

Headlines Himalaya

Nov 5 – Nov 11 (2018)

No. 530

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For the 530th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 25 news from 10 sources and selected 25 happenings from five countries. Pokhara Metropolitan City in western Nepal has started to destroy mosquito larvae to control rising cases of dengue. The onset of winter has left the villages in Upper Mustang Dhaulagiri zone, north western, Nepal deserted. DNA profiling of rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is underway in northeast and other parts of India. Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) is taking several initiatives to restore the number of endangered black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*). The residents of Kashmiri Banda and other adjacent area of Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan have complained about acute shortage of drinking water.

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

Green School guideline launched
Marijuana farming flourishing in Saptari
Mosquito eradication campaign initiated
Financial aid to landslide victims
Leopard attacks on the rise in Arghakhanchi
Seasonal migration in upper Mustang
Foreigners celebrate 'Bhaitika' in pokhara
Human rhino conflict escalates

INDIA

DNA profiling of rhinos
Students spread 'Avoid Crackers' message
Elephant calf rescued
Heavy rains paralyze normal life
Apology for damaging reputation
Pine needles as fuel
Bus service resumes after snowfall
Leopard on the prowl
People mourn the death of 'Avni'
Farmers demand for compensation

CHINA

Mining triggers landslide

BHUTAN

Farmers lose paddy to rats
Endangered cranes return
Improved potato yield

PAKISTAN

Protest on water shortage
National Accountability Bureau detains frauds
Endocrinology Conference begins

GREEN SCHOOL GUIDELINE LAUNCHED

The country's first Green School Guidelines has been launched to impart conservation education to children from a young age with envision to transform community schools into living laboratories. Different programs in the guideline are plantation programs, establishing eco-library and bio-museum and aquarium within school premises. The guideline has been prepared by Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Nov 6

<https://bit.ly/2Ryf4V5>

MARIJUANA FARMING FLOURISHING IN SAPTARI

Large numbers of people are engaged in illegal marijuana (*Cannabis indica*) cultivation in small scales in Saptari district, south western Nepal, according to Police. The traffickers come to the locals' doorsteps to purchase the product which is the major cause for expanding its cultivation. And during the clean-up campaign of illegal marijuana farming, more than 1,500 marijuana plants were destroyed from in some settlements and police units have been on work to destroy the in all settlements of the district.

Nov 6

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

MOSQUITO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN INITIATED

To control the increasing number of dengue patients, Pokhara Metropolitan City in western Nepal has started to destroy mosquito larvae in dengue affected areas. The city has also launched sanitation campaign and health officials have requested the public to take necessary precaution and visit the nearest health facilities if they feel unwell. Dengue is a viral disease transmitted by female mosquitoes mainly of the species *Aedes Aegypti*.

Nov 7

<https://bit.ly/2AQs1ma>

FINANCIAL AID TO LANDSLIDE VICTIMS

Two landslide victims of Nuwakot district, central Nepal have received the financial aid provided by a Provincial Assembly Member. Each family received NPR 45,000 which is equivalent to his two-month salary. All the properties of both families were damaged after landslide buried their houses on June 17. As per his commitment to spend some amount of his salary to social activities he stepped forward for this aid.

Nov 8

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

LEOPARD ATTACKS ON THE RISE IN ARGHAKHANCHI

A leopard (*Panthera pardus*) attacked a four-year-old boy on Saturday who lost his life on the way to the Sandhikharka Hospital at Dhikura, Arghakhanchi, western Nepal. The terrorized locals are driven by the fear as there are bushes all around the settlements, which make perfect hiding spots for leopards making it dangerous to the villagers to walk alone in the broad daylight. Following the incident, more than 100 people are engaged to find the killer cat along with the security personnel.

Nov 8

<https://bit.ly/2G0KLVX>

SEASONAL MIGRATION IN UPPER MUSTANG

The onset of winter has left the villages in Upper Mustang, Dhaulagiri zone, north western Nepal deserted due to seasonal migration to warmer belts avoiding the freezing cold. Only the people with health and age issues are left behind in the villages. The migrated people do business by trading locally manufactured garments, local spices and herbs for at least four months around the country. Mobile classes are operated targeting the migrated children by temporary schools in Pokhara.

Nov 10

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

FOREIGNERS CELEBRATE 'BHAIKA' IN POKHARA

The students at Rainbow Children Home offered 'Bhaitika' to about 60 foreigners in Pokhara, western Nepal celebrating the brother-sister relationship. The programme was organised by Western Hotel Association at Butterfly Child Care Centre in Pokhara Lakeside. The programme included Deusi-Bhailo performance and a treat consisting of various delicacies including sel roti, a traditional Nepali food made from rice flour, in the shape of a ring and playing Deusi-Bhailo as a part of their program. The Association had been organising Bhaitika programme every year at Lakeside in Pokhara in order to promote brotherhood and Nepali culture, traditions among the foreigners.

Nov 10

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

HUMAN RHINO CONFLICT ESCALATES

A rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from Chitwan National Park (CNP) entered a settlement area in Devchuli Municipality, Nawalparasi, western Nepal and attacked local residents injuring three people. The loud noises distracted the rhino due to which the rhino became violent. The CNP rhinos have recently increased their visits around human settlements drastically increasing the conflicts between humans and wild animals.

Nov 11

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

India-Himalaya

DNA PROFILING OF RHINOS

The DNA profiling of rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) called Rhino DNA Indexing System (RhoDIS) targeting the rhinos of northeast and other parts of India is underway. With the aim of understanding genetic status of existing rhinos and to control their poaching, this system is expected to play significant role in their management and conservation.

