

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 427th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 16 news from 8 sources and selected 15 happenings from four countries. In Nepal, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City has finally succeeded to generate electricity from waste for the first time after successful test conducted at Teku Transfer Station. Nepal is among top destinations in Lonely Planet's 'Best Value Destinations' list. In India, Rajaji Tiger Reserve has increased alertness for owls to protect owls from poaching. In China, according to the international academic journal *Scientific Reports*, scientists have revealed the cause of adaptation of Tibetan mastiffs in high altitudes. In Bhutan, 2,100 yaks (*Bos grunniens*) have been killed by the disease Guyoom (Gid) in the past three years in highlands of Haa, Paro, Thimpu, Gasa and Bhumthang districts.

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- NEPAL** *Nepal among 'Best value destination'*
Electricity generated from waste for the first time
17,000 litres of date-expired edible oil seized
Production of 100,000 eggs daily
Recovery of 6 kg Ganja
- INDIA** *Death by bear attack*
Fire in Manasbal forests
Cured trophy of leopard skin possessed
Rajaji Tiger Reserve increase alertness for owls
- CHINA** *Environmental system stable in Tibet*
Tibetan mastiff's secret
- BHUTAN** *Gid causing deaths of yaks*
Havoc by wild predators
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NEPAL AMONG 'BEST VALUE DESTINATION'

Nepal is among Lonely Planet's 'Best Value Destination' list ranking fifth on the 'Top Ten Destination Guidebook' for 2017. Among the South Asian countries, Nepal is the only destination to be featured on the list of the top 10 countries to visit in 2017. Though, 2015 earthquakes caused many losses and destruction, this achievement has offered Nepal to bounce back with greater force and rebuild the nation.

Oct 26

kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-26/nepal-named-the-worlds-best-value-destination.html

ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM WASTE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Kathmandu Metropolitan City has finally succeeded to generate electricity from waste for the first time in Nepal after successful test conducted at Teku Transfer Station. The waste-to-energy plant equipment which cost Rs.18.20 million for three machines arrived Kathmandu from Pune of India. The test succeeded in Teku generated 14 kilowatts of electricity. Project is aimed to manage total of 450 tonnes of garbage produced in Kathmandu valley every day.

Oct 27

thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/power-generated-waste-first-time/

17,000 LITRES OF DATE-EXPIRED EDIBLE OIL SEIZED

During the inspection of District Market Inspection Committee, 17,000 litres of date-expired refined soyabean oil was found at the godown belonging to Isha suppliers in Bakaiyatole of Nijgadh-8, Bara district, south-eastern Nepal and was seized with the support of local police. The inspection was carried to control malpractices during the festive season. After the godown got sealed, the committee has started further investigation into it.

Oct 27

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-27/17k-ltr-date-expired-oil-confiscated.html>

PRODUCTION OF 100,000 EGGS DAILY

The KhilungKalika Agro Farm which was started last year in Bhirkot municipality-6 of Syangja district, western Nepal, produces 100,000 eggs daily. The farm started with the investment of NPR 500 million by seven local youths, currently with 150,000 commercial chickens provides around 100 locals with employment generating around 40 million Nepali rupees annually.

Oct 28

<http://m.setopati.net/news/17745/>

RECOVERY OF 6KG GANJA

Two individuals have been possessed by Saptari Police with six kilograms of ganja (Cannabis). The ganja was found hidden on a fish farm at Yoginimai municipality-1 of Saptari district, southeast Nepal. The owner of the farm along with an Indian has been arrested after the retrieval.

Oct 30

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-10-30/two-arrested-with-6-kg-ganja.html>

DEATH BY BEAR ATTACK

An old man aged 65 injured in the bear (*Ursidae*) attack at Hokhletri village of central Kashmir's Budgam district, northern India died in SK Institute of Medical Sciences Soura while being treated. Similarly, another person attacked by bear at Pethkoot village of Beerwan, Central Kashmir is being treated at SDH Beerwah. The locals had pleaded to the wildlife department to tranquilize the wild animals roaming near their villages.

Oct 26

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/story/231852.html>

FIRE IN MANASBAL FORESTS

A number of pine trees were ravaged in the mysterious fire incident that broke out in upper-Kawcherwan forest in Kangan area, Central Kashmir, northern India, mostly affecting compartment number 69 of Manasbal range forests. Because of lack of proper mechanism and lack of suitable roads, the personnel of forest department could not go to the affected area to control the fire immediately.

