

# Headlines Himalaya

Oct 15 – Oct 21 (2018)

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For the 527<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 28 news from 11 sources and selected 25 happenings from five countries. Three people arrested for possessing a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hide and other body parts from Koteshwor, Kathmandu, central Nepal. The reconstruction of Rani Pokhari, the historic site in Kathmandu, central Nepal, which had been damaged in the 2015 earthquake, is to be further delayed. Around four dozens of brick kilns have been constructed in arable land in Dhunibesi Municipality, Dhading, central Nepal. Sikkim bags Future Policy Award 2018, for the world's best policies promoting "agroecological and sustainable food systems". Farmers in Tibet have ascertained means for earning money through medicinal herbs. 'Climate Change Week' celebrated in from Peshawar, northwest Pakistan to create awareness about climate change and its impacts.

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

*Three people arrested for illegal wildlife trade*  
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*Rani Pokhari reconstruction to be delayed further*  
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### THREE PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) arrested 3 people possessing a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hide and other body parts from Koteshwor, Kathmandu, central Nepal. According to CIB, further actions would be taken against the arrested people as per the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act-1973 and CITES Convention-1976.

**Oct 15**

<https://bit.ly/2zrZd3p>

### HIGH DEMAND OF JUMLA APPLES

About NPR 180 million worth of apples (*Malus domestica*) have been sold by the farmers of Jumla, mid-western Nepal, this year. As per the farmers, improved transportation system and buyers approaching the farmers at the farms itself had made this possible. The district has also launched a 'one village, one apple orchard' campaign to increase the production following the rise in demand.

**Oct 15**

<https://bit.ly/2R7kpCA>

### RANI POKHARI RECONSTRUCTION TO BE DELAYED FURTHER

The reconstruction of Rani Pokhari, the historic site in Kathmandu, central Nepal, which had been damaged in the 2015 earthquake, is to be further delayed because the companies that applied for reconstruction failed to meet the required criteria. Department of Archaeology had earlier halted the reconstruction claiming that the reconstruction work was not in accordance with the approved blueprint.

**Oct 15**

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

### ENTRY FEE IMPOSED ON NEPALI VISITORS

To enter Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Manaslu Conservation Area Project and Gauri Shanker Conservation Area Project, Nepalese now have to pay NPR 100 entry fees and get a permit from the conservation area project counters according to the directive published by the federal government. The prices for SAARC countries as well as other countries have been increased. T

**Oct 16**

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

### HYDROPOWER UNDER FULL OPERATION

The Modikhola Hydropower Project of Parbat district, central Nepal, which was initially generating 11 MW of power, is now functioning up to its full capacity of 14.8 MW. This was successful due to the replacement of outdated machinery with new ones costing around NPR 3.5 million.

**Oct 18**

<https://bit.ly/2DVVbV4>

### HERBAL FARMING ENSURES ECONOMIC GAIN

After the women of Beldandi, Kanchanpur, southwestern Nepal started their herbal farms, it has helped them achieve economic independence to run household. The herbs they grow are peppermint (*Mentha balsamea*), Asare (*Murraya koenigii*), and Chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*). An NGO has set up a herb processing plant to help these women improve their business.

**Oct 20**

<https://bit.ly/2FEqp4q>

### **A TRIBUTE THROUGH CLEANING**

From the Manohara and Hanumante rivers, Kathmandu, central Nepal, three metric tonnes of garbage was removed in a day as a tribute to the late president of the Nepal film Board who was also the Hanumante River Cleaning Campaign advisor. Even though it was the festival season, around 200 people came together for the cleaning process.

**Oct 20**

<https://bit.ly/2S9EkAO>

### **BRICK KILNS IN ARABLE LAND**

After new brick kilns were banned in Kathmandu to combat rising air pollution, around four dozens of kilns have been constructed in Dhunibesi Municipality, Dhading, central Nepal, that once held the title of 'capital of vegetable farming'. To curb further increase in the number of kilns operating in the area, strict laws have been put in place along with tax hike, as informed by the Municipality Mayor.

