

# Headlines Himalaya

Oct 31 – Nov 6

No. 428

Editorial Team: Shreeram Ghimire and Ozal Pradhan

For the 428<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 19 news from 9 sources and selected 17 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, demand of Mustang potatoes is on the rise while Champadevi hill side is pulling more visitors. Air pollution levels have increased with firecrackers use during festive season at India. In China, plant cloning technique has been effective to protect endangered medicinal plants from extinction. In Bhutan, solar fencing programme is successful in maintaining harmony between wild animal and humans.

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!

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### MUSTANG RISING AHEAD IN COMMERCIAL MOUNTAIN GOATS PRODUCTION

Mustang district in north western Nepal has supplied 5,000 mountain goats for Tihar festival compared to 21,000 during the Dashain festival. The upper Mustang region is gradually rising in the commercial production of mountain goats and Lomanthang, Choser, Chonhup, Ghami, Muktinath and Surkhang Village Development Committees (VDCs) are known to be pocket areas for production.

Nov 2

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/15209>

### CARDAMOM PRICES FALL AFFECTING FARMERS IN LAMJUNG

Price of cash crop cardamom has fallen this year across the country worrying the farmers. Last year it was sold at US \$20.50 per kilogram but this year, the price is reduced to US \$12.12 per kg. Nepal faces fluctuation in price of cardamom every year due to lack of price regulatory mechanism.

Nov 2

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/farmers-worried-cardamom-prices-fall/>

### NEPAL ARMY SUCCESSFULLY SIPHONED IMJA GLACIAL LAKE

An Engineering team of Nepal Army has developed 46 meter long channel for drainage of Imja Lake located at 5100 meters above sea level in Solukhumbu district, eastern Nepal, reducing 3.4 meters of water level. The lake is growing in size due to fast melting of ice caused by climate change with an estimation of 149.8 m depth containing 75 million cubic meters volume. Five districts: Solukhumbu, Mahottari, Siraha, Saptari and Udaypur are expected to benefit from this project along with installation of flood early warning system.

Nov 3

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-03/local-expertise-was-pivotal-in-imja-draining.html/>

### ROAD BLOCKADE BY JACKAL ATTACK VICTIMS

Roadway in Gaur has been blocked by victims of Jackal (*Canis*) attack at Garuda, Rautahat, central Nepal, demanding compensation and treatment from government. More than 60 people got injured by the attack while one local victim has died at Tilganga eye hospital in Kathmandu on October 22. Local administration has now started awareness campaign against such attacks.

Nov 3

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/jackal-attack-victims-block-road-demand-compensation-government/>

### POTATO FARMING THRIVING AT MANANG

The unrivalled taste of potato from Manang has increased its demand outside the district, especially in Pokhara, Chitwan and Lamjung. Dharapani, Nachai Odar and Humde VDCs in Manang are called pocket area of potatoes. This year potato farming has increased from 645 to 745 hectares. The District Agriculture Development Office has therefore set up storage facility in different locations.

Nov 3

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/potato-farms-prosper-manang-vdcs/>

### POTATO PRODUCTION FALLS IN DOLAKHA

Potato production in Dolakha district, northern Nepal has fallen to 30,000 tonnes this year in comparison to last year's production of 36,000 tonnes. District Agriculture Office has claimed that the prolonged winter drought significantly contributed to this reduction in production. Potato from Dolakha is famous for its taste around Nepal, popularly known as "Potato from Mudhe" in the capital city Kathmandu.

Nov 4

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-04/long-drought-hits-potato-production-in-dolakha.html>

### CONTAMINATION AT MILK COLLECTION CENTRES

Milk collection centres across the nation were found to have higher risk of milk contamination than the production place as disclosed by a study from Samarth-Nepal Market Development Programme and Forward. Around 43% of samples tested from collection centres were found contaminated while only 20% of the contamination at the source. This was attributed to negligence in storage facility and lack of manpower. Samples tested have been collected from 231 farmers, 38 collection centres, and 19 chilling centres in 65 districts.

Nov 4

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-04/collection-centres-blamed-for-contamination-in-milk.html/>

#### RED PANDA SMUGGLER HELD BY POLICE IN KAPAN

Nepal Police have nabbed a 20 years old man with Red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) hide from Kapan, Kathmandu, central Nepal. The team of Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) has handed the suspect to District Forest Office in Kathmandu. Red Panda is protected under National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 and CITES, 1975.