Oct 25

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/story/231817.html>

CURED TROPHY OF LEOPARD SKIN POSSESSED

According to the Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology, the staff of wildlife department of Manda Deer Park, Jammu, northern India, retrieved the cured trophy of leopard skin during routine patrolling. The cured trophy of leopard mounted on a cloth was found in a bag during patrolling and was brought to the Range Office, Wildlife Range Jammu. It was claimed that the skin must be that of a seven to eight years old of full grown animal.

Oct 30

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/story/232183.html>

RAJAJI TIGER RESERVE INCREASE ALERTNESS FOR OWLS

In order to control the poaching of owls (*Strigiformes*), the Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, northern India, has increased the alertness since the owls are in big demand on Diwali for black magic. The reserve is a prime habitat for owls. Body parts of owl are used for black magic in Diwali. The Reserve's authorities had cancelled the employees' leaves to increase alertness at the reserve.

Oct 30

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/red-alert-in-rajaji-tiger-reserve/316687.html>

China Himalaya

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM STABLE IN TIBET

According to the assessment report issued by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on the progress achieved between 2008 and 2014, the plateau environmental system in Tibet is generally stable with the increasing vegetation coverage and decrease in the area undergoing into desertification by 107,100 hectares. A notable rise in the usage of clean energy that reached 65.6 percent has supported farming and breeding improving the lives of farmers and herdsmen and mitigating the destruction of forest and grasslands. It's been reported that Tibet's nature reserve area has now covered 41,370,000 ha whereas area of wetlands under protection is now 4.31 million ha making 65.98 percent of all wetland in Tibet.

Oct 28

<http://eng.tibet.cn/life/news/1477534571272.shtml>

TIBETAN MASTIFF'S SECRET

As published in the international academic journal 'Scientific Reports', scientists of Kunming Animal Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Scientists revealed the cause of adaptation of Tibetan mastiffs in high altitude as compared to other dog breeds. The researchers found that the sex chromosome, vessel development DNA, capillary process gene and autosomal DNA of Tibetan mastiffs make them more susceptible to high altitude. They had compared 175 subjects from 11 different domestic Chinese dog breeds, in areas ranging from low to high altitude, concluding that for the Tibetan mastiffs, their vascular dynamic protein's dominant haplo

type have a positive correlation with the altitudinal gradient. The Tibetan mastiff's is popular dog breed on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau and because of their characteristics, are known as the 'king of dogs'.

Oct 29

<http://eng.tibet.cn/life/news/1477708705112.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

GID CAUSING DEATHS OF YAKS

2,100 yaks (*Bosgrunniens*) have been killed by the disease Guyoom (Gid) in the past three years in highlands of Haa, Paro, Thimpu, Gasa and Bhumthang districts of Bhutan, claiming 9,464 yaks in the past 15 years. Gid is the disease that affects the central nervous system of the yak and sheep caused by the larval stage of tapeworm *Taenia multiceps*, transmitted by dogs. Awareness programme was carried out for the yak herders by the livestock officials but didn't work due to the lack of effective collaboration.

Oct 25

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/2100-yaks-fall-to-gid-in-3-years>

HAVOC BY WILD PREDATORS

The highlanders living in the protected areas of the northern part of Bhutan are suffering from the livestock depredation due to wildlife. According to the highlanders, every year large number of livestock has been preyed upon by wild animals like Himalayan bears (*Ursus arctos*), snow leopards (*Uncia uncia*) etc. Due to the country's strict conservation rules and prohibition of retaliatory actions, the control of predatory animals has been troublesome and may force nomads to give up rearing yaks and other livestock and look for other means to earn a living.

Oct 28

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/155259-2>

FARMERS GETTING GOOD PRICE FOR POTATOES

The potato farmers across Bhutan are benefitted this year because of the higher production of potato and good price compared to last year in the auction yard in Phuentsholing, southern Bhutan. According to the official of the auction yard of the Food Corporation of Bhutan Ltd (FCBL), the price of the large potatoes and medium potatoes has reached Nu 26.51/ kg and Nu 24.57/kg respectively in average this year whereas it was Nu 18.06/kg and Nu 15.44/kg respectively last year. This year the farmers are getting their payment in three days so that they don't have to wait for many days like in previous years.

Oct 29

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/potatoes-fetching-better-prices-this-year>