

Headlines Himalaya

Sep 4- Sep 10 (2017)

No. 472

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For the 472nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 25 news from 15 sources and selected 23 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, hispid hare has been sighted after decade long absence in Chitwan National Park, central part of the country. Conservationists pour concern over vulture population decline in Mandi, north eastern India. Chinese government impose strict measures over herders in Tibetan plateau. While, Bhutan becomes the first country in South Asia to be measles free before the 2020 target.

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!

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HISPID HARE SPOTTED

Once thought to be extinct, Hispid hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*) has been spotted in the Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal. It was spotted during 1980's and 1990's in Nepal and India respectively. However, there is no information about its population.

Sept 4

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/2017/09/04/53844/>

BORDER BLOCKADE SLOWED DOWN THE RETAIL SALE OF MEDICINES

The economic blockade imposed by India during April-May 2015 has halted the sale of medicines, both the therapeutic and prophylactic. The sale dipped by about 46.5% in the retail trade. India who was the main supplier of the medicines in Nepal holds about 95% of the medicines' market share.

Sept 4

<http://bit.ly/2h3IGNX>

HIMALAYAN BLACK BEAR UNDER RISK

The clash between the human and the wildlife has posed a new threat to the Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*). After the clash of the baby bear with the villagers of Jumla, few parts of its body went missing. There has been suspicion of poaching of the body parts since it can fetch huge amount in the black market.

Sept 7

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27079/>

TWO NEPALESE FIRMS AWARDED US-DATA DRIVEN FARMING AWARDS

The US data driven farming awards have been given to two Nepali firms for Innovative Agricultural Solutions in utilizing information and communications technology to improve the agricultural productivity. A Kathmandu-based ICT firm Db2Map received USD 100,000 for its FEO Krishi program that integrates satellite data with government and crowd-sourced information to assess land and soil conditions to help farmers maximize the crop yields. Another firm ICT for Agriculture based in Nepal, bagged a USD 50,000 for their mobile and web-based platform that provides comprehensive agricultural information to rural farmers.

Sept 8

<http://bit.ly/2y0Pzle>

WASTE DISPOSAL HALTED IN THE CAPITAL

Due to the obstruction by the locals at the landfill site in Okharpauwa of Nuwakot district, central Nepal, has resulted in the piles of garbage in the capital city. Talks between the locals and the Municipal Authorities have resulted in vain. According to Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office (KMC), the locals asked compensation and demanded jobs for them as Kathmandu produces about 300 metric tons of wastes which must be disposed daily. The locals agreed to let the disposal of the garbage after being assured to repair the roads leading to the area.

Sept 8

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

HIGH TEMPERATURE RESISTANT MAIZE DEVELOPED

A new species of maize has been developed by the National Maize Research Programme, resistant to high temperature. The new species of hybrid maize was developed by the programme named 'Rampur Hybrid-8' following a four-year long research. It will be further distributed to the farmers across the country which has been expected to have increased the production.

Sept 9

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

SWAMP TRAPPED RHINO DIES

A female rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) have died after getting stuck in a swamp near the Kuchwani Post in Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal. The rhino was too crippled and was pulled off the mud using an elephant (*Elephas maximus*). Being too fragile, the rhino could not be saved, stated by the authority.

Sept 10

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27291/>

ZONAL HOSPITAL FAIL TO COPE UP WITH RISE IN PATIENT'S INFLUX

Due to the recent flood in the various regions of Nepal, there has been an outbreak of various water borne diseases. The patients complaining of high rise viral fever and dysentery have been visiting the Dhaulagiri Zonal Hospital, western Nepal. Due to the huge influx, there has been shortage of beds in the hospital that has led the hospital authority to adopt alternate measures.

Sept 10

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27258/>

India-Himalaya

EXPERTS STRESSING FOR VULTURE CONSERVATION

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi district of Himachal, northern India, has organized a talk program to discuss the reasons behind the extinction of critically endangered, *Gyps* species of Vulture in India and to discover the ways for its conservation. Experts blamed over the illegal use of Diclofenac drug (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used in livestock treatment) for sharp drop in vulture's population.

Sep 4

<http://bit.ly/2x3DrLY>

BANDED KRAITS RESCUED

Two banded kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus*), which are considered as the most venomous snakes in India, were rescued from Tezpur city of Assam, north eastern India. The male- female duos over 7 feet long were handed over to the state zoo by the forest department.

Sep 5

<http://bit.ly/2y0zwoUH>

ASSAM FLOOD SITUATION IMPROVED, STILL MANY AFFECTED

Although the flood situation in Assam, north eastern region of India is improving, six districts are still under trouble. Around 45000 people across 170 villages are bearing the brunt of the flood as a total of 6000 hectares of agricultural land is still inundated. This year, north eastern part of the country has witnessed the heavy loss of lives and properties due to cloudbursts during monsoon.

