

# Headlines Himalaya

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For the 517<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from 15 sources and 22 selected happenings from five countries. Test operation of Janakpur-Jayanagar railway in central Nepal was successfully performed. In Butwal, western Nepal, the cardiology hospital, “Gautam Buddha Community Heart Hospital” provided free treatment. Environmental policy drafted for the first time by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India, whereas the Department of Horticulture launched farmers’ friendly online portal in northern India.

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

*Initiation of green campaign*  
*Increased visitors in protected areas*  
*Man-eater caught by CNP*  
*Halt in construction of Rasuwagadhi Hydropower*  
*Test operation of Nepal’s first railway*  
*Measures to reduce human-elephant conflict*  
*Blacktopping of Narayangadh Muglin road completed*  
*Increment in animal and agriculture based industries*  
*Cleaning campaign of Hanumante River*  
*Cardiology hospital provides free treatment*  
*Solid wastes dumped in forest*  
*Disease destroys farmers’ harvest*

## INDIA

*Encroachment of forest land*  
*Livelihood upliftment through farming*  
*Farmers’ friendly online portal launched*  
*First environment policy drafted*

## CHINA

*Renovation of ancient Tibet monastery*

## BHUTAN

*Research on maize diversity*  
*Water shortage due to flash flood*  
*Fencing private land created problem*  
*Maize damaged by windstorm*

## PAKISTAN

*Pleasant weather due to rainfall*

### INITIATION OF GREEN CAMPAIGN

Nepalgunj, mid-western Nepal is one of the hottest cities of Nepal and in order to balance the rising temperature of the city as well as to maintain balance in the environment, green campaign has been initiated. During the first phase of the campaign, saplings were planted along the road which connects Nepalgunj to Surkhet and they are planning to plant many more plants along roadside and transform Nepalgunj to green city. According to the Mayor of the city, every house needs to plant a sapling otherwise they will be deprived of facilities that are being provided by the sub-metropolis

**Aug 7**

<https://bit.ly/2w11voG>

### INCREASED VISITORS IN PROTECTED AREAS

According to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Kathmandu, central Nepal in the fiscal year 2017/18, the number of visitors to the protected areas has reached up to 700,000 among them 325,856 were foreign tourists and the remaining were domestic ones. A total of NPR 646.472 million revenue was collected. Most of the tourists who come to visit Nepal sightsees protected areas of Nepal.

**Aug 7**

<https://bit.ly/2N5P3ug>

### MAN-EATER CAUGHT BY CNP

Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, has caught the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) which attacked and killed the woman while she was collecting fodder in the Buffer Zone area. The tiger was sedated with dart and taken under control by the team of veterinarians. According to the Assistant Conservation Officer and Information Officer, the old and sick big cat might have been chased by the young ones and it might have entered the settlement for easy food.

**Aug 7**

<https://bit.ly/2nYcmLB>

### HALT IN CONSTRUCTION OF RASUWAGADHI HYDROPOWER

Water level in Bote Koshi River has risen due to which the construction activities of Rasuwagadhi Hydropower Project, Rasuwa district, central Nepal, have been stopped. When water entered the construction site, many damages were caused and the damages are being assessed. The flow of water was approximate 5,000 cubic meters per second.

**Aug 8**

<https://bit.ly/2BvAvTj>

### TEST OPERATION OF NEPAL'S FIRST RAILWAY

A test operation of Janakpur-Jayanagar railway, central Nepal carried out by India was successfully completed. The train service was discontinued since last four years. For the confirmation of this railway, a 53 bogies railway engine made 8.5 kilo meters journey from Jayanagar of Nepal to Khajuri of India and the train moved very easily and now the railway service can be resumed easily.

**Aug 9**

<https://bit.ly/2BBylw9>

### **MEASURES TO REDUCE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT**

In order to decrease conflict between human and elephant (*Elephas maximus*), the construction work of elephant corridor has been started in Jhapa, eastern Nepal. A budget of NPR 60 million has been allocated by the government of Province 1 for the project. It is expected that after the construction of this corridor, humans as well the elephants will be benefitted.

