

# Headlines Himalaya

Oct 10 – Oct 16

No. 425

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For the 425<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 16 news from 9 sources and selected 15 happenings from five countries. Khorsor Breeding Centre of Chitwan National Park (CNP), south-central Nepal has seen significant increase in elephant (*Elephas maximus*) population, making CNP home to 57 elephants. Total bird species in Nepal reached 879 after sighting of a globally endangered bird species, Grey-sided Thrush (*Turdus feae*) for the first time in Makwanpur district, central Nepal. Flood and erosion caused by Brahmaputra and its tributary has intensely affected the lives of people of Majauli Island, northeast India. Local green chilli production is up in Bhutan following the ban on imports from India.

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	<i>Scrub typhus infection</i> <i>Butwal dependent on Indian and Chinese vegetable products</i> <i>Orange disease worries farmers</i> <i>Rise in elephant population</i> <i>Rhino calf dies</i> <i>Lady killed in elephant attack</i> <i>Tourists up at Langtang-Gosaikunda</i> <i>New bird species for Nepal</i>
INDIA	<i>Effects of flood in Majauli</i> <i>Blanket of Azolla over Chuntkul</i> <i>Dengue in Jammu</i>
CHINA	<i>Qinghai Lake surface area expanding</i>
BHUTAN	<i>Highway blocked by landslide</i> <i>Production of local green chilli goes up</i>
PAKISTAN	<i>Angora wool market flourishing</i>

### SCRUB TYPHUS INFECTION

59 new cases of scrub typhus infection this month alone has raised the number of infected people in Chitwan district, southwest Nepal to 264 since its outbreak. This bacterial disease has killed two people in Chitwan while eight individuals in eastern part of Nepal. Scrub typhus has been reported from 37 districts across the country.

Oct 10

[www.myrepublica.com/news/7173](http://www.myrepublica.com/news/7173)

### BUTWAL DEPENDENT ON INDIAN AND CHINESE VEGETABLES PRODUCTS

About 40 percent of total vegetables and 50 to 80 percent of total fruits are being imported from India and China and are sold at Thok Bazaar, a marketplace in Butwal, Rupandehi, western Nepal. Though vegetables are brought from different parts of the country, the supply remains insufficient to meet the public's demand.

Oct 10

[www.myrepublica.com/news/7180](http://www.myrepublica.com/news/7180)

[www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/31115](http://www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/31115)

### ORANGE DISEASE WORRIES FARMERS

Farmers engaged in orange cultivation have not been able to benefit since few years in Salyan district, mid-west Nepal due to disease. This has worried the farmers and jeopardized the commercial orange farming business. Farmers earned about NPR 271.1 million from orange sales last year only.

Oct 12

[www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/31146](http://www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/31146)

### RISE IN ELEPHANT POPULATION

Khorsor Breeding Centre of Chitwan National Park, southwest Nepal has seen significant increase in elephant (*Elephas maximus*) population. At the time of establishment in 1985, the centre had brought 20 elephants from India, Thailand and Myanmar exchanging 16 elephants from India with four one horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) of Nepal. The number reached 37 after 16 years even though elephants are slow breeders. Chitwan National Park is home to 57 elephants of which 17 are kept at the breeding centre while remaining are mobilised into the park.

Oct 16

[www.kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-16/chitwan-park-breeding-centre-sees-increase-in-elephant-population.html](http://www.kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-16/chitwan-park-breeding-centre-sees-increase-in-elephant-population.html)

### RHINO CALF DIES

An orphaned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) calf which was rescued from Meghauli, western part of Chitwan, with several injuries over a month ago has died while undergoing a long treatment in Chitwan National Park. Calf named as 'Mayure' succumbed due to a deep wound in its right thigh and with multiple cuts, fractures and bruises from the attacks of a tiger (*Panthera tigris*). Several orphaned rhino calves have been frequently attacked by tiger or rescued from such conditions but lack of appropriate rehabilitation centres intensifies the risk.

Oct 16

[www.kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-16/rhino-calf-succumbs-to-tiger-attack-injuries.html](http://www.kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-16/rhino-calf-succumbs-to-tiger-attack-injuries.html)

### LADY KILLED IN ELEPHANT ATTACK

Wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*) attack has killed a lady at Ramghat village in Bellauri of Kanchanpur district, far western Nepal. A herd of elephants attacked while she was travelling by cycle along with her husband through the forest and was crushed to death. Herd of 35 to 40 wild elephants of Dudhuwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh, India have been problematic since three years and also raiding crops of Kanchanpur district, mostly affecting Bellauri, Punarbas, Tribhuwanbasti, Shankarpur and Bhimdattanagar areas of the district.

