

Headlines Himalaya

Oct 16- Oct 22 (2017)

No. 477

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For the 477th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 26 news from 14 sources and selected 26 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, hunger drops down, stray cattle control campaign kicks off and lightning protection towers come to work. Tata Trust announces mega funding to cancer care in India. Tibet comes ahead as a model for environmental protection. Environmentally responsible behaviour receives attention in Bhutan and a deadly Dengue 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

Nepal leads South Asia in combating hunger
Rihban flood survivors get support
Monsoon withdrawal delays
National natural resource bill amongst top achievements
Metropolitan city campaigns to control stray cattle
Disaster likely to impact on national economy
Destruction of Vulture restaurant distresses conservationists
Road construction threatens trekking tourism in Annapurna
Agriculture market sets up commercial biogas plant
Earthquake victims get options for relocation
Clean-up campaign starts in Pashupati world heritage site
Agriculture development office distributes pesticide for free
Tihar sees an import of flowers worth nine million
Panchthar fire causes huge property loss
Lightning protection towers comes to use
Study reveals Cheer Pheasant on brink of extinction
Restoration of damaged trails brings ease to villagers

INDIA

Farmers celebrate Kati Bihu
Problem in water supply hits Srinagar
Assam receives the biggest funding for cancer care
Poachers kill a wild Asian Elephant
People panic on the possibility of Dengue outbreak

CHINA

Tibet becomes a model for environmental protection

BHUTAN

RSPN advocates environmentally responsible behaviour
Drop in Cardamom price worries farmers

PAKISTAN

Deadly Dengue hits Peshawar

NEPAL LEADS SOUTH ASIA IN COMBATING HUNGER

With an impressive reduction of hunger in the last seven years, Nepal ranks 72 in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) released by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The report mentions that the percentage of undernourished population has been reduced to 8.1 from 12.7 and child mortality rate has dropped to 3.6 percent from 5.1 in the country during the period.

Oct 14

<http://bit.ly/2y5dNdB>

RIHBAN FLOOD SURVIVORS GET SUPPORT

A donation of NPR 100,000 has been made by Tamu Samaj UK, Mothers' group to the flood survivors of Ribhan Pathe in Machhapuchare rural municipality -5 western Nepal. A relief fund of NPR 4,900,000 has been collected so far within and outside the country.

Oct 15

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20294>

MONSOON WITHDRAWAL DELAYS

Monsoon in Nepal, which generally retreats on September 23, continues in the eastern parts of the country, making 2017 the fourth most delayed monsoon withdrawal year. This year, the normal monsoon, which generally arrives on June 10, came into scene only on June 12.

Oct 15

<http://bit.ly/2yOK38S>

NATIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE BILL AMONGST TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

The National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission Bill has become one of the major works accomplished by the parliament. The bill was amongst the 84 bills passed in the business days of the parliament, which got dissolved recently.

Oct 15

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

METROPOLITAN CITY CAMPAIGNS TO CONTROL STRAY CATTLE

In an effort to prevent vehicular traffic obstacles created by stray cows, pigs, goats and bulls, the Biratnagar metropolitan city in eastern Nepal has started a campaign to control the animals from wandering around the city. So far 33 cow calves and 28 castrated goats have been taken under control.

Oct 16

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20307>

DISASTER LIKELY TO IMPACT ON NATIONAL ECONOMY

The latest Nepal Development Report by World Bank suggests a lower national economy due to the flood in August 2017, which had affected over a third of the country. It's predicted that the flood will have its impacts on the national economy for the next two fiscal years as well.

Oct 16

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

DESTRUCTION OF VULTURE RESTAURANT DISTRESSES CONSERVATIONISTS

Lack of management of prey, shrinking forest, human encroachments and economic crisis has led White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) to the brink of extinction in Tilakpur, Nawalparasi, western Nepal. A recent research failed to document even a single nest of the species in 3 kilometre radius from Tilakpur where 20 nests were reported in 2010. The destruction of vulture restaurant in the area is blamed for this tragedy.

Oct 16

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/29125/>

ROAD CONSTRUCTION THREATENS TREKKING TOURISM IN ANNAPURNA

Rampant construction of trial roads has invited crisis to trekking trade in Annapurna Conservation Area, western Nepal. The roads acclaimed for increasing accessibility to the region have resulted in the shortening of the trekking routes. The trekking packages running month-long in the past have shrunk to a few days at present.

Oct 16

<http://bit.ly/2z5JWXx>

AGRICULTURE MARKET SETS UP COMMERCIAL BIOGAS PLANT

A commercial biogas plant has been set up in Kawasoti Agriculture Market, Nawalparasi, western Nepal. The plant, costing NPR 850,000 will use degrading vegetables to produce biogas, which will be supplied to slaughter houses, hotels and other places on a regular basis.

Oct 16

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

EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS GET OPTIONS FOR RELOCATION

The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has brought a new provision, under which the eligible beneficiaries of the housing grant of 2015 Gorkha Earthquake can now relocate to another quake-hit neighbouring district to build their houses. The victims residing in vulnerable regions will get an additional NPR 200,000 to previously allocated NPR 300,000 to buy land in the same or neighbouring district for relocation.

Oct 17

<http://bit.ly/2lfCD9o>

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN STARTS IN PASHUPATI WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Pashupati Area Development Trust in co-ordination with Australia-based Khem's Cleaning Services has been running a clean-up campaign since the past one and a half months in the premises of the Pashupati temple, a world heritage site inside Kathmandu, Central Nepal. Thirty local cleaners have been trained on advanced cleaning method for the campaign that will continue until the festival of Shivaratri, which will be celebrated on February 13.