**Aug 9**

<https://bit.ly/2LdingA>

### **BLACKTOPPING OF NARAYANGADH MUGLIN ROAD COMPLETED**

Blacktopping of expanded portion of Narayangadh-Muglin road, central Nepal has been completed. With this completion, 98.3% of this project is over. Although the construction work is almost finished but still effective solution to landslide during monsoon season has not been discovered.

**Aug 10**

<https://bit.ly/2LgcD5R>

### **INCREMENT IN ANIMAL AND AGRICULTURE BASED INDUSTRIES**

In Okhaldhunga district, eastern Nepal, registration of animal and agriculture based industry is recorded highest than the others within this one year. A total of 163 industries were registered among which 87 were animal and agriculture based industries and 76 were others. Commercialization of animal husbandry and agriculture has led to more profit which has attracted the farmers towards these industries.

**Aug 10**

<https://bit.ly/2MsGRbe>

### **CLEANING CAMPAIGN OF HANUMANTE RIVER**

Cleaning campaign of Hanumante River flowing through Bhaktapur District, central Nepal has reached to its 24<sup>th</sup> week and 16 tonnes of waste has been collected. There was active participation of people from various organizations. Till today, a total of 260 tonnes of waste has been collected from the river.

**Aug 11**

<https://bit.ly/2MpilC9>

### **CARDIOLOGY HOSPITAL PROVIDES FREE TREATMENT**

Under the free treatment quota provided by the government and hospital itself, the Gautam Buddha Community Heart Hospital, Butwal, western Nepal has provided free check-up and treatment to 1,159 patients from the economically weak and unprivileged communities in the fiscal year 2016/2017. Among 1,159 patients, treatment cost of 516 people has been provided by the hospital while treatment cost of remaining patients was funded by the government under the government's free treatment quota.

**Aug 11**

<https://bit.ly/2LiFCpk>

### **SOLID WASTES DUMPED IN FOREST**

The two sub-metropolitan cities of Province 1, Itahari Sub-Metropolitan City (ISMC) and Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City (DSMC), eastern Nepal have been dumping solid wastes directly in the forest. About 80 tonnes of total daily wastes collected from two sub-metropolises dumped in forest has led to the environmental pollution and affected the wildlife. The sub-metropolises continued dumping wastes even after the protest of the community forests but after the criticisms about their failure to manage the waste, they are collaborating with private companies for the management of waste.

**Aug 12**

<https://bit.ly/2PrJOq9>

### **DISEASE DESTROYS FARMERS' HARVEST**

The maize (*Zea mays*) cultivation at Bhatte village of Tulsipur Sub Metropolis-3, mid-western Nepal has got stalk rot disease leaving the farmers distressed. The crop cultivated in 0.8 hectares of land has got diseased. After the complaint of farmers, experts of Tulsipur Agriculture Office have suggested them to test the soil prior to plantation.

**Aug 12**

<https://bit.ly/2MriI4I>

## **India-Himalaya**

### **ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND**

Over 25.29 hectare of forest land has been encroached by land mafia in Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir, northern India. According to the sources, the mafias were helped by Block officer and concerned Range Officer. They have been constructing houses in forest lands and selling it on big amount. The Senior Officials and District Forest Officer have not taken any action even after the villagers reported and demanded the enquiry for the forest land encroachment.

**Aug 10**

<https://bit.ly/2PvBHZF>

### **LIVELIHOOD UPLIFTMENT THROUGH FARMING**

The plantation of pointed gourd (*Trichosanthes dioica*) in the Naisarkuti village along the Gadadhar River in Dhubrinorth, eastern India is being carried out which has benefitted the local farmers. The villagers have made their economic condition better within a few years of its plantation and became independent on Agriculture Department. According to the farmers, they have to spend around USD 21 per 0.16 hectare of plantation and are able to earn USD 930 per 0.16 hectare from this occupation.