Sep 5 & 7

<http://bit.ly/2h3OTs8>

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

ELEPHANT WREAKS HAVOC

Wild Elephants (*Elephas maximus*) have been creating havoc on human habitations and crops in Karimganj district of Assam, north eastern India, over the last few days. The herd of female tusked destroyed houses, killed several livestock and damaged 17.66 hectares of paddy field in the village. Villagers have urged the government to take steps in this regard immediately.

Sep 6

<http://bit.ly/2y8jY1E>

SUPREME COURT ORDER AGAINST COW VIGILANTISM

Supreme Court of India has directed all the states to appoint a nodal officer in each district, to prevent and tackle cow vigilantism incidents. The court also instructed chief secretaries of states to file status report about the actions taken against cow vigilantes. The order came on a batch of petition filed by individuals and NGOs.

Sep 6

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

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

ILLEGAL TIMBER SEIZED

Forest officials seized illegal timber worth more than USD 39144.38 in a village of Dhubri district, Assam, north eastern India on 6th September. The driver, including some individuals in the timber loaded truck, was arrested instantly. This incident highlights increasing smuggling of timber in the district.

Sep 7

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

ORDERS FOR CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL HOT MIX PLANTS

The National Green Tribunal has ordered the government of Uttarakhand, northern India, to close illegal hot mix plants (self-contained bitumen and aggregate mixing plants), after an NGO filed a plea against such plants for causing pollution in the state. With respect to such instructions, the government has started to operate several actions. Of 91 hot mix plants in the state, around 35 hot mix plants have been passed closure orders. The tribunal has also instructed to submit compliance reports in this regard.

Sep 7

<http://bit.ly/2f8gF6c>

WILDLIFE ROAD KILL INCIDENTS INCREASED

Speeding vehicles in highways have turned out to be the killers of wildlife these days. A recent study by Wildlife Institute of India revealed a death count of 222 wild animals including, Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*), Cheetal (*Axis axis*) etc. within 8 months in a 30 km stretch on National Highway-74 between Dehradun and Haridwar, northern India. It is reported that such mishaps occurred when animals cross the road in search of water. Experts have recommended for construction of flyovers to safeguard these precious animals.

Sep 8

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

GLACIAL LAKE FLOODS THREATEN SIKKIM

Climate change has led high altitude glacial lakes of Sikkim Himalaya, susceptible to outburst that may cause potential floods in Sikkim, north eastern India. South Lhonak Lake in northwest Sikkim, (whose size has increased to 145% over the past 40 years) and Gurudongmar Chho at northern Sikkim are the most probable glacial lakes to burst rendering villages of adjoining areas at greater risk.

Sep 9

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

China Himalaya

GRAZING BANNED FOR TIBETAN HERDERS

Tibetan nomads in north eastern region are restricted to use the grazing land. Chinese authorities have imposed stiff fines and even imprisonment as penalties for law breakers in this regard. Though, grazing has been a

traditional custom of Tibetan herders for hundreds of years, officials claimed that this action is undertaken as a scientific need to protect the environment.

Sep 7

<http://bit.ly/2h4UACf>

LAKES AND RIVERS UNDER INSPECTION

Scientists and Researchers are inspecting rivers and lakes in Qinghai-Tibet plateau as a part of the second scientist expedition. On September 2, research on lakes in Ngari district, south western China's Tibet autonomous, was conducted .The inspection will cover 10 major rivers in Ngari and Xigaze district that will study lake floors, local climate, lake sediment and biodiversity of the region.

Sep 7

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1065250.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

RESCUE OF HIMALAYAN BLACK BEARS

Two male Himalayan black bears (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*) have been rescued and released from Thimpu, west central part of Bhutan and Paro, west of Thimpu. The Forest officer said that they were found entangled in traps laid for pest prevention by villagers. Altogether, five bears have been rescued so far this year. The incident highlights increasing human-bear conflict in these areas.

Sep 5

<http://bit.ly/2h44yaR>

CORDYCEPS IN ITS HIGHEST PRICE

Cordyceps (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*) has set a new price record of USD 42,570.93 per kg in Bumthang, north central Bhutan. A report by the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperative (DAMC) has shown gradual increase in Cordyceps auction prices in the past five years. Such rise in price has profited all the beneficiaries.

Sep 5

<http://bit.ly/2vVKHx3>

RECOGNITION TO BHUTAN

World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region (SEAR) felicitated Bhutan, for being one of the first countries (along with Maldives) in South East Asia to eliminate contagious disease, Measles, ahead of the 2020 regional target. The Health Ministry stated the strong political commitment accompanied by hardships of health workers, officials, partners from every level contributed to succeed. The milestone was reached after no measles case had been reported since 2012 in Bhutan and in Maldives since 2009.

Sep 9

<http://bit.ly/2h4FTPP>

Pakistan- Himalaya

CLIMATE POLICY: A TOPIC IN CABINET

Climate Resilient Development Policy has been approved by the cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan, on September 6, in order to mitigate the negative impacts of changing climate in food, water and energy.

The policy presented by the Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife, was prepared in light of the National Climate Change Policy 2012.

Sep 7

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