Oct 18

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

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DISTRIBUTES PESTICIDE FOR FREE

The District Agriculture Development Office, Bardiya, mid western Nepal, distributed free pesticide to the farmers to help them combat rice eating armyworms (*Mythimna separata*), that has infested more than 670 hectares of land in the district in less than a month. The pesticide has been distributed to more than thirty farmers so far.

Oct 18

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/46695>

TIHAR SEES AN IMPORT OF FLOWERS WORTH NINE MILLION

Flower traders imported marigold (*Tagetes sps.*) garlands worth NPR nine million, which constituted about 15% of the total market demand of 1.5 million garlands for the festival of Tihar. Nepal spends millions of rupees to import flowers during the festive season every year as the national production alone has not been able to fulfil the demand.

Oct 19

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/29289/>

PANCHTHAR FIRE CAUSES HUGE PROPERTY LOSS

A short circuit led fire in Yangwarak-1, Panchthar, eastern Nepal, caused a loss worth NPR 280,000 and a home. The fire was brought to control with the help of the locals.

Oct 20

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

LIGHTNING PROTECTION TOWERS COMES TO USE

Makwanpurgadhi Rural Municipality in Makwanpur district, central Nepal, has installed three lightning protection towers at Aambhanjyang, Chuwar and Nayagaun with the support from USAID. Lightning used to kill eight people per year in the region; it had claimed 27 lives in the district alone last year. The 800 households that will benefit from the facility are made responsible for the maintenance of the towers.

Oct 20

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

STUDY REVEALS CHEER PHEASANT ON BRINK OF EXTINCTION

A recent study in Myagdi district, western Nepal, showed that Cheer Pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) are in a brink of extinction in Nepal. The bird found between the altitudes of 1400m to 3600m is found less than one thousand in number in the country.

Oct 21

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

RESTORATION OF DAMAGED TRAILS BRINGS EASE TO VILLAGERS

The only trekking route joining the remote villages of Rigaun, Lapa and Galsang in northern Dhading district, central Nepal, that were severely damaged during the Gorkha earthquake 2015, have been restored. The rebuilt trail has not only brought ease of transport to the villagers but also has made way for other economic opportunities to the region.

Oct 22

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

India-Himalaya

FARMERS CELEBRATE KATI BIHU

Farmers of Assam, north eastern India, observed Kati Bihu which is a pre-harvest festival. During the festival farmers light lamps in their fields which they believe will keep away pests and anything that could be potentially harmful to a good harvest.

Oct 18

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

PROBLEM IN WATER SUPPLY HITS SRINAGAR

Water supply from Rangil plant was affected for carrying out repairs of the damaged pipeline near Soura. Zonimar, Eidgah, Safakadal, Nawab Bazar, SMHS Hospital, Karan Nagar, Qamarwari, Batmaloo and adjacent areas have been affected by the maintenance work.

Oct 19

<http://bit.ly/2i3GPUT>

ASSAM RECEIVES THE BIGGEST FUNDING FOR CANCER CARE

The Tata Trust has announced a package of about USD 80 million for cancer care treatment in Assam, north east India, the biggest ever funding for a particular disease in the history of State's health sector. The Trust had announced a total package of about USD 160 million for five states – Assam, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, of which Assam's share is the highest.

Oct 21

<http://bit.ly/2zOcd23>

POACHERS KILL A WILD ASIAN ELEPHANT

A carcass of an adult male wild Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), was found at Dolopa village, 37 km from Assam's Sivasagar town, north east India, on Saturday. Tusks, trunk and tail were chopped off and chunks of meat hacked off from the body of the globally endangered animal.

Oct 22

<http://bit.ly/2lfHli3>

PEOPLE PANIC ON THE POSSIBILITY OF DENGUE OUTBREAK

The residents of Rajouri, northern India and nearby areas are living in fear of Dengue outbreak as a number of patients are showing symptoms of this disease. People in old Rajouri town ward number 09 and 10 are suffering from fever for the last few days.

Oct 22

<http://bit.ly/2yMm8GM>

China Himalaya

TIBET BECOMES A MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As the central government of China continues to give importance to ecological construction in Tibet and Tibetan-inhabited areas, projects leading to high pollution, high energy consumption or high water consumption see no approval in the region. Tibet has invested about USD 1.4 billion in protecting and establishing ecological security.

Oct 19

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

RSPN ADVOCATES ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) conducted Environmental Education Advocacy Program (EEAP) in Haa, north southern Bhutan from October 4-5, 2017, as a part of Community-based Sustainable Tourism (CBST) Project. The program, conducted in collaboration with Nature Conservation Division (NCD) with financial support from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) and United Nation Development Program (UNDP) had put emphasis on the need of environmentally responsible behaviour for sustainable tourism.

Oct16

<http://bit.ly/2zQ0UX4>

DROP IN CARDAMOM PRICE WORRIES FARMERS

Farmers from Chhukha Dzongkhag, southern Bhutan, who rely on cardamom farming for their livelihood, have been devastated as the price of cardamom fell to the lowest on record. The price of cardamom has dropped from around USD 30.72 per kg to USD 7.37 per kg. A 70% decrease in cardamom production has worried the farmers further.

Oct 18

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

Pakistan- Himalaya

DEADLY DENGUE HITS PESHAWAR

Dengue has been detected in 415 of 2212 patients who were examined for the disease in 41 dengue screening health camps in Peshawar, eastern Pakistan. Nets were distributed along with awareness pamphlets as preventive measures.

Oct 16

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