

# Headlines Himalaya

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No. 475

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For the 475<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 21 news from 15 sources and selected 20 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, leopard attacks rise, tourism activities bounce and commercial vegetable farming shows its charm. The Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh records its first snow leopard and wildlife officials rescue a leopard in north India. Tibet presents its new highway, 'Bhutan for life' unveils and drug testing lab opens in Pakistan.

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

*Search for Man-eating Leopards on  
Drinking water shortage hits Birendra Bazz  
River dolphins under threat  
Houses at risk of landslides  
Dengue cases on rise in Mahottari  
Commercial vegetable farming attracts farmers  
Mountaineering activities significantly increases  
Waste management and processing centre comes in scene  
Flood victims refuge in forests  
Tons of wastes extracted from Kathmandu Valley  
Numbers of tourists visiting national parks rises  
Tea farmers face shortage of labour*

## INDIA

*Firecrackers beyond 125db banned  
Crop burning likely to result toxic air in Delhi  
First Snow Leopard bumps into  
Wildlife officials rescue a Leopard*

## CHINA

*A new highway connects Lhasa and Nyingchi*

## BHUTAN

*"Bhutan for life" launched  
Festive season glows up Bhutan*

## PAKISTAN

*Drug testing labs being kicked off*

### SEARCH FOR MAN-EATING LEOPARDS ON

A team of wildlife experts and security personnel from the Nepal Army and the Nepal Police, consisting of a sharp shooter, have been deployed in forests in Arghakhanchi district, western Nepal, to track down man-eating leopards (*Panthera pardus*) that have claimed two children in the past two weeks. The team has been ordered to capture the leopards in cage and release them in national parks or shoot them if they failed to capture the animals.

**Oct 8**

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-10-08/search-on-in-arghakhanchi-for-man-eating-pards.html>

### DRINKING WATER SHORTAGE HITS BIRENDRA BAZZ

In the acute shortage of drinking water caused after the massive flood washed away the water supply pipe, residents of Birendra bazaar, south-eastern Nepal, are compelled to drink polluted water for the last two months. Despite the information of the problem, the District Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office, Saptari has not done anything to address the problem.

**Oct 4**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20137>

### RIVER DOLPHINS UNDER THREAT

Local fishermen in Koshi and Karnali rivers have been found killing the globally “Endangered” Gangetic river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) whenever they get trapped in the nets laid for fish, on which they prey. Change in habitat conditions, overexploitation of prey and construction of dams are the major threats to river dolphins.

**Oct 4**

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2017-10-04/20171004063712.html>

### HOUSES AT RISK OF LANDSLIDES

As many as 13 houses in Sotang Rural Municipality-2 in Solukhumbu, north eastern Nepal, are at high risk of landslide as the erosion of local Chamkhu gorge, that started two years ago, following the April 2015 earthquake, is fast advancing towards the settlement. Residents have been forced to spend sleepless nights in fear of losing lives.

**Oct 4**

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/13-houses-risk-landslide-solukhumbu/>

### DENGUE CASES ON RISE IN MAHOTTARI

The number of dengue cases is on rise in Mahottari, south eastern Nepal. A total of 39 patients were diagnosed of the disease at the district hospital and a private hospital. Local health professionals and social activists have been mobilized to create public awareness against the disease.

**Oct 4**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46131>

### COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE FARMING ATTRACTS FARMERS

Locals from Palung, central south region of Nepal, have been making good income from commercial vegetable farming. With the connection of the village to a motorable road and the formation of a cooperative which helps shipping the vegetables to market, farmers have been able to draw the profit of middlemen to themselves.

**Oct 5**

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-10-05/returning-migrants-find-farming-more-lucrative.html>

### **MOUNTEINERING ACTIVITIES SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES**

The Department of Tourism has issued permission to 107 expedition teams, which includes both international and domestic teams, to climb Mt. Manaslu, Mt. Ama Dablam and Mt. Dhaulagiri. This number is expected to increase throughout the autumn. Many teams have already started their expeditions.

**Oct 6**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/28636/>

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PROCESSING CENTRE COMES IN SCENE**

A waste management and processing centre is under construction at Dumotakka village of Itahari, eastern Nepal. The plant which aims to manage solid wastes and produce compost fertilizer by segregating bio-degradable and non-degradable wastes is estimated to cost NPR 131.5 million. The plant is also expected to benefit the locals by producing alternative energy.

**Oct 6**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20162>

### **FLOOD VICTIMS REFUGE IN FORESTS**

An estimated 1200 families of Banke, south western Nepal, whose houses were destroyed by a recent flood in Rapti river, are compelled to live in temporary houses inside a community forests. According to the District Forest Office, the flood victims have already encroached about 28 hectares of forest land. No initiative has been made yet to relocate the victims.

**Oct 6**

<http://www.karobardaily.com/news/82676>

### **TONS OF WASTES EXTRACTED FROM KATHMANDU VALLEY**

At least 28 metric tons of solid waste was collected within Kathmandu valley last Saturday. The collection was made by more than 450 people from different sectors who participated in the 230<sup>th</sup> week of the Bagmati Clean-up Mega Campaign.