**Oct 21**

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

### **LOCALS DRINKING CONTAMINATED WATER**

When monsoon brought flood and landslides, destroying several water projects, the residents of Chaulechaur and Sanawal villages, Jajarkot, mid-western Nepal have been drinking the contaminated river water. This has increased the cases of water borne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery and affected children's studies since they spend more time fetching water.

**Oct 21**

<https://bit.ly/2FEq6GO>

## **India-Himalaya**

### **TIMBER SMUGGLERS ARRESTED**

Officials stated that two timber smugglers were captured and timber worth lakhs of rupees recovered from their possession in Baramulla of Jammu Kashmir, northern India. The culprits were later handed over to police as informed by range officer.

**Oct 15**

<https://bit.ly/2S7W8fK>

### **DEPLORABLE SANITATION FACILITIES**

The condition of sanitation facilities is woeful due to the inconsiderate approach of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) staff as claimed by residents of Gandhi Nagar locality in Jammu district, northern India. The former deputy chief minister and MLA Gandhi Nagar, stated that most of the drains in their area are leaking, uncovered and choked. The problem has arisen due to deposition of polythene bags and other solid waste material, said a Gandhi Nagar Gurudwara Committee member.

**Oct 16**

<https://bit.ly/2PQUq5S>

### **WOMEN FARMERS' DAY OBSERVED**

Women Farmers' Day was observed on the eve of International Day for Rural Women at LalMandi Agriculture Complex department of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India. The main purpose to mark this day was to honour the important role of women in agriculture sector as they make upto 60-70% of field workers, organisers, and field managers according to the director of Agriculture Department, Kashmir. He also directed the concerned officers to organise special skill-based training programmes for women farmers.

**Oct 16**

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

### **ILLEGAL MINING USING FARM TRACTORS**

Many farm tractors are engaged in illegal mining although the state government has restricted the use of tractors for agricultural purposes only, in Palampur region of Himachal Pradesh, northern India. It has led to extensive damage to environment, forest lands, irrigation channels and drinking water supply. The government had now specified lemon colour for all tractor-trailers involved in agricultural purposes to check the risk as stated by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of Palampur.

**Oct 16**

<https://bit.ly/2PT3xTq>

### **SIKKIM BAGS FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2018**

Sikkim, northeast India, received Future Policy Award 2018 from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) also known as "Oscar for Best Policies", for the world's best policies promoting "agroecological and sustainable food systems". Receiving the award in Rome, the chief minister of Sikkim stated that an organic world is achievable and also appealed to the world community that they do not carry out any kind of development work and business at the cost of the environment.

**Oct 16**

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

### **GARBAGE DUMPING ON HILLSIDE**

About 15 tonnes of solid waste are generated daily from various parts of Udhampur district, Jammu Kashmir, northern India that has been dumped in a hillside along the national highway in the Udhampur district. This is deteriorating the environment of Shivalik Mountains. A filtration plant that supplies drinking water to various parts of the district is located in the same area thus locals are prone to water borne diseases.

**Oct 17**

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

### **DAL LAKE DRIES UP**

The famous Dal Lake of Dharamsala, located at an altitude of 1,775 metre, in Himachal Pradesh, northern India has now completely dried up. The unscientific mechanical de-silting of the lake using JCB machines during a joint project carried out by the Tourism and Forest Departments has reasoned for drying up the lake according to geological experts from IIT-Roorkee.

**Oct 19**

<https://bit.ly/2r4uKE4>

### **BEAR CUB FOUND DEAD**

An endangered Himalayan black bear cub (*Ursus thibetanus*) was found dead in the Jia area of Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, northern India. According to Deputy Forest Officer (DFO), Palampur, it was an eight-month-old cub which seemed to have been killed in a leopard attack as it had attack marks on its neck. It is also being suspected that it might have been killed by poachers.