Nov 4

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/youth-held-red-panda-hide-kapan/>

#### CHAMPADEVI HILL ATTRACTING TOURISTS

Mobility of tourists has increased in Champadevi hillside these days. Hundreds of tourists visit the place daily to view more than 12 Himalayan peaks including Mt Everest and surrounding green hills. Reconstruction of Champadevi temple and park has added to the attraction for both domestic and international tourists.

Nov 4

<http://www.abhiyan.com.np/new/Articles/view/87374>

#### OUTBREAKS OF DENGUE IN RURAL BANKE

Dengue cases have increased in Nepalgunj, mid-west Nepal, since two weeks. 44 patients have been admitted for treatment in Bheri Zone Hospital. Dengue fever is caused by biting of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito species. District Public Health Office has started awareness campaign for sanitation and cleanliness in Nepalgunj area to mitigate the situation.

Nov 4

<http://epaper.ekantipur.com/kantipur/2016-11-04/8>

#### RUPANDEHI SELF-SUFFICIENT IN VEGETABLES PRODUCTION

Commercial vegetables farming in Rupandehi district of south western Nepal has attained self-sufficiency according to the report from District Agriculture Office. The annual production at present is 90,991 tonnes from farming at 4,147 hectares in the district. It has been concluded that subsidies programs of governmental and non-governmental institutions have driven youth towards agriculture.

Nov 5

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-05/commercial-farming-brings-vegetable-self-sufficiency.html>

## India-Himalaya

#### EFFORTS TO ENSURE SCIENTIFIC DISPOSAL OF WASTE IN SHIMLA

Shimla city, Himachal Pradesh, northern India, generates approximately of 55 to 60 metric tons of municipal solid waste per day, for which a scientific disposal plant is being established. The plant is most likely to start its operations from December 15. Recently the tender and work has been awarded to Elephant Energy Private Limited.

Nov 2

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/NGT-asks-project-proponent-to-make-Shimla-waste-plant-functional-by-December-15/articleshow/55207468.cms>

#### AIR POLLUTION DUE TO FIRE CRACKERS

Data obtained by The Tribune from GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development at Mohal, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, north India has revealed a considerable rise in pollution levels due to bursting of crackers during the festive season. Multi Wavelength Solar Radiometer (MWR) of Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) in environment was 0.34 on September 23, which suddenly rose 0.46 on October 31 after the Diwali festival and there was 35.29 percent direct increase in pollution levels at Mohal in Kullu. District Health Officer advised the people to avoid second hand smoke and refrain from bursting crackers.

Nov 2, 3

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/rise-in-air-pollution-alarming-experts/317996.html>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/diwali-over-trail-of-smoke-persists/317994.html>

#### BEAR ATTACK INJURES TWO PEOPLE

Two people sustained injuries in two separate bear (*Ursidae*) attack incidents that occurred at Chamba and Solan districts of Himachal Pradesh, north India. One was a youth and had a face to face encounter with a bear in Deola panchayat of Chamba district. The other was a woman who got attacked by a bear in the forested area of Devthal, Solan district. The frequency of wild animal attacks during winter season is comparatively high in these locations.

Nov 4

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/two-injured-in-bear-attacks-in-himachal-in-chamba-solan/articleshow/55213856.cms>

## China Himalaya

#### PLANT CLONING TECHNIQUE IN TIBET

More than 20 kinds of endangered medicinal plant in Tibet, including those such as Rhodiola and Himalayan mirabilis are being artificially bred using plant cloning technology for protection. Artificial breeding has resulted in success in 10 kinds of endangered medicinal plants and now extended to several Tibetan medicine enterprises. This technique hopes to cover all the 74 kinds of endangered medicinal plants that grow in Tibet.

Nov 3

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1478157898479.shtml>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

#### SOLAR FENCING AS AN EFFECTIVE GUARDING MEASURE

Almost 95 acres of dry land belonging to 30 households of the people of Shingnyer, Bhutan have been solar fenced by the Phrumsingla National Park (PNP). The solar fence not only keeps the wild animals away but also contributes in preserving the environment, as harvesting of poles for fences have reduced considerably. PNP established solar fencing under funding from the World Wildlife Fund, Bhutan programme.

Oct 31

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/phrumsingla-park-provides-solar-fenceing/>

#### ARRIVAL OF 11 BLACK-NECKED CRANES IN PHOBJIKHA

Following the arrival of first Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) (on October 22), a second batch- family of six cranes, have arrived on October 27. Shortly after, around four adult cranes have landed in Phobjikha, central region of Bhutan, on October 30. The family comprises of four adults and two juvenile cranes. They usually start arriving in October and continue to arrive until the end of December and they stay in Phobjikha till the month of March.

Nov 2

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/11-black-necked-cranes-arrive-in-phobjikha/>