

Headlines Himalaya

Oct 30- Nov 5 (2017)

No. 479

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For the 479th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 26 news from 11 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, agriculture advancing with the introduction of modern techniques of farming in Pokhara, western Nepal. Youngster on their way to build a plastic free village in central Nepal. Heavy rainfall has reduced the production of saffron (*Crocus sativus*) in northern India. South western China has become a hub for snow leopard inhabiting more than 1000 leopards. Bhutan has come up with the national policy to cope up with the urban sanitation.

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

Cleanliness campaign in birthplace of Buddha
Gifting rare one-horned Rhino to China
Agro-modernisation increasing in Pokhara
Unavailability of manure affects winter crops
Measurement of the height of the Everest started
Farmers happy with trade permission
Separate lanes for public and private vehicles
Distributions of 25 tonnes of Wild Oat seed
Wild Elephants destroy houses
Initiative to build Plastic free village

INDIA

Human-Python conflict in upper Assam
Decline in Saffron production
One-Horned Rhino killed in Kaziranga

CHINA

More than 1000 Snow Leopards in Tibetan Region
Tibetan monks on cultural exchange
Development of Plateau ecological agriculture
Lhasa museum renovation to increase the tourist intake
Tourism ambassadors for Tibet
Highway closed due to snowstorm resumes

BHUTAN

Increasing climate resilience and sustainability
National policy to improve sanitation
Training for improving drinking water quality

CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN IN BIRTHPLACE OF BUDDHA

With the initiative of Armed Police Force (APF) of Lumbini, a cleanliness campaign was carried out in Lumbini, southern Nepal for three days. The campaign was successfully able to remove 16 tractors of waste from the Lotus pond of Lumbini.

Oct 30

<http://bit.ly/2yKZrV8>

GIFTING RARE ONE-HORNED RHINO TO CHINA

Eight officials from China has arrived Nepal including wild life experts to study the situation to transfer two pairs one-horned rhinos of below four years old. These rhinos will be kept in a boma, a special enclosure, in Sauraha area, south western Nepal initially to help these mammals to get accustomed to enclosure. The rhinos will be transferred within three months if no hurdles arise.

Oct 31

<http://bit.ly/2zo76YZ>

AGRO-MODERNISATION INCREASING IN POKHARA

Dramatic improvements have occurred in the agriculture activities of Pokhara, western Nepal in the last five years. With the uses of tractors and threshers for farming, the old tradition of employing ox for farming is almost replaced. As a result of this rapid modernization, farmers have already harvested 10% of paddy till now which is a progress than previous years.

Nov 1

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/47137>

UNAVAILABILITY OF MANURE AFFECTS WINTER CROPS

Due to the deficient of the manure, Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) in the market, the farmers are much worried for the winter crops plantation. DAP is generally sprayed before planting crops in the field, but like previous years, this year also farmers are not getting the manure due to the problem in Kolkata seaport. The farmers had held their hopes high for winter crops after the summer crops are destroyed by the flood.

Nov 1

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/2017/11/01/63624/>

MEASUREMENT OF THE HEIGHT OF THEEVEREST STARTED

Nepal for the first time in history has started to measure the height of Mount Everest, world's tallest mountain by itself. The team of surveyors is searching for the points which were used 60 years ago by Indian surveyors. It is said that the point is placed in eight places in Solukhumbu, northern Nepal and two places in Khotang, eastern Nepal and Dolakha, central Nepal each.

Nov 2

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/47155>

FARMERS HAPPY WITH TRADE PERMISSION

The trade of Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) from Taplejung, north eastern Nepal has been now permitted to carry out in India after few weeks of trade banned by Indian Government. The farmers are now happy to export their products without the Good and Service Tax (GST) for the trade of Ginger.

Nov 2

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/47157>

SEPARATE LANES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VEHICLES

The Metropolitan Traffic Police Division has launched new campaign from 1st November with an aim to minimize the road accidents happening in Kathmandu Valley, central Nepal. The campaign focused on training the drivers to use separate lanes; the middle of the road for the high speeding vehicles while the side's lanes for the public vehicles.

Nov 2

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20499>

DISTRIBUTIONS OF 25 TONNES OF WILD OAT SEED

Seeds of a grass species, Wild oat (*Avena fatua*) were distributed in Ratnagar, Chitwan, south western Nepal, for the development of animal husbandry based on grass. With the goal of increasing milk production through animal husbandry, this year the seeds were distributed.

Nov 5

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/47315>

WILD ELEPHANTS DESTROY HOUSES

Two houses at Jonapur of Shuklaphanta Municipality-3 in Kanchanpur district, far western Nepal has been destroyed by a herd of wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*) on Saturday night. They also ate all the grains and destroyed other items in the house though people from the house escaped to save their lives.

Nov 5

<http://bit.ly/2je4MNI>

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/20529>

INITIATIVE TO BUILD PLASTIC FREE VILLAGE

Youths from Sikharpa, Godawari-06, central Nepal has started a campaign for making their place a plastic free zone. The campaign was started with clean-up program followed by posters and pamphlets distribution to the local people for the awareness.

