

Headlines Himalaya

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Headlines Himalaya, weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. In Nepal, many captive monkeys died when released in the wild, rhino poachers are more legal than law itself and food scarcity is looming large this year. India is no different where elephants have killed more people, national parks have encroachers backed by political parties, and the government come with feeble argument on per capita greenhouse emission. Both China and Pakistan have water and climate change-related issues. Enjoy!

NEPAL	INVASIVE PLANTS COVER DEFORESTED LAND VULTURES REAPPEAR NO HOME FOR STORKS, NO FOOD FOR MONKEYS MORE RHINOS DOWN, SETTING POACHERS FREE GRAIN DROPS, PRICE IS UP PESTICIDE, KHAIR TREE SMUGGLING AND FOREST FIRES MORE RED PANDAS
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PAKISTAN	AGAINST LOAD SHEDDING LANDSLIDE THREATS HUNZA LAKE

Nepal-Himalaya

INVASIVE PLANTS COVER DEFORESTED LAND

In Morang District of east Nepal, deforested areas where sal (*shorea robusta*) used to be dominant, are now covered with invasive species such as lantana, *Chromolaena*, *Micania*, *Eupatorium* and other invasive species.

May 8

Gorkhapatra

VULTURES REAPPEAR

When seven vultures in Babiya Village of Sunsari District, east Nepal were spotted, a huge crowd had gathered as they were not seen for the past nine years.

May 9

http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/rising.detail.php?article_id=34201&cat_id=8

NO HOME FOR STORKS, NO FOOD FOR MONKEYS

In Mahotari District, east Nepal, hundreds of storks normally make nests in several trees species including sisoo, silk cotton, teak and even on mango trees during summer. But large deforestation has left these birds homeless. In another report, 250 rhesus monkeys that were raised in National Biomedical Research Centre, were released at Shivapuri in Kathmandu four months back because of international protests. About 50 primates have been found dead who were not able to search and identify natural food as they were captive animals.

May 8, 11

Gorkhapatra, Himalayan Times

MORE RHINOS DOWN, SETTING POACHERS FREE

The legal court process of releasing more than 100 poachers has begun from April 25 with the Hetauda Appellate Court, central Nepal deciding to bring down prison terms from ten to five years. The ruling comes although the National Park and Wildlife Act 2029 has a provision of 10-year jail term for poachers. Meanwhile, In Chitwan National Park, four rhinos were killed and one injured last month. The Park management claims that their search operations are successful as it is being carried out 24 hours. According to the rhino count of 2008, Chitwan had 408 rhinos and Bardia had 22 animals.

May 9, 11

Kantipur, Himalayan Times

GRAIN DROPS, PRICE IS UP

Due to drop in food grain production, over a million Nepalis are under the shadow of famine this year. Nepal is experiencing food shortage of 3,16,465 metric ton affecting over 1.6 million people. In another report, the poor summer crop production in 2009-10 and winter snowfall have negatively affected the food supply in remote districts across the country. Some 45 percent of mountain markets and 10 percent of hill markets reported insufficient supply of key commodities. Nepal Rastra Bank data indicates that recent year-on-year food price inflation is over 18 percent.

May 12, 14

Nepalnews.com, Himalayan Times

PESTICIDE, KHAIR TREE SMUGGLING AND FOREST FIRES

Thiodine –a pesticide to protect paddy, is widely used by the villagers of Bajura (Far western district) to kill freshwater fishes as food, leaving the water unfavorable for drinking. In Khotang of east Nepal, both forest officials and user groups are involved in felling khair trees (Acacia catechu) in huge quantity which were sold to smugglers. In another report, three community forests (Gangakhola, Muralidanda, and Bakpasallani) in Bhojpur District, east Nepal are heavily destroyed by forest fire. Also a fire in Laligurans Community Forest in Salyan, west Nepal flared into nearby homes, killing three people and five are missing.