**Oct 19**

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

### BARRIER LAKE FLOODS CAUSE DAMAGE

Jomda County, south central China was struck by a landslide on the banks of the Drichu River resulting in the formation of a barrier lake flooding the villages in Po Township and submerging the roads. Construction of new road has enabled vehicles with large quantities of relief supplies to enter the disaster-hit town. Another barrier lake due to a massive landslide was formed from the overflow in the Yarlung-Tsangpo River, south central China flooding nearby areas. Relief materials have been distributed in the disaster-hit area.

**Oct 16, 17 & 20**

<https://bit.ly/2r2Fa72>

<https://bit.ly/2Rb9GHt>

<https://bit.ly/2P1lwBV>

### FIGS' HARVEST SEASON SETS OFF

Figs (*Ficus carica*) grown by the Pure Ecological Farmer and Nomad Professional Plant Cooperative, Changdo Township, Dagze District Lhasa, in southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region have started bearing fruit with a total output of 1 ton. Figs are sturdy, drought resistant, and prefer a warmer climate maintained by warm greenhouse in the fig garden. The thick soil along with lighting conditions in Tibet becomes more suitable for fig cultivation as the cash crop.

**Oct 17**

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

### EXISTENCE OF RAINFOREST IN ANCIENT TIBET

Rainforest was present in central Tibet more than 40 million years ago which as indicated by the discovery of an amber fossil in southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region. An international team of scientists from China, Britain and India jointly conducted the research. The fossil was discovered in the Lunpola basin in Tibet and derived from dipterocarp (*Dipterocarpus*) trees that are only found in Asian rainforest at present as mentioned by one of the researchers from Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology.

**Oct 18**

<https://bit.ly/2P0jqSJ>

### HERBS FOSTER PROSPERITY

Farmers of Nyingchi, Manling County, central China have ascertained means for earning money through medicinal herbs. As herbs market is growing, an entrepreneur established the Golden Sun Tibetan Herbal Plantation Farm in 2012 to cultivate medicinal herbs. The county's eight townships have herbal plantation companies as well as communal village plantations, according to the Manling government.

**Oct 19**

<https://bit.ly/2r4ydSW>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### PINE FOREST ON FIRE

More than 20 hectares of pine (*Pinus* spp.) forest in Khomavillage block in Lhuentse, eastern Bhutan was destroyed by forest fire that started on October 18 midnight. Human activities such as cigarette butts and bee hunters are assumed to be the cause of the fire according to the officials. In addition, strong winds are creating difficulties for extinguishing the fire.

**Oct 20**

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

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### CLEAN AND GREEN PAKISTAN DRIVE

The Clean and Green Pakistan campaign has outlawed the action against pressure horns and smoke emitting vehicles in Peshawar, northwestern Pakistan. Capital City Police Officer marked that special awareness campaign would be carried out for a week followed by action against law breakers in the second phase. Similarly, on the directives of a Senior Minister, the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) together with the local people, volunteers and students launched cleanliness and awareness campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan in an attempt to restore the natural beauty of the province.

**Oct 15 & 17**

<https://bit.ly/2P1m5vx>

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

### ILLEGAL LEASING OF FORESTLAND

A alleged illegal leasing of around 111 hectares of forestland in Malam Jabba, northwest Pakistan has entered its final stage in an investigation by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa National Accountability Bureau (NAB). For construction of Chairlift and skiing resort, political personalities and the bureaucracy conspired to lease out Forests Department's protected land to a private company without the legal permissions according to official record and sources.

**Oct 20**

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

### CAMPAIGNS MARK CLIMATE CHANGE WEEK

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PRCS-KP) branch celebrated 'Climate Change Week' from 15-19 October in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan to create awareness about climate change and its impacts. Several other local organizations also conducted various activities to mark this week. A three-year project on Climate Change is being carried out by the PRCS-KP with the support of German Red Cross to create awareness about the impacts of climate change in today's world.

**Oct 21**

<https://bit.ly/2DWTab1>