

Headlines Himalaya

Aug 28- Sep 3 (2017)

No. 471

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For the 471st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 26 news from 17 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, cow rearing business has attracted farmers of Chitwan, central part of the country. Advanced monitoring of tigers is underway in Corbett Reserve, northern India. In China, tagging rare fish for monitoring is initiated for the first time. In Pakistan, e-vehicles are introduced to lessen the woes of air pollution.

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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SWEPT BY FLOOD, FOUND ALIVE IN SUSTA

Two one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), carried away by the recent floods have been found alive in the Chandragunj of Susta Rural Municipality-5, Nawalparasi, western Nepal. The rhinos were washed away by the rising water levels of the Narayani River at the Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal.

Aug 29

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

EMPHASIS ON CONSTRUCTION OF MORE PUBLIC SPACES

The collaborator of the government of Nepal has demanded in the structural development of open places in Kathmandu, central Nepal. Due to growing population and pollution, the capital is producing city smog which will have an adverse effect in the winter season. This initiative will prove to be the main factor in reducing the pollution with more open spaces, and with trees.

Aug 30

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/26620/>

SURGE IN MILK PRODUCTION

There has been an increase in the production of milk in Chitwan, south central Nepal, lately. The surplus production of about 10,000 metric tonnes from the last fiscal year proves to be the major economic boost for Chitwan region. The main reason for the surge is that the new farmers are enthusiastically venturing into animal husbandry, especially rearing cows.

Aug 30

<http://bit.ly/2f839iS>

SCRUB TYPHUS TAKES A LIFE

A woman has died in Chitwan, south central Nepal due to Scrub typhus after she was admitted to the Bharatpur-based Central Hospital, while 133 new cases have been lodged for the same disease. According to the doctors, if this infectious mite-borne disease goes undetected and untreated, it can cause death of the affected person. The symptoms of the deadly disease include fever, measles and rashes.

Aug 31

<http://bit.ly/2xzup1k>

NARAYANGADH-MUGLIN ROAD REOPENS

The Muglin to Narayanghat section of the BP highway that remained closed on Wednesday evening due to the heavy rain and landslides, was back to operation on Thursday afternoon. There has been construction going in the region since many months, but no distinct change has been observed in the region. The BP Highway is the chief road connection of Kathmandu to the Terai region.

Aug 31

<http://bit.ly/2x2MIQE>

FLOOD WOES

With the heaviest flood in few decades, Nepal's southern districts have been suffering throughout. According to the government of Nepal's data, the estimated loss is humungous. Across Nepal, 40,000 ha of crop land have been washed away, financially losing more than NPR 6 billion.

Sep 1

<http://nepalitimes.com/article/nation/Flood-and-food,3916>

AGRICULTURE TRAINING EMPOWERING WOMEN

Integrated Pests Management Training provided by Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN) has empowered the women of the rural areas. The losses were escalating high due to the lack of basic knowledge of agriculture, which seem to be ameliorated by the training. The FWEAN has already opened its branches in 21 districts in the country and will give continuity to its expansion in future to change the life of women through entrepreneurship.

Sep 3

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/26859/>

India-Himalaya

REAL TIME MONITORING IN CORBETT TIGER RESERVE

Corbett Tiger Reserve in Nainital, northern India, has launched an intranet project for real-time monitoring of activities inside the reserve. The project allows for live-streaming of footages from cameras installed in the reserve and facilitates the staffs to access those footages even from their smart phones. This initiative is regarded to be a boon for Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) conservation in this reserve, as it has been witnessing several poaching incidents.

Aug 28

<http://bit.ly/2xm9Btb>

RARE TURTLE FOUND DEAD

A giant turtle was spotted dead on the bank of Tasek Lake, in Garo Hills of Meghalaya, north eastern India. Such turtle was found for the first time in this area, but has not been documented, says a veterinarian. However, it is suspected to be *Nilssonina hurum* or *Nilssonina nigricans* species that are listed under Red List category of IUCN.

Aug 28

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

<http://bit.ly/2f6SdC3>

CONIFER TRANSPLANTATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN INDIA

Forest department of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, northern India, has started transplanting trees, especially deodar (*Cedrus deodara*) to adjoining strips of Kullu-Manali National Highway. This initiative was undertaken for conserving around 5000 trees of different species that were marked to be chopped down for broadening of National Highway. According to District Forest Officer, conifer transplantation was done for the first time in India.

Aug 29

<http://bit.ly/2h4jUs3>

BAN ON POLYTHENE, STILL UNDERMINED

Despite the imposition of ban on polythene bags twice in Jammu and Kashmir of northern India, the government has failed to strictly implement it. The decision was made by Forest Department on June 18, 2008 and 3rd April 2017. However, the menace of polythene is still plaguing the state, posing severe threat of environment and health hazards.

