

# Headlines Himalaya

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Editorial Team: Asmita Rai and Bishesh Pandey

For the 470<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 28 news from 15 sources and selected 26 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Bengal tiger populations are up at Parsa, central Nepal while snow leopard research centre has been set up at Kanchenjunga, eastern Nepal. Meghalaya state in India keeps an eye open for litter lout tourists. While in China, organic farming sphere is flourishing well.

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

*Conserve Chure*  
*Snake bites on the rise*  
*Snow leopard investigation centre*  
*Vultures on the verge of extinction*  
*Flooded rhinos rescued unharmed*  
*Paddy fields lie fallow*  
*Rise of tigers in the wild*  
*Tourism back on track*  
*Export of Jumla apples soars to higher level*  
*Elephant trapped to death*  
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*Leopard: Poachers first choice*  
*Nepal's temperature rise by 0.0560c*  
*Terai flood: Gandak canal damaged*  
*Tonnes of trash out from the town*

## INDIA

*Incessant rain caused water logging*  
*Flood water recedes, though affecting lives*  
*Boost in honey production at Nagaland*  
*Cleanliness drive for tourists*  
*Flood cause menace for the tea capital*  
*Flood and mudslides causes catastrophe*

## CHINA

*Shoton festival witness amazing horse riding*  
*Boom in the organic farming sector*

## BHUTAN

*Japan extends economical help*

## PAKISTAN

*Dengue death toll rises in KP*  
*Torrential rains trouble people's life*

### CONSERVE CHURE

Experts are stressing for Chure conservation as they blame Chure exploitation for Terai flood and landslide severity. They said that as long as illegal extraction from Chure continues, occurrence of flood and landslide is inevitable. Though there exists President Chure Conservation Programme, but it has not been effective owing to its poor implementation.

**Aug 21**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/26077/>

### SNAKE BITES ON THE RISE

There has been massive increase in snakebite cases in Saptari district, eastern Nepal after flood attack. At least 12-15 cases are reported on a daily basis. Flood survivors are now panicked for the prospects of rising snakebite incidents. Therefore, locals claim for better health camps and snake bite centres in the affected areas.

**Aug 22**

<http://bit.ly/2wPTfIP>

### SNOW LEOPARD INVESTIGATION CENTRE

The construction of snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) investigation centre has recently started in Kanchanjunga Conservation Area (KCAP), Taplejung district of eastern Nepal, at an altitude of 4000m. The objective behind this is to study the Himalayan queen in its natural habitat to promote conservation measures.

**Aug 22**

<http://katipur.ekantipur.com/news/2017-08-22/20170822064416.html>

### VULTURES ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION

Vulture population in Bardiya, mid western Nepal is under serious threat of extinction. Habitat shrinkage, scanty prey and illegal use of Diclofenac Drug (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for livestock treatment) are the causes for its collapse. According to 2006 census, only 1200 pairs were found in Nepal among which White-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Bearded (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Egyptian (*Neophron percnopterus*), Red-headed (*Sarcogyps calvus*) and Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) are dwindling at an alarming rate.

**Aug 23**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/19573>

### FLOODED RHINOS RESCUED UNHARMED

Four endangered one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from India and one from Nawalparasi, western Nepal have been successfully rescued by the team from Chitwan National Park (CNP). They are brought back to their habitat (CNP) after being swept away by flood on August 11.

**Aug 24**

<http://bit.ly/2eUm6FB>

### PADDY FIELDS LIE FALLOW

Eight percent of country's paddy field has been abandoned due to devastating flood in Terai, southern Nepal. According to Ministry of Agricultural Development Statistics, transplantation of paddy had been completed at only 91.93 percent of 1.55 million hectares of paddy fields. Flood has even crashed paddy crop worth NPR 3.18 billion. Therefore, yield this year, is suspected to be adversely affected.

**Aug 24**

<http://bit.ly/2vV2iZW>

### RISE OF TIGERS IN THE WILD

Current count of Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) population in Parsa National Park, central Nepal stands at 19. In the last four years, there has been an increase of 12 tigers, which is an outcome of successful conservation efforts stated by the officials. Relocation of human settlements from core protected areas, dispersal of tigers from Chitwan National Park, central Nepal, set up of security posts to curb poaching and increment in prey density has contributed the tiger numbers to mount.

