

# Headlines Himalaya

May 03– May 09

No 403

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For the 403<sup>rd</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from nine sources and selected 19 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, the existence of Himalayan wolves was confirmed at Upper Mustang through DNA test of fecal matter collected in 2011. In India, 10 lakhs people of Doda region are affected due to shortage of drinking water. In China, Sichuan Province receives substantial amount of fund for environmental protection projects. In Bhutan, villagers are worried by the shrinkage of sacred oyster lake. In Pakistan, high yield of wheat brings happiness among the wheat growers.

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## **Nepal**

*Mysterious Disease Makes Villagers Ill*  
*Endangered Vulture Faces Threat from Diclofenac Use*  
*Wildfire Smoke Raises Health Issues Among Local*  
*Himalayan Wolves Discovered In Upper Mustang*  
*Drought Causes Wilting Of Crops*  
*Fire Engulfs 30,000 Hectares of Forest in Sindhuli*  
*Famine Fear in Jumla*  
*Pre-Monsoon Rains Decreases Forest Fire*  
*Police Seizes Banned Herbs Worth Millions*  
*Government Prohibits Fishing on Rapti River*

## **India**

*Government Declares Agencies for Tree Translocation*  
*Deforestation Creates Acute Water Crisis in Doda Region*  
*Flood Sweeps Vehicles in Pandri River*

## **China**

*Sichuan Province Receives Fund for Environmental Protection*  
*Tibet Celebrates Sheep Castration Ceremony*

## **Bhutan**

*Small Vegetable Market Upsets Farmers*  
*Shrinkage of Oyster Lake Worries Villagers*

## **Pakistan**

*Higher Wheat Yield Brings Happiness among Farmers*  
*Rawalpindi Suffers From Water Shortage*

### MYSTERIOUS DISEASE MAKES VILLAGERS ILL

The residents of Karmetar village, Tupche VDC of Nuwakot district in Central Nepal have fallen ill due to a mysterious disease. More than hundred villagers, mainly children and elderly people, are suffering from symptoms like dizziness, vomiting and diarrhea. The prescribed medicines to the hospital visitors have failed to cure the disease.

May 03

<http://myrepublica.com/society/story/41629/hundreds-of-nuwakot-villagers-fall-ill-due-to-mysterious-disease.html>

### ENDANGERED VULTURE FACES THREAT FROM DICLOFENAC USE

The vultures in Kapilvastu are dying untimely, due to feeding on carcasses laced with Diclofenac. The drug was banned by the government two years ago but is still popular among the farmers as medicine for livestock. Out of 23 species worldwide, eight species of vulture are found in Nepal.

May 03

<http://myrepublica.com/society/story/41627/vultures-pushed-to-verge-of-extinction-in-kapilvastu.html>

### WILDFIRE SMOKE RAISES HEALTH ISSUES AMONG LOCAL

The continuous wildfire in Doti and Dadeldhura district in Far-Western Nepal, has led to an increase in respiratory and eye diseases among the locals. Locals visiting hospitals have mainly been treated for diseases related to air pollution. Smoke and dust from the fire has also decreased the visibility.

May 03

<http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=9169&boxid=192537605&dat=5/4/2016>

### HIMALAYAN WOLVES DISCOVERED IN UPPER MUSTANG

Scientists have confirmed that the endangered species of Himalayan wolves can be found in Upper Mustang, Western Nepal, through a DNA test of fecal samples collected in 2011. The recent studies have explored that the Himalayan wolves are the most ancient of the three lineages found in the area.

May 03

<http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=9167&boxid=192049285&dat=5/4/2016>

### DROUGHT CAUSES WILTING OF CROPS

Prolonged drought has caused wilting of cardamom and maize along with other crops in Lamjung district, Western Nepal. It has been estimated that the yield will decrease this year, as many hectares of land have been left barren due to lack of rainfall.

May 04

<http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=9190&boxid=33453474&dat=5/5/2016>

### FIRE ENGULFS 30,000 HECTARES OF FOREST IN SINDHULI

Forest fire has destroyed about 30,000 hectares of forest in Sindhuli, Central part of Nepal. These forests consist mostly of pine trees which shed leaves and catch fire very easily. Prolonged drought coupled with human errors is the major causes of such forest fires.

May 05

<http://myrepublica.com/society/story/41785/30-000-ha-of-forests-destroyed-in-sindhuli-dfo.html>

#### **FAMINE FEAR IN JUMLA**

Prolonged drought in Jumla district, Mid-Western part of Nepal has diminished the production of winter crops, creating fear of future famine. Lack of rainfall has increased pest attack on crops limiting the crop productivity. A total of 1800 ha of crops have already been destroyed out of the total 3000 ha of cultivated land.