**Aug 10**

<https://bit.ly/2MO9xdQ>

### **FARMERS' FRIENDLY ONLINE PORTAL LAUNCHED**

The Department of Horticulture of Jammu Divisions, northern India has launched a farmers' friendly online portal to provide services especially to the orchardists. The Director has asked the field officials to make the public aware of the use of website for the purpose of development. Through this, the farmer now can apply for the different welfare schemes run by the department in an easy way.

**Aug 11**

<https://bit.ly/2o0SwiM>

### **FIRST ENVIRONMENT POLICY DRAFTED**

The government of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India has finally put forward the draft of environmental policy in public domain for feedback regarding environment conservation. According to the Commissioner Secretary of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Jammu and Kashmir has been facing environmental challenges due to urbanization, deforestation, global warming and due to this the eco-fragile zone has lost its carrying capacity. He further added that the suggestions from the people will be added in the policy for long term planning.

**Aug 12**

<https://bit.ly/2MuxMys>

## China Himalaya

### RENOVATION OF ANCIENT TIBET MONASTERY

The ancient Toling Monastery in Tibet Autonomous Region, south western China has been reopened to the public after the completion of its renovation with a total cost of about USD 12.2 million. According to the Head of the Cultural Heritage Administration, China initiated the renovation in 2015 as the monastery was destroyed by sun's rays, wind and rain.

**Aug 10**

<https://bit.ly/2BAuhS7>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### RESEARCH ON MAIZE DIVERSITY

The Agriculture Research Development Centre (ARDC) has carried out the research to find out the number and varieties of maize (*Zea mays*) grown in the Bhutan. According to the Senior Field Crop Researcher, they have been conducting both phenotypic and genotypic study to understand the varieties of maize that are grown in the country. Altogether, 142 varieties of maize have been mixed and grown together for study purpose. A group of more than 30 with the participation of farmers and agricultural officials identified the maize varieties and the preferred varieties by the farmers.

**Aug 8**

<https://bit.ly/2MsOEWf>

### WATER SHORTAGE DUE TO FLASHFLOOD

The residents of Trashigang, eastern Bhutan have been facing the shortage of water due to the flash flood occurred on July 22. The flood had washed away the water pipeline that was connected from water sources at Rangshikhar and Mithidrang, eastern Bhutan. The residents have been provided with water from private construction company and also from stream. The District Hospital has also been affected due to the shortage of water. The district administration reported that they had arranged the water pipe and are now working to restore the water supply.

**Aug 9**

<https://bit.ly/2PrIGTw>

### FENCING PRIVATE LAND CREATED PROBLEM

After the fencing of more than 121 hectares of land in Mongar village, eastern Bhutan for the conservation of water catchment area there has aroused a dispute among the concerned authorities and local people. The locals have urged the regional forest office to remove the fence or to provide them with land substitute. According to locals, the fencing was done in their private property without their permission and they have been deprived from using the resources. As per the ranger, they would hold meeting with the affected people to solve this issue.

**Aug 9**

<https://bit.ly/2N6vFwZ>

### **MAIZE DAMAGED BY WINDSTORM**

A windstorm that occurred in two villages of Chudzom village in Sarpang, south eastern Bhutan on August 6 has damaged all the maize (*Zea mays*) of fourteen households of Hungrel village and five households of Rugeyang. According to the farmers, the land there is only suitable for maize plantation and the farmers have no other sources of income. After the assessment, the officials reported that 21 acres of maize field have been damaged in Hungrel and 3 acres in Rugeyang village.

**Aug 10**

<https://bit.ly/2N8DHFP>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **PLEASANT WEATHER DUE TO RAINFALL**

A light rainfall in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan, has led to a pleasant weather. There was an unpleasant weather in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the last one week due to rise in temperature. Although the rainfall was for a short period of time, the temperature has lowered down to 32 degree centigrade now which has provided relief to the residents as they had been suffering from severe heat.

**Aug 8**

<https://bit.ly/2Ppi4m2>