

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 476<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 25 news from 11 sources and selected 24 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, migratory birds swarm in, wild growing marijuana cleared off and tourism festival commences. Methane emission gets controlled and police hitch a forest criminal in India. Tibet sees a tourism boom and the speed up of afforestation and Bhutan initiates certification of 'Green Hotels' for sustainable tourism.

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

*Migratory Birds arrive*  
*Marijuana growing wild in valley destroyed*  
*Climate change likely to favour small mammals*  
*Apple production on rise, demand still lacking*  
*Rhino found injured*  
*Minister instructs control of Monkey terror in Devghat*  
*Influenza death toll reaches upto 17*  
*Tourism festival commences in Annapurna base camp*  
*Chrysanthemum flower expo in Lalitpur*  
*Collectors sell Yartsagunbu without fixing the price*  
*Agriculturists show concerns over unscientific use of chemical fertilizers*  
*Kapilvastu provides important breeding sites to Sarus crane*  
*Glaciers alter the face of Annapurna base camp*

## INDIA

*The 2004 flood rated the most disastrous in 30 years*  
*Methane emission lessens*  
*Forest criminal arrested*  
*Farmers face difficulty in ending crop residue burning*  
*Tigress dies in electric shock*

## CHINA

*Tourists fined for chasing Tibetan Antelopes*  
*Flow of tourist hits peak*  
*Artificial afforestation speeds up in Tibet*

## BHUTAN

*Green hotels for sustainable tourism*  
*Flood damages crops*

## PAKISTAN

*Water from Rawal Lake determined unhealthy for human consumption*

### MIGRATORY BIRDS ARRIVE

With the onset of winter, more than 70 species of migratory birds have arrived in the wetlands of Nepal. Ornithologists inform that about 150 species of birds from various parts of the world including Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*), Common Teal (*Anas crecca*), Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*) and others enter the Bagmati corridor of Kathmandu valley and the southern plains between mid-September to mid October in search of favourable temperature to spend the winter.

**Oct 9**

<http://bit.ly/2x4aGTB>

### MARIJUANA GROWING WILD IN VALLEY DESTROYED

More than 50,000 marijuana plants (*Cannabis sps*) growing wild in over 1.54 hectare of land in Tarakeshwar Municipality-1, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, were destroyed on Sunday by Narcotics Control Bureau with the help of Nepal Police. This drive is also under-way in different places of the Kathmandu valley to discourage drug smuggling.

**Oct 9**

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

### CLIMATE CHANGE LIKELY TO FAVOR SMALL MAMMALS

A modelling study conducted among 20 small mammals has revealed that climate change may have a positive impact on small mammals by favouring in the expansion of their habitat by up to three folds. A larger growth in the habitat is expected for four species-Himalayan rat (*Rattus nitidus*), Asian house shrew (*Suncus murinus*), Long-tailed Mountain shrew (*Episoriculus macrurus*) and Northern palm squirrel (*Funambulus pennantii*).

**Oct 9**

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

### APPLE PRODUCTION ON RISE, DEMAND STILL LACKING

Mustang district, north western Nepal, produced 5,300 tons of apples (*Malus sps*) this year, which is 800 tons more compared to the last year. However, traders in Morang, south eastern Nepal, have imported apples worth NPR 50 million for the festivals of Tihar and Chhath, indicating that the demands for Mustang apples are still lacking in the region.

**Oct 10 & 12**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/28953/>

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/28811/>

### RHINO FOUND INJURED

A female One-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was found injured at Baghmara Buffer Zone Community Forest of Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal, on Tuesday. The rhino, with a deep cut on neck and injuries on ribs and legs is being treated by veterinarians by providing antibiotics, vitamins and minerals.

**Oct 11**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46396>

### MINISTER INSTRUCTS CONTROL OF MONKEY TERROR IN DEVGHAT

After receiving complaints of terror by Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) from the residents of Devghat, central Nepal, the minister for Forests and Soil Conservation has instructed the District Forest Officers to work for their control. Devghat, a religious site, is regularly visited by pilgrims, who attract monkeys, coming to feed on the eatables the devotees offer to the temples.