**Oct 7**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46249>

### **NUMBERS OF TOURISTS VISITING NATIONAL PARKS RISES**

The Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (SNNP), located on the northern fringe of the Kathmandu valley, became the most visited NP in the fiscal year 2016-17. Chitwan National Park (CNP), south western Nepal, famous for wildlife tourism was on the top in terms of revenue generation.

**Oct 7**

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-10-07/shivapuri-most-visited-natl-park.html>

### **TEA FARMERS FACE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR**

Tea farmers from Terhathum, eastern Nepal, are facing a shortage of workers as more youths are opting to go abroad to find employment. The shortage of labour, triggered by unattractive wages, is a major challenge for the tea industries. The farmers have been incurring losses in millions as a consequence.

**Oct 7**

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-10-07/plucking-leaves-no-more-workers-cup-of-tea.html>

### **FIRECRACKERS BEYOND 125dB BANNED**

Fire crackers making sound beyond 125 dB has been banned by Nashik police, west India, until November 6. The Environment Protection Act 1986 already has certain restrictions as burning firecrackers impart significant damage to human health and leads to noise pollution and air pollution.

**Oct 4**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/firecrackers-making-sound-of-beyond-125db-banned/articleshow/60944397.cms>

### **CROP BURNING LIKELY TO RESULT TOXIC AIR IN DELHI**

With the onset of paddy harvesting season, New Delhi, the Indian capital city, is likely to face rise in air pollution level as increased straw burning will take place in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana, north India. . Experts advise the application of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to check the increasing pollution and also mention that implementing an effective policy and providing incentives to farmers for adopting machineries against burning can be good measures to tackle this problem.

**Oct 5**

<http://www.dnaindia.com/delhi/report-capital-s-air-to-turn-toxic-as-crop-burning-will-continue-this-year-2550602>

### **FIRST SNOW LEOPARD BUMPS INTO**

A survey conducted by WWF India in coordination with Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department using camera trap in March 2017 has yielded the first photographic evidence of snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) in Arunachal Pradesh, north east India. This finding being made outside the protected forest urges the need of community effort and landscape based conservation plan in the state

**Oct 6**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/study-provides-photo-evidence-of-snow-leopards-in-arunachal-pradesh-1759232>

### **WILDLIFE OFFICIALS RESCUE A LEOPARD**

An eight year old male leopard (*Panthera pardus*) weighing 70 kg, has been rescued in a sound condition from Maruti Suzuki plant, Manesar, north India after being trapped for 36 hours. Six cages were laid with goats and raw meat to trap the leopard in around 2.5 hectares area of the plant. The trapped animal that was taken to the forest department office for medical examination will be released in the Aravalli forest.

**Oct 5, 6**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/gurgaon/gurgaon-leopard-was-rescued-in-best-possible-way-say-experts/story-bgFOqbTEW1QcgdFfDT7c8L.html>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/gurgaon/gurgaon-based-experts-call-for-sustainable-awareness-programme-to-conserve-wildlife/story-vqbvzIYMbbPYnicxRsplVK.html>

## China Himalaya

### A NEW HIGHWAY CONNECTS LHASA AND NYINGCHI

A spectacular 409km Lhasa-Nyingchi highway has been built in Tibet costing USD 5.8 billion. The highway is supposed to make transportation of military equipment easy and promote tourism in the area with dynamic settlements, terraces, wetlands, rivers, forests, and cliffs alongside the highway.

**Oct 4**

<http://www.thetibetpost.com/en/news/tibet/5749-china-claims-to-have-built-the-best-looking-highway-in-occupied-tibet>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### “BHUTAN FOR LIFE” LAUNCHED

A project “Bhutan for life” has been initiated for sustainable management of protected areas and biological corridors with an estimated budget of USD 45 million. According to the plan makers, the funding will be increased by 7% yearly adding up internal funding on it. The Bhutan government has invested around USD 3, 06,527 in trainings and awareness workshops for local government leaders to ensure the success of the project.

**Oct 4**

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-for-life-goes-live-next-month/>

### FESTIVE SEASON GLOWS UP BHUTAN

Preparations are in full swing in Bhutan for ‘Thimphu Tschechu’, an annual Buddhist festival which is celebrated to mark the, birthday of Guru Rimpoche, the initiator of Tantric Buddhism onto the Himalayas. The people of Bhutan celebrate the festival for three days with delicious food, performances of different cultural dances in traditional attires and exchange blessings to fight off evil spirits. A large number of tourists visit the festival every year.

**Oct 6**

<http://www.bhutantimes.com/article/thimphu-tschechu-2017-a-visual-feast>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### DRUG TESTING LABS BEING KICKED OFF

Drug testing labs are being set upon in Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad and Bahawalpur of north Pakistan. A Quality Management System has been formed under the supervision of master trainers and staffs trained from UK to test and maintain the standard of drugs used in the labs. .

**Oct 6**

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/06-Oct-2017/modern-drug-testing-labs-to-be-set-up-in-rawalpindi-multan-faisalabad-bahawalpur-shahbaz>