**Aug 25**

<http://bit.ly/2gRrFFo>

### TOURISM BACK ON TRACK

Tourism in Sauraha, central Nepal, has started to recover after it had witnessed sharp drop in tourists flow due to Terai floods. Around half of the 110 hotels that were affected, have resumed their activities. Amusing events such as elephant ride, jeep safari, boating has restarted.

**Aug 25**

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/tourists-start-bustle-chitwan/>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/44574>

### EXPORT OF JUMLA APPLES SOARS TO HIGHER LEVEL

Apples (*Malus sps*) of Jumla, mid western Nepal are gaining its market due to which export has accelerated to various parts of Nepal. In a week, sale of apples worth NPR 22.5 billion have been observed. District Agricultural Development Office reported that so far 542 tons of apples have been exported this year. The district is popularly known for its high productivity of organic apples.

**Aug 25**

<http://bit.ly/2fajGzu>

### ELEPHANT TRAPPED TO DEATH

An Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) has been unknowingly trapped to death in Kanchanpur district of far-western Nepal. Poachers had actually set the trap for wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and unfortunately a male elephant got stuck. The poachers are still at large.

**Aug 25**

<http://bit.ly/2xkyWof>

### MORE THAN 80 MILLION FOR ELEPHANT CONTROL

In order to control wild Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) led destruction in Jhapa, eastern Nepal, the government has allocated NPR 20 million in the first phase. Forest officials stated that National Planning Commission has approved only NPR 80.89 million though the demand was NPR 130 million. However, the authorities plan to utilize the amount for construction of biological corridor and electric wire fencing to curb elephant menace in the district.

**Aug 26**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/44607>

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/19621>

### LEOPARD: POACHERS FIRST CHOICE

According to the report (2008-2015) of District Forest Office (DFO), Kathmandu, central Nepal, leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is found to be the most poached animal in Kathmandu valley. These big cats accounted 34 percent of animals poached while Red panda (*Ailurus flugens*) accounted 21 percent of wildlife crimes. Reports also have showed an increase in wildlife crimes in Kathmandu by 4.8 times within 7 years of duration.

**Aug 26**

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/leopard-poached-animal-species-valley/>

### NEPAL'S TEMPERATURE RISE BY 0.056°C

Recent studies by Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DoHM) have revealed that the mean annual maximum temperature of Nepal has increased by 0.056 degree Celsius in the past four decades (1971-2014) due to climate change. According to the study, Manang, central Nepal has witnessed the highest rise in annual temperature of 0.092 degree Celsius while Parsa, central Nepal has observed the least of 0.017 degree Celsius.

**Aug 27**

<http://bit.ly/2f9H28m>

#### **TERAI FLOOD: GANDAK CANAL DAMAGED**

Gandak Canal has been severely damaged by recent flood in Terai, southern Nepal. This has incurred loss amounting to NPR 700 million. Engineers said that flood destroyed the service road of canal in 35 places due to which 500,000 people in Parsa, Bara and Rautahat districts of central Nepal have been affected.

**Aug 27**

<http://bit.ly/2vV4hha>

#### **TONNES OF TRASH OUT FROM THE TOWN**

13 tonnes of solid waste were collected in course of weekly cleaning of rivers and ring road areas of Kathmandu, central Nepal. With hundreds of volunteers, 6 tonnes were extracted from the Pashupati Ram Mandir and the premises of the main temple at the initiation of Tilganga Women Group and the rest 7 tonnes were removed by other campaigns such as Mega Bagmati clean-up campaigns, Tilganga Women Group, The Rudramati clean-up drive, Chakrapath clean-up programme etc.

**Aug 27**

<http://bit.ly/2jb3dj0>

## **India-Himalaya**

#### **INCESSANT RAIN CAUSED WATER LOGGING**

Many parts of the Uttarakhand, northern India have been receiving continuous rainfall which has caused inconvenience among public in the region. It has been difficult for the commuters to carry out day to day activities. Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Roorkee, Pauri and Kotdwar witnessed heavy rains in the morning, blocking several streets with knee deep water on the roads.

