nepal has been heavily criticized by Environmentalists due to its high ecological impact. According to a natural resources expert, Nepal Government has approved the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) for the project without even completing the standard practice of preparing a DPR (Detailed Project Report). Though government has assured to plant 25 saplings for every single tree to be cut down, man-made forest can never be as rich as natural ecosystems.

Sep 15

<https://bit.ly/2NgSD3l>

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN DADELDHURA

Wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) have been destroying the crops of farmers in Dadeldhura district, far western Nepal that has resulted in the decline in total food production of the district. Due to this loss, farmers have started abandoning their lands. It has been estimated to have 45 to 55 percent of summer crop destroyed annually due to wildlife.

Sep 16

<https://bit.ly/2IzY5hG>

INCREASE IN BUSINESS OF RUDRAKSHAS

The business of Rudraksha (*Elaeocarpus ganitrus*) has increased in Dingla in Bhojpur district, eastern Nepal as September is considered peak season for the sale of beads. Rudrakshas are mainly exported to India and China.. Two-faced to twenty-six-faced Rudrakshas are mostly preferred by the buyers along with the preference on its shape, weight and lines.

Sep 16

<https://bit.ly/2Nf8DDC>

TRAINING CAMP FOR FARMERS

Farmers Awareness Camp was organized by Farmers Training Centre, Jammu, northern India in which 50 farmers of the area have participated. The camp was conducted under the guidance of Agriculture Director and the farmers were urged to take benefit of several schemes for their welfare during the training. Farmers were further advised to adopt the improved agricultural practices and technology to raise the income.

Sept 12

<https://bit.ly/2Qj7RHA>

HAVOC OF WILD ELEPHANT

People of Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India have been facing crop raid by wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*) since last month. According to locals, herd of elephants around 200 in number have attacked and destroyed several hectares of paddy (*Oryza sativa*) cultivation and properties. The locals with the help of domestic elephant chased away the wild ones. Similarly, four houses at Kerkoni village, Assam, north eastern India have been destroyed by a herd of wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*). Along with this, the crops have also been depredated by the elephants. According to forest officials, the elephants sneak into the area in search of food during the monsoon season.

Sept 10 & 15

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

<https://bit.ly/2luM9O4>

BIRTH OF BLACK PANTHER CUBS

The Black Panther (*Panthera* spp.) which was rescued by the State Forest Department gave birth to two cubs on last Saturday night in Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden, north eastern India. According to zoo authorities, mother and the cubs have been doing fine and in good health. The Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden is the one and only zoo in the country to have four black panthers.

Sept 11

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

INAUGURATION OF TRADE CENTER

In order to boost trade between Assam and Bhutan, the Chief Minister of Assam has inaugurated Indo-Bhutan Trade center in Baksa district, Assam, north eastern India. On the occasion, Chief Minister stated that the border trade center is the outcome of the people of Baksa, Udalguri, Chirang, and Kokrajhar. He further added that the trade center will help in strengthening the bilateral trade.

Sept 12

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

POWER SHORTAGE AFFECTS TEA MARKET

The cost of tea (*Camellia sinensis*) production has been doubled due to the shortage of power in Guwahati in Assam state, north eastern India. With the unavailability of electricity on a regular basis, several tea estates are on the brink of closure. According to sources, Tea Association had approached the Power Minister but nothing has changed. The industry has appealed to the state government for the solution.

Sept 14

<https://bit.ly/2y90POO>

INNOVATIVE WAY OF PROMOTING CLEANLINESS

An idol of Lord Ganesha, 8.5 feet tall and 6 feet wide has been made entirely from waste plastic, water bottles in Harisabha Temple, Dhubri in Assam, north eastern India to promote cleanliness. The idol was made within 10 days using 1900 waste plastic water bottles. The artist of the idol highlighted the necessity of managing this non-degradable material along with its vital role in our daily life.

Sept 14

<https://bit.ly/2Nf8Nec>

China Himalaya

CULTURAL EXPO FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Fourth tourism and culture expo has commenced in Lhasa, south western China, along with the representatives and experts from Nepal, India, Malaysia, and Thailand. During the expo, forums and exhibitions on Tibet's tourism, industry as well as investment and trade promotion will be organized. Tibet has been promoting tourism which is the major factor for the development of the region.

Sept 13

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

INTRODUCTION OF ASIA'S BIGGEST WILDLIFE QUIZ

Wild Wisdom Quiz, Asia's biggest wildlife quiz, has been organized in Bhutan by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Bhutan and Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN). The winners will be representing Bhutan in the grand finale in New Delhi, India. Such quiz has been the milestone for the young minds and inspiration for the promotion and conservation of biodiversity as stated by the Communication Officer of WWF Bhutan.

Sept 12

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

DESTRUCTIVE RAINSTORM

Around 4.5 hectares of maize (*Zea mays*) field and 40 households in Mongar, eastern Bhutan has been affected due to rainstorm on September 10. Maize is the only source of income for people over there. The damage is being assessed by the officers from agriculture office of the village.

Sept 12

<https://bit.ly/2P0kdEk>

FARMER AGITATED OF DISEASE ATTACK

Cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) cultivation has been proven to be a huge loss for people of Lapsakha, Khempagang, and Panbari of Samtse district, western Bhutan due to the attack of diseases. This has decreased the cardamom production, thus directly affecting the livelihood of locals. They now have shifted to cultivation of other crops and vegetables. The Agriculture sector of the district has been promoting farmers to grow cash crops.

Sept 11

<https://bit.ly/2NU9Xkq>

SHORTAGE OF WATER

People of Gumkarmo, Punakha, central Bhutan has been grappling with drinking water crisis for over two decades. The shortage is worsening over the years as the population is growing and they are dependent on only two spring water sources. People are forced to fetch water 13 km away from the village for irrigation.

Sept 15

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

Pakistan- Himalaya

COMPLETION OF RENOVATION WORK

Under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Reconstruction Programme, the reconstruction of 113 schools has been completed by Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Settlement Authority Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (RRSA-K-P), north western Pakistan. Eight schools which were fully damaged by the flood have been renovated along with the flood damaged bridges and drinking water supply schemes.

Sept 9

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