

# Headlines Himalaya

Sep 26– Oct 2

No. 424

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For the 424<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 18 news from 10 sources and selected 17 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Clean Phewa lake campaign has been inaugurated by the President of Nepal by removing Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) spread rampantly over the lake, in Pokhara. Free anti-rabies vaccination programme had been implemented in Sinja valley of Jumla district, western Nepal, vaccinating 207 domesticated dogs. A new Pika species '*Ochotona sikimaria*' has been discovered at higher altitude of the Himalayas in Sikkim, northeast India. Tibet has its first test tube baby as a boy weighing 2.69 kilograms. Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) farming has improved the living standard of a 64 year old farmer in Pemathang Gewog of Samdrup Jongkhar district, Bhutan.

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- NEPAL**
- 31 positive for Dengue in Chitwan*
  - Clean Phewa lake campaign inaugurated*
  - Two boys arrested for possessing contraband*
  - Use of plastic bags have increased*
  - Establishment of e-library in Lamjung*
  - Vulture conservationists trained*
  - Free anti-rabies vaccination programme*
  - Mice samples with infectious mites*
- INDIA**
- Discovery of a new species of Pika*
  - Tension hits export of Kashmiri fruits*
  - China blocks a tributary of the Brahmaputra River*
  - Swachh Bharat (Clean India) contest winners honoured*
- CHINA**
- Birth of first test tube baby*
  - Opening of "the 2016 Nyingchi Yarlung Tibetan eco-culture tourism festival"*
- BHUTAN**
- Punakha-Gasa highway blocked on several points*
  - Oyster mushroom farming enhancing farmer's living standard*
- PAKISTAN**
- Mild quake in Naran causes a death*

### 31 POSITIVE FOR DENGUE IN CHITWAN

In the past one month, Dengue has infected 31 patients from Ratnanagar area of Chitwan district, south-western Nepal. According to the District Public Health Office (DPHO), out of 200 people tested for the disease, 31 found to be positive since mid-August and are undergoing treatment at Narayani Community Hospital, New Medical College, Bharatpur Hospital and Ratnanagar Hospital, south-western Nepal. As Dengue is an infectious disease transmitted from mosquitoes belonging to the *Aedes Aegypti* genus, the DPHO has already started awareness campaigns against this in the district.

Sep 29

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-29/dengue-downs-31-in-chitwan.html>

### CLEAN PHEWA LAKE CAMPAIGN INAUGURATED

Clean Phewa lake campaign has been inaugurated by the President of Nepal by removing Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) spread rampantly over the lake, in Pokhara, western Nepal. It was reported that the campaign would be witnessing the participation of officials from security agencies, civil society, civil servants and other various organizations, which would be held on every Friday on the initiation of Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City Office.

Sep 29

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/president-bidya-devi-bhandari-inaugurates-campaign-clean-phewa-lake/>

### TWO BOYS ARRESTED FOR POSSESSING CONTRABAND

Police had arrested two boys possessing 3.7 kg Marijauna (*Cannabis*) from a bus heading towards Kathmandu from Dhading, Central Nepal. The Contraband was identified by the Security personnel during a security check at Naagdhunga, Chandragiri-3 of Kathmandu, Central Nepal. Police are investigating the case in detail.

Sep 29

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/3-7-kg-marijuana-seized-kathmandu-bound-bus-naagdhunga/>

### MICE SAMPLES WITH INFECTIOUS MITES

A team from the Epidemiology and Infectious Disease Control Division has discovered that the 70 percent of the samples (blood, lungs, liver, kidney and pancreas) extracted from mice which were trapped from several parts (Sharadanagar, Rampur, Mangalupur, Parbatipur and Bikash Chok ) of Chitwan, western Nepal, had been carrying the types of mites associated with Scrub typhus diseases. The bacteria *Orientia tsutsugamushi* has been found to be causing the disease Scrub typhus which could lead to death if untreated. District Public Health Office has reported that the infection has been recorded from 32 districts along with the death of 13 people and 240 people taken ill since the disease was first diagnosed in the country on August 2015.

Oct 1

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-01/infectious-mites-found-in-70-pc-of-mice-samples.html>

### USE OF PLASTIC BAGS HAVE INCREASED

With the beginning of festive season (Dashain), the use of plastic bags have increased unrestrained in Kathmandu valley, central Nepal, in spite of being banned. After the official announcement, made by government for the ban of plastic bags, maximum numbers of the plastic industries in the country have closed their production but adequate numbers of plastic bags were found in markets which were imported from India and China. The Department of Environment, reported that the government's enthusiastic move to impose a nationwide ban on plastics bags has not been very effective due to the lack of proper monitoring. Nepal Plastic Manufacturers' Association has strongly protested this move of government.

Oct 1

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/despite-ban-use-plastic-bags-rampant>

### ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARY IN LAMJUNG

An e-library has been established in Adarsha Bal High School of Sundarbazar Municipality in Lamjung district of western Nepal, with the technical support of Nepal Library Foundation and former student society's initiatives. The school has 20 computers with the availability of e-library in 10 of the computers. The head teacher of the school notified that NRs 600,000 has been spent for the establishment of the e-library with the objective of broadening the area of knowledge of the students in academic field.

Oct 2

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/Nepal/e-library-set-lamjung-school>

#### VULTURE CONSERVATIONISTS TRAINED

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) organized the two days training at Thakurdwara of Bardia district, mid -western Nepal for Conservation groups and organizations at local level in order to manage Vulture Conservation Areas. The training had convened Local Community representatives, conservationists and stakeholders from all parts of the country for reviewing the vulture conservation activities and discussing the further planning and agreements along with the empowerment of local conservation organizations.