Nov 5

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/2017/11/05/64290/>

India-Himalaya

HUMAN-PYTHON CONFLICT IN UPPER ASSAM

The villagers near Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in north eastern, India has identified a second Python (*Python sp.*) which was feeding on the livestock of the villagers in Baghjan village for the last one month. The region constantly faces human-wildlife conflict each year after the flood brings in wild animals into the villages which start to feed on the villager's livestock and at times, humans themselves. The villagers now demand a high barrier around the national park to prevent animals entering the village.

Oct 30

<http://bit.ly/2m8LLu>

DECLINE IN SAFFRON PRODUCTION

The changes in rainfall pattern in Srinagar-Jammu highway region in northern India have lowered the production of saffron derived from the flower of (*Crocus sativus*). The productions of saffron have been limited to as low as five

percent of the production compared two years back. The saffron production in the region has been hit hard since the flash flood of 2014, three years back.

Oct 30

<http://bit.ly/2xE7i2h>

ONE-HORNED RHINO KILLED IN KAZIRANGA

A male greater one horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was shot dead in Nagaon district in the periphery of Kaziranga National Park (KNP), north eastern India. The horn of the rhino was removed by the poachers when the carcass was found by officials. This is the third incident this year in KNP in spite of park being installed with night-vision cameras and various other modern equipments.

Nov 2

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

<http://bit.ly/2zI1I94>

China Himalaya

MORE THAN 1000 SNOWLEOPARDS IN TIBETAN REGION

Zadoi County, Nangchen County, and Yushu City in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in south western China has the largest concentration of Snow leopards (*Panthera unicia*) as reported by a recent study that was carried out by the researchers from a natural conservation center. More than 60 percent of the species' habitat lies within and inside China.

Oct 30

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

TIBETAN MONKS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Students studying high level Tibetan Buddhism held a Dharma assembly and traditional scripture debating event during a visit to Taiwan for cultural exchanges. The event was organized with the aim of in-depth exchanges between Chinese Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism, which are both have a great influence in China.

Oct 30

<http://bit.ly/2hXJU4>

DEVELOPMENT OF PLATEAU ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE

A plateau ecological agriculture centre has been established in Tibet, south western China in accordance of local environmental conditions. The centre aims on reducing poverty and increasing the per capita income of the local farmers. It has successfully provided the job opportunities to more than 32 poor farmers and herders.

Oct 30

<http://bit.ly/2hhHz92>

LHASA MUSEUM RENOVATION TO INCREASE THE TOURIST INTAKE

The Lhasa museum has started reconstruction to double the size of the current existing property and increase the number of tourist. The museum sets on building a relic preservation centre to secure and study Tibetan art and culture. The museum currently holds more than 520,000 pieces of displays some of which are older than 5300 years.

Oct 31

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

TOURISM AMBASSADORS FOR TIBET

Tibet in south western China has selected the first tourism ambassadors for the region. The ambassadors were selected based on a competition in different criterions to showcase the Tibetan talents, confidence and versatility to the world. The officials aim is to promote culture and tourism via the winners of the competition. Not only that they were also promoting rural tourism to end poverty.

Nov 1 & Nov 2

<http://bit.ly/2m5eaUI>

<http://bit.ly/2z11ysS>

HIGHWAY CLOSED DUE TO SNOWSTORM RESUMES

The Tanggula mountain section of a highway in Tibet Autonomous Region in south western China that had been closed due to heavy snowstorm has started normal functioning with the efforts from more than 200 police personnel, medical personnel, fire fighters and maintenance workers. The closure of the highway had stranded more than 1300 passengers in 1000 vehicles.

Nov 2

<http://bit.ly/2Anlrk0>

<http://bit.ly/2hn65Jt>

Bhutan-Himalaya

INCREASING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and Gross National Happiness Commission have signed a six year project of UNDP-Global Environment Facility and Least Developed Countries Fund project. The project is aimed towards developing agricultural diversification, road diversification, more jobs oriented towards conservation, sustainable land management and other areas.

Oct 31

<http://bit.ly/2yKKzG6>

NATIONAL POLICY TO IMPROVE SANITATION

A new policy on sanitation has been implemented by the government of Bhutan in order to improve the urban sanitation. The newly formed policy that is based on the recommendation of the review of Policy, Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Urban Sanitation and Hygiene in Bhutan will guide all private and government, Institutions, hospitality industry, civil society organisations (CSOs), bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies associated in the sanitation and hygiene sector.

Oct 31

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

TRAINING FOR IMPROVING DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Thirty-two professionals were trained to monitor the rural drinking water quality in Bhutan. The participants in the training were taught to test the physical parameters (odour, appearance, pH, taste, turbidity and conductivity) and microbiological parameters that include the presence of *E. coli* bacteria in the water sample. Despite the availability of more than 97 percent of improved water quality to Bhutanese people, only 17 percent of stream water and 28 percent of spring water sources are marked safe for drinking.

Oct 31

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/making-drinking-water-safe/>