

Headlines Himalaya

January 26 - February 1, 2015

No. 339

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For the 339th issue, we reviewed 21 news reports from 10 sources and selected 12 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, lakes in western part of Nepal are at risk while in India two new bird species have been enlisted in authoritative bird checklist. Similarly, in Tibet, China, livelihood of people has improved and construction of a new farm road is benefitting farmers in Zawa, Bhutan. And, locals in Peshawar, Pakistan demand repair of tube wells to solve water crisis.

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	<i>Handmade Paper at Risk</i> <i>Lakes in Peril</i> <i>Deforestation and Mining in Chure</i> <i>Safer Habitat for Blackbucks</i> <i>Hazard Warning System in Surkhet</i> <i>Reduction in Orange Production</i>
INDIA	<i>Two New Bird Species Discovered</i> <i>Himachal Pradesh Commended</i>
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Nepal-Himalaya

HANDMADE PAPER AT RISK

Handmade paper is at risk in Pachthar, eastern Nepal due to the falling price, rise in post production cost and shortage of raw materials as well as skilled workforce. More specifically, rising price of Argeli, a key raw material, has increased production cost of small-time businessmen, forcing many to quit business altogether. Around 100 households of Lalikharka area of the district are into handmade paper making business.

January 27

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91049

LAKES IN PERIL

About seven lakes in Lekhnath Municipality, Pokhara in western Nepal are at high risk of extinction due to the negligence of local authorities. Lekhnath Municipality and Pokhara Valley Municipal Committee had jointly initiated work to preserve the lakes five years ago but their efforts were limited only to mud dam construction to stop encroachment.

January 27, 31

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Seven+lakes+in+Lekhnath+on+verge+of+extinction&NewsID=443093>

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/01/27/national/jagdishpur-lake-sees-rise-in-number-of-water-birds/400891.html>

DEFORESTATION AND MINING IN CHURE

Deforestation and illegal sand mining in the Chure area has posed serious threat of flood and landslide in Udaypur, eastern Nepal. Excessive mining has also been leading to decline in water level of the area. In another case, flood victims of Tinsthan, Birendranagar, mid western Nepal are receiving relief worth NPR 227, 900 by the Environment Improvement Society with financial support of OXFAM Nepal.

January 27, 31

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91105

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91340

SAFER HABITAT FOR BLACKBUCKS

Safer habitat is being prepared at the Khairapur-based Blackbuck Conservation Area (BCA) in Gulariya, Bardiya district, eastern Nepal for the conservation of black bucks (*Antelope cervicapra*). According to the concerned authorities they were impelled to take such an action after 40 black bucks were swept away by a flood last year. The species is listed as near threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

January 28

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/01/28/national/safer-habitat-being-built-for-conservation-of-blackbucks/400947.html>

HAZARD WARNING SYSTEM IN SURKHET

A hazard early warning system has been installed in Surkhet, mid western Nepal to reduce risks from possible disasters by pre-informing the public. The machine would make people alert through siren before floods and landslides take place. The machine would also update information on temperature and humidity of the area in every five minutes. Early warning systems would also be brought into operation in Dailekh, Jumla and Achham in western Nepal within a couple of months.

January 29

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=91212

REDUCTION IN ORANGE PRODUCTION

Prolonged drought in Dhading district, central Nepal has brought the orange production down by 30 per cent. Last year about 4,156 metric tons of oranges were produced from 424 ha of land but this year it was only 3,000 metric tons from 301 ha. This has motivated people to switch to cultivation of other crops.

January 30

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Orange+production+down+by+30+per+cent+in+Dhading&NewsID=442911>

India-Himalaya

HIMACHAL PRADESH COMMENDED

Himachal Pradesh in northern India has been labeled as country's best state with Human Development outcomes in a report of the World Bank. The assessment was done based upon the state government's performance on various parameters such as poverty reduction, women employment, education and health sectors. Similarly, the state has also become a lead state to execute various national level programs for infrastructure development as well as prevention of natural disasters.

January 29

http://zeenews.india.com/news/himachal-pradesh/himachal-pradesh-best-state-with-human-development-outcomes-in-india-world-bank_1538205.html

TWO NEW BIRD SPECIES DISCOVERED

The Authoritative Bird Checklist, published by Uttarakhand Forest Department, northern India has enlisted two new bird species. The total number of species has now reached 691. The species were great grey shrike and grey fronted green pigeon. Similarly, three species missed out earlier like Ashy wood pigeon, Rufous- fronted prinia and Rosy starling were also in the checklist.

January 30

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/2-new-bird-species-sighted-in-state/35996.html>

China Himalaya

IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD

Living condition of about 100,000 people in Tibet Autonomous Region, southwestern China has improved as the region had invested about 962 million dollars for the construction of 72,000 houses last year. Before that most of the people used to live in dark and congested residential areas. Besides that, Tibet had also distributed 7.62 million dollars to 10,000 families whose income was below average level.

January 30

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201501/t20150130_2243775.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

WORLD HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION

Five districts of Bhutan Wangduephodrang and Trongsa in central part of the country and Punakha, Paro, Dagana in western part have been nominated for the first ever World Heritage tentative list of the country. According to the culture department's conservation of heritage sites, these five districts have witnessed significant political events and cultural development throughout the history and possess collective architectural achievements.

January 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/five-dzongs-nominated-for-world-heritage-list/#.VMcdcMbfLdk>

NEW FARM ROAD- FOSTERING RURAL ECONOMY

A 2.7 km farm road connecting Zawa chiwog and Athang gewog center in Wangduephodrang district, in central Bhutan has been launched which benefits the farmers as well as other locals of Zawa chiwog. According to the villagers of Zawa, absence of farm road had posed a great challenge to bring the products to the market but accessibility will help them to get proper market for their products.

January 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/athang-connected-by-farm-road/#.VMcdisbfLdk>

Pakistan- Himalaya

FAULTY TUBE-WELLS

Locals of Peshawar in northern Pakistan are facing water crisis since last two months as the tube well had been out of order in the locality. As a result, people including women and children are forced to commute to other localities in the city in search of water. Considering the misery, people have started to demand authorities for the repair of those tube wells.

February 1

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-299229-PTI-workers-seek-repair-of-faulty-tube-well>