Oct 2

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/30894>

#### FREE ANTI RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAMME

After suspecting the symptoms of rabies in 500 domesticated dogs in Sinja valley of Jumla district, north-western Nepal, District Animal Service Office had announced the free "Anti-rabies vaccination" programme. The programme got succeed in vaccinating 207 domesticated dogs only in spite of having 500 vaccines. It was reported that out of 26 VDCs, people from 11 VDCs only took interest in vaccinating their dogs. Dogs should be vaccinated annually with anti-rabies vaccine.

Oct 2

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/30857>

## India-Himalaya

#### DISCOVERY OF A NEW SPECIES OF PIKA

A new Pika species '*Ochotona sikimaria*' has been discovered at higher altitude of the Himalayas in Sikkim, northeast India, by the research based on genetic data and skull measurement disclosed through a publication in the journal "Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution". Researchers studying this species had two years collaborations with researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zoological Museum of Moscow and Stanford University to get detailed data on the different related pika species in order to prove it as a new species. Pika belongs to the rabbit family looking like a tailless rat and play an important role in ecosystem and are sensitive to the impacts of climate change.

Sep 26

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/New-species-of-pika-found-in-Sikkim/articleshow/54510113.cms>

#### TENSION HITS EXPORT OF KASHMIRI FRUITS

Kashmiri people exporting varieties of fruits mainly apples, cherries and tea have suffered a lot due to increasing tension between India and Pakistan. Export of apples, cherries and tea got halted as apples could not be graded well before packing and cherries and tea leaves could not be plucked in time. Such a downfall in export has caused losses of several hundred dollars in Assam.

Sep 27

<http://thenorthlines.com/kashmir-violence-dooms-fruit-export/>

#### CHINA BLOCKS A TRIBUTARY OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

A major hydro-electric project whose construction started in 2014 has forced China to block a tributary of the Brahmaputra river considering the blockage as an important part of the project. Brahmaputra river in its upper reaches is recognized as Yarlung Zangbo, originates from the Angsi glacier in western Tibet, southeast of Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake. China has retained that its dams would allow unhindered the flow of water towards India as they are based on run-of-the river principle.

Oct 1

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-blocks-tributary-of-brahmaputra-in-tibet-to-build-dam/article9171963.ece>

#### SWACHH BHARAT (CLEAN INDIA) CONTEST WINNERS HONORED

Students winning the “Swachh Bharat-Swasth Bharat” competition organised on Gandhi Jayanti at Pestleweed College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, northern India by the Principals’ Progressive Schools Association, were honoured by the Governor. The competition was a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, who not only struggled for political freedom of the country but also took a pledge to make India clean.

Oct 2

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/paul-honours-swachh-bharat-contest-winners/303964.html>

## China Himalaya

#### BIRTH OF FIRST TEST TUBE BABY

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, the Tibet Autonomous Region Fukang Women's and Children's Hospital, the first human assisted reproductive medical centre in Tibet, China, disclosed the birth of the first test-tube baby on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at 3 p.m. This achievement can be considered as a big revolution in human assisted reproductive technologies in high altitude environments since the test tube baby technology has always been a challenge due to low oxygen levels and low air pressure. The baby born is a boy weighing 2.69 kilograms and is in good condition along with the mother.

Sep 29

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1475117844134.shtml>

#### OPENING OF “THE 2016 NYINGCHI YARLUNG TIBETAN ECO-CULTURE TOURISM FESTIVAL”

With the theme “Peaceful humanity and beautiful Nyingchi”, the 2016 Nyingchi Yarlung Tibetan Eco-Culture Tourism Festival has opened since the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> September at Nyingchi, Southeast Tibet, China, including numerous exhibitions incorporating “peaceful humanity and beautiful Nyingchi” movie exhibition, the intangible cultural asset song and dance exhibition, the citizens health activities involving the Lulang high mountain peak forum, the Tibetan medicine development forum, the 12th Tibet Nyingchi investment and trade discussion conference and the specialty product promotional exhibition. The objective behind this festival is to deeply integrate culture and tourism, to act symbiotically with nature and expedite the transformation from scenic spot tourism to region-wide tourism.

Sep 29

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1475110485456.shtml>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### PUNAKHA-GASA HIGHWAY BLOCKED ON SEVERAL POINTS

The Punakha-Gasa highway, a secondary national highway, Bhutan, has been blocked on several points due to continuous rainfall that caused continue fall of boulders that has threatened the lives of the travellers. It has been reported that the blocks near Damji and Tashithang are going to be cleared on that very day.

Sep 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/punakha-gasa-highway-to-be-cleared/>

### OYSTER MUSHROOM FARMING ENHANCING FARMER'S LIVING STANDARD

Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) farming has improved the living standard of a 64 year old farmer who started mushroom farming three years ago in Pemathang Gewog of Samdrup Jongkhar district, Bhutan. Retailing the Oyster mushroom at US\$ 2.25 per kg and harvesting 40 tons mushroom annually, he has been able to construct a new house for his family. In order to grow the mushroom, the boiled mycelium of the mushroom should be wrapped in a plastic bag and be kept for 15 days being watered daily and can be harvested in 25 days.

Sep 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/farmer-prospers-on-oyster-mushrooms/>

## Pakistan-Himalaya

### MILD QUAKE IN NARAN CAUSES A DEATH

A mild earthquake measured at 2.9 on the Richter scale clattered the town of Naran in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Hazara division, northwest Pakistan, causing the death of one person and injuring seven others. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)'s official, the death occurred due to a boulder rolling down the mountain. Vibration was also felt in the districts of Mansehra, Abbotabad, Battagram and Kohistan, northwest Pakistan whereas another earthquake of 5.5 magnitudes jolted districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, including Swat, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Mardan and Peshawar.

Oct 1

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1192130/one-dead-qaakes-iolt-k-p/>