**Oct 12**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46472>

### **INFLUENZA DEATH TOLL REACHES UPTO 17**

Of the 1,219 people tested positive with the influenza virus till October, 17 have died. A total of 806 people suffered from H1N1 of influenza virus type A in the month of mid-July to mid-September. Experts from the Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control have advised people to stay alert as the disease is likely to spread further.

**Oct 12**

<http://bit.ly/2ileT2O>

### **TOURISM FESTIVAL COMMENCES IN ANNAPURNA BASE CAMP**

With an aim of promoting tourism, Annapurna Sanctuary Tourism Festival 2074 has begun in Annapurna Base Camp (4,160 m asl) in Annapurna Rural Municipality of Kaski, western Nepal. Himalayan herbs stall, glacier journey, photo exhibition, Himalayan bird watching, sports competition, folk songs, dance shows and Annapurna marathon are the major attractions of the festival.

**Oct 12**

<http://bit.ly/2zjnpT2>

### **CHRYSANTHEMUM FLOWER EXPO IN LALITPUR**

Floriculture Association Nepal (FAN), in an attempt of promoting domestic floriculture industry, has organized a four day flower exhibition in Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, central Nepal, from Thursday. The 11<sup>th</sup> Chrysanthemum Flower Expo has 44 business stalls, 3 informative stalls and 3 Chrysanthemum competitive stalls. Different types of Chrysanthemum flowers, other seasonal flowers and decorative plants are being showcased at the expo.

**Oct 13**

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

### **COLLECTORS SELL YARTSAGUNBU WITHOUT FIXING THE PRICE**

In the lack of preservation techniques, the locals of Bajhang, western Nepal, are selling their harvests of Yartsagunbu (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), the world's most expensive medicinal fungus, to traders without fixing the price. The collectors, who mostly depend upon the fungus for their livelihood, see it dangerous to store the 'Himalayan gold' in their houses as it gets damaged leading to a decrease in price

**Oct 13**

<http://bit.ly/2x4iCV1>

### **AGRICULTURISTS SHOW CONCERNS OVER UNSCIENTIFIC USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS**

Agriculturists with the District Agriculture Development Office, Terathum, eastern Nepal, have shown concerns over the significant increase in the acidity of soil due to the random and clumsy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides like Urea, Potash and Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP). They are approaching the farmers to inform about the proper quantity and proportion to be used as the productivity of soil has decreased largely over the years.

**Oct 13**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46559>

### **KAPILVASTU PROVIDES IMPORTANT BREEDING SITES TO SARUS CRANE**

Kapilvastu district, south western Nepal, has become a main breeding site of Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*) in the recent years. A recent data shows that over 250 birds, out of the estimated total of 400, are found in western lowlands districts of Kapilvastu, Rupendehi and Nawalparasi. The globally 'Vulnerable' bird is considered 'friends of farmers' as it feeds on harmful insects and pests.

**Oct 14**

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46544>

### **GLACIERS ALTER THE FACE OF ANNAPURNA BASE CAMP**

Soil erosions due to the melting glaciers have extremely altered the landscape of Annapurna Base Camp, one of the world's most renowned trekking trails. The Annapurna Rural Municipality has demanded the central government to conduct a detailed research on the melting glaciers.

**Oct 15**

<http://bit.ly/2yyedx7>

## India-Himalaya

### THE 2004 FLOOD RATED THE MOST DISASTROUS IN 30 YEARS

The ruinous flood of 2004 has been noted as the most disastrous one during the last 30 years (1988-2017) in terms of casualties and the damage done to the river banks. The notorious flood had claimed 497 people, affected 12,637,477 people in 15,950 villages, washed away 118,772 cattle and had resulted 354 cracks in the river banks.