May 9, 12, 14

Gorkhapatra, Kantipur, Nepalnews.com

MORE RED PANDAS

Number of Red panda has increased in several places in Taplejung District, east Nepal. In phawakhola three pandas were seen whereas in kalikola surumkhim, five red pandas were observed.

May 14,

Gorkhapatra

India-Himalaya

RAPID DEFORESTATION FUELLING MAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT

Most of the forests of Udalguri district have been encroached by human settlement, destroying all the existing habitats and elephant corridors, fuelling the man-elephant conflict in the district. Man-elephant conflict in the district caused death of 31 people by wild elephants during 2002 to 2009 and more than 12 wild elephants lost their lives during 2007 to 2009. Twelve persons were killed by wild elephants during the year 2009. Moreover, 248 people had either been injured or lost their houses and property during the period.

May 8

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0910/state06>

PARK ENCROACHERS REFER POLITICAL PARTY

The only natural habitat of the one-horned rhino, Orang National Park in Darrang District have been encroached by nearly 1,000 people who had entered through South-western part of the national park. In the mean time when the evicted were pushed out the offenders issued threats and made reference to a particular political leader of the Congress party.

May 8

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0910/at07>

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TOURISTS POLLUTE RIVER

The unregulated flow of tourists has drastically affected the water quality of Lidder River in famous hill-station Pahalgam, western Himalaya. Analysis of Lidder's water quality data measured at Chandanwari, Aru, Pahalgam, Ashmuqam and Mattan shows marked deterioration in June and July, during the past four years, which witnessed heavy domestic and pilgrimage tourist influx to the hill-station.

May 10

http://www.greaterkashmir.com/today/full_story.asp?Date=10_5_2010&ItemID=70&cat=1

INDIA CLAIMS CUT IN GREENHOUSE EMISSION

India's greenhouse gas emission estimates after 13 years found one fact unchanged that India has one of the lowest per capita emissions of GHG gases in the emerging economies and at merely 1.5 tones of CO₂ equivalent per capita. Overall the combined energy sector contributed 58% of the emissions, industry 22%, agriculture 17% and waste generated 3% of the annual emissions in 2007.

May 12, 2010

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Home/Environment/Global-Warming/Greenhouse-emission-numbers-out-and-were-clean-compared-to-West/articleshow/5919762.cms>

LIZARDS CHANGE FOR CLIMATE

Lizards at higher elevations, including the Western Ghats and the Himalayas, are likely to have (increased) risks of extinction because they will be species that have adapted to cooler temperatures. Lizards belonging to the family of gekkos which occur in India are expected to experience about 24 per cent extinction by 2050.

May 13

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100514/jsp/frontpage/story_12448299.jsp

China-Himalaya

FROZEN EARTH ON QINGHAI-TIBET PLATEAU

The frozen earth on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau has thickened by more than 20 centimeters in the past several decades, according to the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS). The frozen earth on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau keeps thickening, leading the thaw of ice nearby. Because of the global warming, part of frozen earth begins melting and then soaks into the ground.

May 10

http://eng.tibet.cn/09index/xwtt/201005/t20100510_575592.htm

Pakistan-Himalaya

AGAINST LOAD SHEDDING

After tolerating five months of load shedding, citizens have finally been given some respite from power outages due to a rise in the water level of the Tarbela Dam. Power in almost all big cities has been supplied without any interruption for the last 48 hours. Commercial and industrial sectors continue to feel to suffer the consequences of load shedding.

May 9, 2010

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\05\09\story_9-5-2010_pg13_1

LANDSLIDE THREATS HUNZA LAKE

The water level of a landslide-triggered lake in Hunza is threateningly on the rise, with another village facing risks of a flood. The artificial lake formed out of a landslide, has not only destroyed the Atta Abad village, but also completely covered the villages of Gojal, Aieenabad and Shashkat. The threatening water level may inundate Gulmit, the headquarters of Gojal tehsil, as its low-lying areas are already under water.

May 10, 2010

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\05\10\story_10-5-2010_pg1_3

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