Aug 29

<http://bit.ly/2h5lr5b>

BOVINE SMUGGLING: A MAJOR ISSUE

Bovine smuggling to Bangladesh has become a major concern, as records revealed that more than 12.2 million cattle were seized in the last 2.5 years by Border Security Force in areas under Guwahati frontier, north eastern India. Similar case was observed in Jammu and Kashmir, northern India, where smuggling of more than 45 bovines

from Doha and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir, to valley was attempted by three people who were then arrested in August 28.

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<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/mdetails.asp?id=aug3117/at056>

<http://bit.ly/2h3s33Y>

LANDSLIDE IN SHIMLA

A major landslide in Chandigarh- Shimla highway in Himachal, northern India, has buried many vehicles, destroyed three houses and a temple on 2nd September. However, no casualty was reported. But the vehicular movement on highway has been obstructed, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded on the road. This year, due to cloudbursts, northern part of country has been suffering from several adversities.

Sep 2

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

<http://bit.ly/2y6UGRE>

TIGER UNDER BIGGEST THREAT

Poaching still remains a major threat to tigers (*Panthera tigris*) in India, as cases of poaching and smuggling of body parts have risen by 63% in the last few years (2014-2016). Government even spent USD 2,342,739,862.2 on the conservation of these cats but failed to fight against poachers. Despite making various efforts to combat poaching, India is still battling for tiger conservation.

Sep 3

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

China Himalaya

TIBETAN HERDERS PRESERVING ANTELOPES

Herders are preserving protected Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsoni*) in Changtang grassland of northern Tibet. Around 300 antelopes have been staying in this grassland since 1997, which is rare to see, as stated by a villager. Herders leaving grasses to feed for them, sealing off the grassland against grazing at suitable time, good eco-environment, scanty predators, and patrolling by villagers have led the conservation of antelopes in this region. Government statistics show an increase of around 160,000 Tibetan Antelopes from 40,000 in the past 20 years.

Aug 30

http://english.xzxw.com/tt/201708/t20170830_1947478.html

RISE IN TIBETAN MACAQUES

Population of Tibetan Macaques (*Macaca thibetana*) continue to rise in the ecological reserve at Gongbo' gyamda County of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Its current count stands at 2,800. Continual contribution of Dobrgyal, who is a forest keeper and the only breeder for the last 16 years, is credited for this increase.

Aug 31

http://news-xinhuanet.com/english/2017-08/31/c_136569775.htm

RARE FISH TAGGED AND RELEASED

For the first time in Tibet, fish have been tagged and released into the river. Around 470 tagged native fishes were released, that contained three rare species related to Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). The objective behind this is to protect and monitor population density of these rare species and assess the effect of artificial breeding in restocking fish numbers in Lasha River.

Sep 2

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

BHUTAN'S PREPARATION FOR EARTHQUAKE

United Nations (UN) in collaboration with Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Bhutan have organized two days consultation workshop on Earthquake preparedness, at Paro district of western Bhutan, with an objective to align national and international emergency coordination and develop national contingency plan incorporating the recommendations from participants. There were 102 participants from 12 national agencies, 17 international development partners, discoursing and discussing on phases of disaster risk management.

Aug 31

[Http://www.kuenselonline.com/preparing-for-earthquake-in-bhutan/](http://www.kuenselonline.com/preparing-for-earthquake-in-bhutan/)

WATER BOTTLING PLANT IN GASA

Water bottling plant has been introduced in Gasa, north western Bhutan, which produces purified and biologically safe-drinking bottled spring water. According to the document of vision of Good to Great Gasa, this water bottling project is initiated to generate employment and revenue by replacing imported bottled water in the district.

Sep 2

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/water-bottling-plant-in-gasa-inaugurated>

Pakistan- Himalaya

DENGUE CRISIS AREAS DECLARED RED ZONE

Dengue affected areas in Peshawar, north western Pakistan, have been declared as red zone since dengue epidemic still continue to rise, causing massive health crisis. So far, dengue outbreak has infected 3,931 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while death toll reached 13. Experts blame old tyres for serving as breeding ground for mosquitoes. Efforts are underway for eradication of dengue virus.

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

<http://bit.ly/2fj0nEj>

PESHAWAR SWITCHED TO e-VEHICLES

Electric and solar rickshaws have been launched for the first time in provincial metropolis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Transport said that these vehicles are expected to save foreign exchange for country. The eco-friendly and cost effective characteristics of these e-vehicles have attracted thousands of people nowadays.

Aug 30

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

DRIVE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

In order to boost tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan, the provincial government is investing USD 47,449,600 in infrastructure development especially for construction and broadening of roads in several parts. Renovation of public parks, hotels, food street, flower markets, street lights and rest houses etc., are also underway.

Sep 2

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