**Aug 23**

<http://bit.ly/2xSpODB>

#### **FLOOD WATER RECEDES, THOUGH AFFECTING LIVES**

Although the flood has stopped in Assam, north eastern India, many lives of the people living in the region are still under trouble. The flood has caused havoc in the lives of almost seven lakh people.

**Aug 23**

<http://bit.ly/2xVxeXp>

#### **BOOST IN HONEY PRODUCTION AT NAGALAND**

With the abundance of flora and fauna, the landlocked state of Nagaland, north eastern state of India has been thriving huge steps towards beekeeping business. Under the Nagaland beekeeping and honey mission, many locals have been involved directly or indirectly with the apiculture. This has brought financial stability in the lives of the people of the region.

**Aug 23**

<http://bit.ly/2xczawT>

#### **CLEANLINESS DRIVE FOR TOURISTS**

Government of Meghalaya, north eastern India has announced that the tourists coming to the state must follow strict cleanliness rules. It has been directed that the tourists must carry trash bags to collect litter in their vehicles. If found littering, the tourists will be fined heftily.

**Aug 23**

<http://bit.ly/2faeDPK>

#### **FLOOD CAUSE MENACE FOR THE TEA CAPITAL**

Jorhat, which is known as the tea capital of Assam, north eastern India have been organizing horse riding festival since British era. But due to flood in the region, thousands of animals have been displaced and several hundreds have died which have caused the festival to be at halt.

**Aug 25**

<http://bit.ly/2xVq1GO>

#### **FLOOD AND MUDSLIDES CAUSES CATASTROPHE**

Fresh flood and mudslides in Senapati District, Manipur, north eastern India have forced many residents of the area to flee to the higher grounds. The mudslides have caused havoc which blocked the National Highway 2 with the vehicles stuck in the roads causing inconvenience.

**Aug 26**

<http://bit.ly/2wOQUyD>

## **China Himalaya**

#### **SHOTON FESTIVAL WITNESS AMAZING HORSE RIDING**

With various attractions, Shoton festival or the yogurt drinking festival, kicked off on Monday. The event has been taking place for the past decade with amazing attractions and views in Lhasa, south central Tibet. Among such attractions was the horse riding event which caused stir in the crowd.

**Aug 24**

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1062965.shtml>

#### **BOOM IN THE ORGANIC FARMING SECTOR**

There has been an unprecedented growth in the organic farming sector of Tibetan Plateau. In less than four years, 89 enterprises have got involved with their output reaching USD 559 million. The surge in the farming has caused economic development in the region with the locals being the main beneficiary.

**Aug 24**

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-08/24/c\\_136551778.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-08/24/c_136551778.htm)

## **Bhutan-Himalaya**

#### **JAPAN EXTENDS ECONOMICAL HELP**

Bhutan has been provided international aid by Japan for the improvement and betterment of the health, agriculture and infrastructure restoration. The Bhutanese delegation acknowledged the Japanese assistance of USD 73.53M in the 11th Plan, which has benefited in the country's socio economic development.

**Aug 22**

<http://bit.ly/2wqJIZ7>

### DENGUE DEATH TOLL RISES IN KP

The number of deaths in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western region of Pakistan has risen to 10 due to dengue virus. About 1178 people were brought to different hospitals in suspicion of the virus, with 184 being diagnosed positively. Also in the Peshawar, Islamabad region 69 new cases of dengue have been registered. The health authorities have asked the people to clear the water in the nearby areas, so that the dengue larvae could not develop.

**Aug 24 & 26**

<http://bit.ly/2wQqGcr>

<http://bit.ly/2vUVllx>

### TORRENTIAL RAINS TROUBLE PEOPLE'S LIFE

Heavy rains at the wee hours of the weekdays have caused havoc in the city of Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan. People had to suffer unnecessarily due to water logging in the several parts of the city. The inhabitants of the region have blamed the poor sewerage and drainage system of the city for outlets of the storm water.

**Aug 26**

<http://bit.ly/2gRqwxz>