Nov 5

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

STUDENTS SPREAD 'AVOID CRACKERS' MESSAGE

About 30 volunteers from Cotton University in Guwahati of Assam, northeastern India organised a campaign and went from door to door requesting people to avoid noisy firecrackers this Diwali for the sake of animals. They even gifted to them earthen lamps with 'Please avoid crackers' message inscribed on it.

Nov 6

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

ELEPHANT CALF RESCUED

An elephant calf (*Elephas maximus indicus*) which was believed to have got separated from its herd was rescued from a ditch, into which it had fallen in Bakrapara village in Assam, northeastern India. As soon as it was rescued, the calf ran away towards the nearby forest.

Nov 6

<https://bit.ly/2ANGdw0>

HEAVY RAINS PARALYZE NORMAL LIFE

Normal life was highly affected across East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India due to heavy and intermittent rainfall that lashed the district since Sunday. The rainfall caused water-logging at different places and damaged crops.

Nov 7

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

APOLOGY FOR DAMAGING REPUTATION

A year ago, the documentary made by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on 'Kaziranga Tiger Reserve' in Kanchanjuri of Assam, north eastern India was banned. The documentary had projected the park's anti-poaching strategy in poor light and BBC recently apologised for not approaching the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) sooner.

Nov 7

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

PINE NEEDLES AS FUEL

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Mandi of Himachal Pradesh, northern India has developed a technique for eco-friendly use of pine (*Pinus roxburghii*) needles to save forests from fires at low cost. It has successfully prepared briquettes and pellets from pure pine needles mixing them with other biomass. The Himachal Pradesh Government has not only announced subsidy but is also ready to help in the collection of pine needles from forest area for the purpose.

Nov 7

<https://bit.ly/2RAoa3A>

BUS SERVICE RESUMES AFTER SNOWFALL

The Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) authorities on Friday resumed its bus service after being suspended because of heavy snowfall between the tribal district of Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu district via Rohtang Pass of Himachal Pradesh, northern India. However, people living in Miyar valley still find it difficult to travel as the road leading to the valley has still not been cleared for traffic movement.

Nov 9

<https://bit.ly/2Qf4Ufo>

LEOPARD ON THE PROWL

Forest personnel have laid a trap inside Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, north eastern India to capture an adult leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) which has been reportedly moving around on the premises of the campus for the last few days. The forest officials have reported sightings of leopard in all six forest reserves found around the IIT campus.

Nov 10

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

PEOPLE MOURN THE DEATH OF 'AVNI'

Nature and wildlife lovers from Guwahati, north eastern India and other places of the State gathered to support a global campaign for Avni, a young tigress (*Panthera tigris tigris*) shot dead in Pandharkawda jungle of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra. The purpose of the march was to seek justice and bring forth awareness and sustainable change at a time when the global population of tigers has declined dramatically.

Nov 10

<https://bit.ly/2BQRtK4>

FARMERS DEMAND FOR COMPENSATION

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) held a protest rally at Pratap Park in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, northern India demanding adequate compensation to the snow affected growers. Farmers from different areas of Kashmir had assembled to participate in the rally. They demanded that the Government should assess the scale of damage caused by the snowfall while finalizing the compensation package.

Nov 10

<https://bit.ly/2E0uGgg>

China Himalaya

MINING TRIGGERS LANDSLIDE

A landslide hit Bolo township near Chamdo city of Tibet, south western China on Saturday evening wherein nearly 6,000 people were evacuated. Rampant mining, development and dam construction projects in the area have been cited as the major cause of devastation.

Nov 06

<https://bit.ly/2DZpKZ8>

Bhutan-Himalaya

FARMERS LOSE PADDY TO RATS

Rats (*Rattus nitidus*) have started damaging paddy plants (*Oryza sativa*) of Gosarling village block in Tsirang, central Bhutan due to which the farmers not only are suffering from no paddy to harvest but are also losing fodder for cattle. The farmers also showed their frustration of not getting any compensation in return even after complaining to the administration.

Nov 5

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

ENDANGERED CRANES RETURN

Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) is taking several initiatives to restore the number of endangered black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) after the first pair arrived back to their winter habitat in Bumdeling of Tarshiyangtse, north eastern Bhutan on Nov 5. It includes rehabilitation of paddy fields, electric fencing, sterilization campaign for dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), awareness campaigns on conserving cranes, etc.

Nov 7

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

IMPROVED POTATO YIELD

Due to improved price and harvest of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) this year, the Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL) auctioned double of what was auctioned last year. It auctioned 23,996 metric tonnes of potatoes worth USD 6.8 million. The highest average price, FCBL auction yard recorded this season is USD 650 per tonne.

Nov 10

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

Pakistan- Himalaya

PROTEST ON WATER SHORTAGE

The residents of Kashmiri Banda and other adjacent area of Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwestern Pakistan have complained about acute shortage of drinking water. They have threatened to launch protest if the department fails to provide drinking water to the area within a week.

Nov 6

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

NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU DETAINS FRAUDS

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) of Peshawar of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has arrested the chief of Ms Ideal Hydrotech, in the misuse of funds in the Clean Drinking Water for All Project. This has caused loss of millions to the national treasury. The accused gave fake bank guarantees and illegally secured mobilisation advance for execution of the project.

Nov 9

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

ENDOCRINOLOGY CONFERENCE BEGINS

A three-day Endocrinology Conference has begun in the provincial capital of Peshawar of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan to educate young practitioners about the new methods for preventing diabetes.

Nov 10

<https://bit.ly/2rjU7C1>