May 05

<http://myrepublica.com/society/story/41797/fear-of-famine-in-jumla-as-drought-destroys-winter-crops.html>

#### **PRE-MONSOON RAINS DECREASES FOREST FIRE**

The pre-monsoon rain and thunderstorms have brought relief to the fire affected areas. Bushfire recorded in past weeks fell to zero on Friday and Saturday. Long drought and windy conditions had fueled such fire incidents across 72 districts in Nepal, destroying around 3.5 million ha of forest and claiming lives of 12 people.

May 08

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-08/rains-douse-raging-forest-fires.html>

#### **POLICE SEIZES BANNED HERBS WORTH MILLIONS**

Nepal Police seized a huge collection of banned herb Dactylorhiza hatagirea – locally known as Paanchaunle - in Bhimdutta Municipality in Kanchanpur on Sunday. Four sacks of herbs were being transported to India in a Nepali motorbike. The estimated market price of the confiscated herb is NRS 80 million.

May 09

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-09/millions-worth-of-banned-herb-seized-20160509121749.html>

#### **GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS FISHING ON RAPTI RIVER**

The fishing on the Rapti River flowing through the Eastern sector of Chitwan National Park has been banned. Fishing has been prohibited to protect the habitat of wild life, birds and aquatic animals dependent on the fish.

May 09

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-09/fishing-in-rapti-banned.html>

## **India-Himalaya**

#### **GOVERNMENT DECLARES AGENCIES FOR TREE TRANSLOCATION**

Union Ministry for Surface Transport of Himanchal Pradesh, India has declared 106 agencies for the translocation of trees that need to be felled while widening roads. The agencies will help state agencies or private developers in translocation of trees. The cost of translocation of single mature tree is estimated to be Rs 15,000.

May 09

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/106-agencies-formed-for-translocating-trees-gadkari/233873.html>

#### **DEFORESTATION CREATES ACUTE WATER CRISIS IN DODA REGION**

Nearly 10 lakhs people of Doda region, Eastern part of Jammu are facing acute shortage of water due to drying up of natural streams and reservoirs, caused by deforestation. Both government and local residents are responsible for cutting down the trees. As a consequence, people have to walk miles to fetch drinking water.

May 07

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/community/doda-region-reels-under-water-crisis-as-reservoirs-go-dry/233070.html>

#### FLOOD SWEEPS VEHICLES IN PANDRI RIVER

Debris triggered by a severe cloudburst buried several houses near the Barsali forest of Karnaparyag in Chamoli district, Uttharkhand. The flood swept away many vehicles in Pindar River, close to Bardinath highway. However, no human casualties have been reported till now.

May 09

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/>

## China Himalaya

#### SICHUAN PROVINCE RECEIVES FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tibetan areas of Sichuan Province in China, have received adequate amount of money for conducting different projects for better environmental protection. The funds will be used for running projects for environmental protection, treating desertification and improving irrigation. The projects will be completed in 2017.

May 06

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1462503994530.shtml>

#### TIBET CELEBRATES SHEEP CASTRATION CEREMONY

Sheep castration ceremony, an annual event celebrated for more than 1000 years, was held on May 05 in Nam Co, South West part of China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The ceremony was held to mark the best breeding male sheep by the herdsman.

May 08

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/photo/2016-05/08/c\\_135342788\\_2.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/photo/2016-05/08/c_135342788_2.htm)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

#### SMALL VEGETABLE MARKET UPSETS FARMERS

The vegetable group of Phongmey, Eastern part of Bhutan are in distress due to difficulty in securing market for their vegetables. The farmers have to sell their vegetables at very low prices to compete with the Indian vegetables. Additionally, 50 percent of the production goes to waste, as there are other similar vegetable groups competing for the same market.

May 05

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/vegetable-groups-going-through-rough-times/>

#### SHRINKAGE OF OYSTER LAKE WORRIES VILLAGERS

The Oyster lake of Khurul village, southern part of Bhutan has been shrinking due to water running out of passage. The villagers are worried as the lake is sacred for the local villagers where oyster and unique red fish are found. It is one of the major tourist attraction for the local and tourist from abroad.

May 05

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/shrinking-oyster-lake-worries-villagers/>

### **HIGHER WHEAT YIELD BRINGS HAPPINESS AMONG FARMERS**

The production of wheat in Potohar region north-eastern part of Pakistan has been better than anticipated. The production increased this year, as there was no unusual heavy rainfall or fluctuations in temperature.

May 08

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=08\\_05\\_2016\\_152\\_004](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=08_05_2016_152_004)

### **RAWALPINDI SUFFERS FROM WATER SHORTAGE**

Local people of Rawalpindi are facing water shortage problems despite having enough water in Rawal Dam. The negligence of water supply officials has been blamed for this man-made crisis. Locals have to depend on water bought from tankers for their daily activities.

May 08

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=08\\_05\\_2016\\_151\\_005](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=08_05_2016_151_005)