

# Headlines Himalaya

Sept 17 – Sept 23 (2018)

No. 523

Editorial Team: Shweta Khadka and Indu Pokhrel

For the 523<sup>rd</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 29 news from 14 sources and selected 26 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, the Ministry of Forest and Environment publicised the tiger census result on the occasion of World Conservation Day. In north eastern India, pygmy hog (*Porcula salvania*) an endemic species to Manas region was introduced in Assam State Zoo. Grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) farming upsurges as an alternative source of income in south western China. Government of Pakistan has been lately focusing its investment on quality education.

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

*Apple market under stress*  
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*Wastes dumped in river bank*  
*Viral fever impacts village*  
*Tourist arrival soared*  
*World Bank aiding energy sector*  
*Schools receive technical support*  
*Wildlife trade continues*  
*Outbreak of diarrhoea*  
*Tiger census result published*

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*Celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Day*  
*Smallest pig species in the State Zoo*  
*Awareness camp in horticulture*  
*Swachhta Hi Sewa Campaign*  
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### APPLE MARKET UNDER STRESS

Apple (*Malus* spp.) production has declined by 70 percent in Chhaya Nath Municipality in Mugu, mid-western Nepal this year. According to farmers, hailstorms have led the apple flowers to drop during flowering season that affected the apple fruiting. Furthermore, due to lack of appropriate place for apple storage, farmers have been selling apple in cheaper price. Similar case has been observed in Mustang, western Nepal where obstruction of Beni-Jomsom roadway due to landslides and flood has caused the harvested and packed apples to rot in godowns.

**Sept 17 & 18**

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

<https://bit.ly/2OrLOB5>

### WRIT PETITION TO THE SUPREME COURT

A writ petition has been received by the Supreme Court for the proper management of the garbage produced in the Kathmandu valley, central Nepal. The petition filed by an advocate has requested the Supreme Court to direct the relevant authorities to act immediately on this issue. After the Sisdole landfill site has reached its saturation point, waste has created a menace in the valley. Besides this, the writ has also urged the court to order strict implementation of segregation of wastes into biodegradable and non-biodegradable at the local level and promote recycling and reuse.

**Sept 18**

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

### WASTES DUMPED IN RIVER BANK

Bharatpur municipality, south central Nepal has been dumping hospital wastes into Narayani river bank due to which wild animals of Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal have been severely affected. Hospital wastes like amputated body parts, sharp blades and pads are dumped into river bank due to lack of landfill site.

**Sept 18**

<https://bit.ly/2y0mskD>

### VIRAL FEVER IMPACTS VILLAGE

Viral fever has taken its toll at Haldi village of Gaindakot Municipality-3, Nawalparasi, south western Nepal. As many as 78 people have been tested positive for the fever in blood tests. According to Municipal Health Section Chief, the disease has spread to large number of people in village.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2y80prd>

### TOURIST ARRIVAL SOARED

The arrival of foreign tourists in Nepal has increased by 18.8 percent in August this year as compared to 2017. As per Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), 87,679 foreign tourists have visited Nepal last month. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries have registered a significant growth of 48.3 percent in August as compared to the same period last year. According to NTB, cooperation and partnership between the public and private sectors have played a significant role in the growth of tourist number.

**Sept 20**

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

### **WORLD BANK AIDING ENERGY SECTOR**

The first ever loan based support worth USD 100 million to Nepali Energy Sector has been approved by the World Bank. The grant under the Nepal Energy Development Policy Credit Program intends to support the country's energy sector in effective implementation of related policies and institutional measures. The fund is going to play a key role in strengthening financial viability of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

**Sept 20**

<https://bit.ly/2xVij12>

### **SCHOOLS RECEIVE TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Two community schools in Kharpunath Rural Municipality in Humla, western Nepal have received technical support worth NPR 1 million. The schools have received computers and Information Technology materials for quality enhancement of the students from Good Neighbours International and Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDRC) Nepal. Total 18 computers and two projectors have been distributed to the two schools.

**Sept 21**

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

### **WILDLIFE TRADE CONTINUES**

Two people have been arrested by the District Forest Office, Kapilvastu in south western Nepal with the meat of spotted deer (*Axis axis*). According to the district forest officer, culprits will be punished according to National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act. Similarly, Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal police has arrested three people with a hide of clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) on Thursday in Boudha-Kathmandu, central Nepal.

**Sept 21 & 22**

<https://bit.ly/2NXTH1U>

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

### **OUTBREAK OF DIARRHEA**

Outbreak of diarrhoea (*Escherichia coli*) at Jaleswor in Mahottari, southern Nepal has claimed life of a four-years old while three children and a pregnant woman are in critical condition. More than 160 people have been suffering from the disease over the past week. According to Chief of District Public Health Office (DPHO), medical team has been dispatched for organizing health camps.

**Sept 21**

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

### **TIGER CENSUS RESULT PUBLISHED**

On the occasion of World Conservation Day, the Ministry of Forest and Environment has announced the total number of wild tiger (*Panthera tigris*) in the country as 235 in number. As per statistics, the population of tiger in Banke National Park, mid-western Nepal, Bardia National Park, mid-western Nepal and Parsa National Park, central Nepal has increased while in Chitwan National Park, central Nepal and Shuklaphanta National Park, far-western Nepal there is decline in the population. According to experts, the decrease is due to flood in Narayani River and Rapti River that swept away big cats as well as their prey. The decrease can be also attributed to migration of tigers to nearby reserves and parks.

**Sept 23**

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

<https://bit.ly/2Nh1Glt>

### IMPROVED HEALTH SECTOR

The Chief Minister of Assam has inaugurated a Mother and Child care Hospital in Dibrugarh, Assam, north eastern India that was constructed at a cost of USD 1,668,925 with the capacity of 300 beds, accompanied by the health Minister and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of the region. Hospital is fitted with latest modern equipments and structures. He further added that the government of Assam has approved budget for the further development of health infrastructure.