Oct 16

[www.nepalisamachar.com/?p=30054](http://www.nepalisamachar.com/?p=30054)

#### **TOURISTS UP AT LANGTANG-GOSAIKUNDA**

Number of tourists visiting Langtang-Gosaikunda region shows significant increase at recent making it a popular tourist destination. Since the beginning of this current fiscal year, 1500 visitors have already visited the area with collection of around NPR 5.3 million as entrance fee. Visitors are much pleased with the quick check up service of Narayan Dal battalion of Nepal Army at the entry point.

Oct 15

[www.myrepublica.com/news/7320](http://www.myrepublica.com/news/7320)

#### **NEW BIRD SPECIES FOR NEPAL**

As verified by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation last month, the total bird species in Nepal reached 879 after the sighting of a globally endangered bird species, Grey-sided Thrush (*Turdus feae*) for the first time in Makwanpur district, central Nepal. This bird has been previously recorded from India, China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand with global population estimation between 2,500 and 9,999 while listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

Oct 16

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/printedition/news/2016-10-16/new-discovery-takes-no-of-bird-species-in-nepal-to-879.html>

## **India-Himalaya**

#### **EFFECTS OF FLOOD IN MAJAUJI**

Flood and erosion caused by Brahmaputra and its tributary, Lohit in Assam, northeast India has intensely affected the lives of people of Majauli Island. Erosion has reduced the total area of the island and has also submerged altogether 1200 ha of pulse land impacting 6000 famers. Many areas like Manik Chapori, Borguri, Sial Chapori and nearby areas situated at the bank of the river are significantly affected by the flood. This ultimately has destroyed the paddy lands and compelled the farmers to shift their interest from paddy to pulse plantation. Since the State Agricultural Department did not take any initiative, the local peasants had to buy pulse seeds at a higher rate from the market.

Oct 13

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct1416/state055>

#### **BLANKET OF AZOLLA OVER CHUNTKUL**

One of the outflow channel of Dal Lake, Chuntkul, Srinagar, northern India has been inundated by weeds and Azolla as the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) entrusted with Dal conservation is unable to tackle de-weeding operations of Chuntkul. According to the locals, Chuntkul also noted for fishing, is neglected for conservation by the government despite, having ample fund. Weeds and Azolla have hindered the smooth flow of Dal waters into the river Jhelum.

Oct 13

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/srinagar-city/weeds-engulf-chuntkul/230828.html>

#### **DENGUE IN JAMMU**

Out of 366 people examined for the dengue, 40 were tested positive in Jammu, northern India. Dengue fever has compelled the health department to stay prepared and has alerted all the hospitals to monitor the state of admitted patients on a daily basis treating them in isolated wards. It has been reported that health department has already identified vulnerable areas in Samba, Kathua, Jammu and parts of Rajouri districts, northern India and also has sent necessary testing kits in the district hospitals.

Oct 14

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/story/230858.html>

## China Himalaya

### QINGHAI LAKE SURFACE AREA EXPANDING

The Climate Science Research Institute of Qinghai Province has stated that Qinghai Lake, the largest saltwater lake in inland China had the biggest surface area from July to September, 2016 in 16 years due to increased rainfall in the Lake Region and higher incoming water volume. According to the recent remote satellite sensing data of 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Lake covered 4, 45100 ha which is 5207 ha more than last year and 13580 ha more than historical average. The Research institute has claimed that continued increase of lake's surface area will increase the amount of water vapour and humidity of the entire lake area. The increased water surface could also create some problems to nearby meadows and tourism facilities.

Oct 11

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1476163332546.shtml>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### HIGHWAY BLOCKED BY LANDSLIDE

The continuous rainfall induced landslide has blocked the roads above the Panatsanguchhu Project-1 dam site at Bjimthaugkha on the Wangdue-Tsirang highway, Bhutan. Landslide also halted the roads between Khuruthay and Bajo area. This has disrupted the normal transportation facility.

Oct 14

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/wangdue-tsirang-highway-blocked/>

### PRODUCTION OF LOCAL GREEN CHILLI GOES UP

After the ban on import of green chillies (Capsicum) from India, the production and sale of local chillies saw a boost in Menchari of Samdrup Jongkhar district, south eastern Bhutan. Locally known as 'Orongpa Solu', this green local chilli is famous for its spicy taste and has been cultivated by all of the 23 households in Menchari raising their living standards. After the ban, each household gets US \$ 1.80 per Kg on average making more than US \$ 1499.48 this year whereas vegetable vendors sell the chilli for US \$ 2.10 per Kg in the market.

Oct 14

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/a-chilli-passed-down-from-generation-to-generation/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### ANGORA WOOL MARKET FLOURISHING

The wool produced by Angora rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), considered to be the world's most admired and warmest wool, has found a market in the shawl-making village of Islampur in Swat valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. People are slowly learning about the financial benefits of the small furry creature and it has been reported that the livestock and diary development department has opened a model farm for breeding Angora rabbits at the cost of US \$ 95470.

Oct 11

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=11\\_10\\_2016\\_183\\_007](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=11_10_2016_183_007)