**Oct 9**

<http://bit.ly/2ywS1D3>

### METHANE EMISSION LESSENS

A recent report by the government of India to UNFCCC claims that the emission of greenhouse gases has been controlled with less methane emission within 2010-2015. The surface, aircraft and satellite observation used for measuring methane shows an enhanced emission between June and September due to rice fields.

**Oct 10**

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

### FOREST CRIMINAL ARRESTED

A criminal residing on Anantnag district of Kashmir, northern India, has been arrested by a police team under Warwan Police Station, Kishtwar, north India. A case has been registered against the criminal with forest products containing 5 kg of Himalayan trillium (*Trillium govianum*), 6 kg wild squill (*Scilla sps*) and 20 kg punj.

**Oct 10**

<http://bit.ly/2x54vPa>

### FARMERS FACE DIFFICULTY IN ENDING CROP RESIDUE BURNING

In Punjab and Haryana, northern India, 21 farmers have been helped by the Punjab Government by providing incentives and infrastructural amenities to place residue using environment-friendly methods. However about 100 farmers, who continue crop residue burning due to the inability to hold expenditure of USD 77-79/acre to do so, have been punished owing to their contribution in air pollution. The farmers had asked incentive of USD 3/quintal as per the NGT 2015 for ending residue burning

**Oct 12**

<http://bit.ly/2zinJl9>

### TIGRESS DIES IN ELECTRIC SHOCK

A problem tigress (*Panthera tigris*) bearing shoot order for killing humans and domestic animals has been found dead by an electric fence laid to protect crops in Sindewadi village, western India. The death of the tigress was hinted as the radio collar on the animal continued to display a fixed location.

**Oct 14**

<http://bit.ly/2gO7tI8>

## China Himalaya

### TOURISTS FINED FOR CHASING TIBETAN ANTELOPES

Seven tourists, found guilty for chasing herds of Tibetan antelopes (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) in Serling Co National Nature Reserve, northern China, were fined USD 16,000. However, in a patrol of 300 square km area following the incident, no evidence of harm to the animals has been found. The population of globally endangered Tibetan antelope has been decreasing due to poaching for its fur that is woven into lucrative shawls.

**Oct 9**

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

### **FLOW OF TOURIST HITS PEAK**

The recently opened Lhasa-Nyingchi highway saw an influx of above 1.2 million tourists during the eight days of National Day Holiday this year in Tibet, southwest China. Tourism industry contributed the total revenue of USD 89 million (20% annually), according to the regional tourism development commission.

**Oct 10**

<http://eng.tibet.cn/travel/news/150760369287.shtml>

### **ARTIFICIAL AFFORESTATION SPEEDS UP IN TIBET**

A total of 86,667 hectare natural forest, 124,800 hectare land granted to forestry and 268,773 hectare land have been planted with trees leading to an artificial afforestation at high altitude in Tibet. This has increased the forest cover by 0.9% and has also prevented desertification. Various parts of Tibet are running afforestation programs using fruit trees.

**Oct 10**

<http://bit.ly/2xNVF80>

## **Bhutan-Himalaya**

### **GREEN HOTELS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

A total of 15 hotels have received the certification of 'Green Hotels' from 2018 based on a guideline made by Global Sustainable Tourism Council supported by NEC, TCB, HRAB and ABTO. The guideline emphasizes on sustainable management and maximization of socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits.

**Oct 9**

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

### **FLOOD DAMAGES CROPS**

The heavy rain on October 12, that led to a flood, triggered by the lack of roadside drainage, damaged crops filling up the land with debris in Mongar, eastern Bhutan. According to a victim, more than 250 orange trees have been washed off from his farm. Inspection about the flood has been on-going.

**Oct 14**

<http://bit.ly/2ywEtr7>

## **Pakistan-Himalaya**

### **WATER FROM RAWAL LAKE DETERMINED UNHEALTHY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources has determined untreated water from Rawal Lake, which has been serving as the major source of water supply to Rawalpindi, unhealthy for human consumption due to its turbidity, solid waste and bacterial contamination. Hundreds of fish were also found dead in the lake recently.

**Oct 13**

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