**Sept 17**

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

### CELEBRATION OF 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD BAMBOO DAY

World bamboo day has been celebrated at Imphal, north eastern India in the presence of honourable guests and leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Assembly speaker highlighted bamboo (*Bambusa* spp.) to be a potential construction material as compared to trees due to its short growth cycle. Other speakers and leaders also stated on the cultural and economic importance of bamboo.

**Sept 18**

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

### SMALLEST PIG SPECIES IN THE STATE ZOO

A pair of pygmy hogs (*Porcula salvania*) has been transferred from conservation breeding centre to Assam State Zoo, north eastern India primarily to educate people about their rarity in the world. According to district forest officer, pygmy hogs are endangered species and endemic to Manas region of Assam.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2IzN5Ru>

### AWARENESS CAMP IN HORTICULTURE

Under the direction of Chief Horticulture Officer, awareness camp has been organized by the Department of Horticulture in Jammu, northern India. On the occasion, District Horticulture Officer has informed the farmers about the hi-tech cultivation of sub-tropical fruit crops grown in and around the area. He urged farmers to adopt organic farming for better income and also made them aware of the schemes being implemented by the department along with announcement of various schemes beneficial for the farmers.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2Oymn12>

### SWACHHTA HI SEWA CAMPAIGN

The second Jammu and Kashmir GIRLS BN NCC (Battalion National Cadet Corps) of GDC R.S. PURA (Government Degree College R.S. Pura), Jammu, northern India has volunteered as part of "Swachhta Hi Sewa" Campaign. The activity was performed under the guidance of principal of the college in which cadets were directed to clean drains, streets and back alleys of the village. They also collected and segregated wastes into biodegradable and non-biodegradable and followed proper disposal in compost pits. Cadets pledged to continue cleanliness and awareness programme.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2Ox9qUU>

### ORGANIC COFFEE CULTIVATION

Farmers of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, north eastern India have started growing organic coffee (*Coffea* spp.) instead of traditional crops. According to farmers, they have been facing massive losses due to disease in ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) and cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*). However, as per experts, these areas have ideal climatic conditions for coffee cultivation. The farmers will be taken to Karnataka to be trained by coffee experts as mentioned by the senior scientific officer of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration's horticulture department.

**Sept 20**

<https://bit.ly/2Os7CNO>

### OPTIMISING UNEMPLOYMENT WITH BANANA FARMING

A group of unemployed youths of Goreswar, Assam, north eastern India have opted for banana (*Musa* spp.) plantation in a large scale making good profit. Seeing this, every family of the village and neighbouring villages has started farming banana. Although, this farming has become a success in these villages, no concerned authorities have considered making a visit.

**Sept 22**

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

## China Himalaya

### INCREASED INCOME THROUGH GRAPES FARMING

Farmers of Baxoi County of Qamdo, south western China have been growing grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) as business alternative. As the business has grown, this has helped them to increase personal income.

**Sept 18**

<https://bit.ly/2DNihh4>

### POVERTY RELIEF CAMPAIGN

The Jaggang village of Ali district, south western China located at 4000 meters above sea level has emerged as model village for poverty relief campaign. The people of village have access to water, electricity and networks. They are further working on materials for buildings, border trade, plant nursery and local husbandry.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2zMci8t>

### TOURISM FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The people of Dakdong village, south western China are able to earn millions of Yuan every year. The area has become a major rural tourism destination for peach picking, camping and hot spring. This has let the residents lead a content life with access to education for their children.

**Sept 21**

<https://bit.ly/2zLxB9U>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### **BHUTAN'S NEW RANK ON HDI**

According to the statistical update of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2018, Bhutan has been ranked 134 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI focused on three basic dimensions of human development: life expectancy, mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling and gross national income (GNP) per capita. Between 2005 and 2017 the HDI value of Bhutan has been increased from 0.510 to 0.612.

**Sept 18**

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

### **AGRICULTURAL CHALLENGE IN CHASKAR**

People of Chaskar in Mongar district, eastern Bhutan who are dependent on agriculture, are worried due to shortage of irrigation water since last five years. Due to insufficient rainfall, farmers have been compelled to leave their land fallow and the only water source, 19 Km away is drying up.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2xSVj2R>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### **COMPLETION OF HYDROPOWER**

A hydropower project with an installed capacity of 36.6 megawatt has been completed and connected to national grid in Swat district, northern Pakistan. The project was completed at a cost of around USD 65 million. The project is expected to earn USD 9.7 million dollars per annum.

**Sept 18**

<https://bit.ly/2xW6bgI>

### **INAUGURATION OF MOTORWAY**

Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) has inaugurated a section of Swat Motorway at Chakdara, north western Pakistan. The 80 Km long project had been started along with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), out of which 50 Km has been completed. Speaking in the inauguration ceremony, CM stated that the motorway will bring revolution in enhancing tourism and trade.

**Sept 19**

<https://bit.ly/2P5wJcI>

### **GOVERNMENT INVESTED ON QUALITY EDUCATION**

Government has spent about USD 322,800,000 on promoting education in tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. According to a spokesman of Directorate of Education Tribal districts, 35 such projects for quality education have been completed and others are in progress.

**Sept 22**

<https://bit.ly/2P3Srqs>

### **CROP WAREHOUSE ENHANCEMENT**

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has formulated a comprehensive policy to increase wheat (*Triticum* spp.) and other crop production to maintain food quality and availability as per the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Under the policy, government would purchase the wheat stock directly from farmers to provide them full benefits.

**Sept 23**

<https://bit.ly/2zM4sM1>