

Headlines Himalaya

July 12 – July 18

No 413

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For the 413th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 23 news from 7 sources and selected 15 happenings from four countries. In Nepal, 34 watersheds have been identified along Kanchanpur district of Chure region. The government of Nepal puts nationwide ban on the use of plastic bags while Bagmati river cleanup campaign extracts twelve tons of trash in its 166th week. In India, apple production in Himachal Pradesh receives 11.15 billion support from the World Bank. A new bird record, Temminck's tragopan comes from Bhutan. In Pakistan the monsoon-induced flashfloods swept away 140 mini power stations in the northern sector.

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

Ban on YarshaGumba Trade surged smuggling
Micro-Hydro Projects Lighten Up 212 Houses
Bagmati Clean Campaign Reaches 166 Week
Bann on Plastic Bags Resumes
Watershed Identified Along Churiya Region
Flood Water Sweeps Houses in Sindhupalchowk
Injured Snow Leopard Found In Mustang

INDIA

Soil Erosion Causes Economic Loss
Unesco Lists Khangchendzonga National Park on World Heritage List
World Bank Funds for Better Apple Production

BHUTAN

Traditional Water Sharing Mechanism Leads To Dispute
Domestic Fire Wodd Consumption In Bhutan Decreases
New Bird Recorded In Bhutan

PAKISTAN

Floods Washes Mini Hydropower Dam
Trees Chopped Down For Widening The Road

BAN ON YARSA TRADE SURGED SMUGGLING

Following the ban on trade of Yarsagumba, a rare medicinal plant in India the illegal trade of this herb in Darchula district, far west Nepal has increased. Police now, have started strict monitoring in border areas and successfully nabbed two smugglers.

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<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/2107>

MICRO-HYDRO PROJECT LIT UP 212 HOUSES

Nandibangkholo Micro-hydro project of 42 Kilo Watt capacity has provided electricity to 212 households of Malkabang Village Development Committee of Myagdi district, western Nepal. The total cost of the project was NPR 22.365 million.

July 16

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/2136>

BAGMATI CLEAN CAMPAIGN REACHES 166WEEK

Twelve tons of garbage was collected during the 166th week of the Clean Bagmati Mega Campaign and also the 101st week of Clean Bishnumati Campaign. Also, 275 sapling of various species of trees were planted alongside the river.

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<http://therisingnepal.org.np/epaper/showimage?img=uploads/epaper/2016-07-17/dd9c08da5afba704ab99668e2c8748e0.jpg>

BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS RESUMES

The government of Nepal has announced ban on the use of polythene bags across the country with the new fiscal year. Despite the prohibition set earlier, the implementation was feeble due to the earthquake and blockade of India. However, plastic entrepreneurs have stated that they will not comply until the government provides compensation or other alternatives. Around 4.7 to 4.8 million pieces of plastic bag are consumed daily in Kathmandu alone.

July 17

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/epaper/showimage?img=uploads/epaper/2016-07-13/33caef88040d83a0f7b431623ab06bf0.jpg>

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/ban-production-use-plastic-bags-comes-effect/>

WATERSHEDS IDENTIFIED ALONG FAR WESTERN CHURE REGION

Soil Conservation Office of Kanchanpur district has identified 34 watersheds in Bhimduttanagar, Bedkot, Pipladi and Krishnapur municipalities along the Chure range of the district. Conservation initiatives like tree plantation, protection from flash floods and building check dams around watershed are under the process.

July 18

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/2217>

FLOOD WATER SWEEPS HOUSES IN SINDHUPALCHOWK

The surging flood water of Bhotekoshi River triggered by continuous rainfall has washed away 79 houses in Tatopani, Liping and Barhabise areas of Sindhupalchowk district in central Nepal. The Araniko Highway which links Tatopani to capital city Kathmandu is eroded in several sections of the 30km long stretch.

July 19

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/2287>

INJURED SNOW LEOPARD FOUND IN MUSTANG

Local people have discovered a wounded snow leopard (*Unicaunica*) in Chhusang-5 of Mustang, western Nepal. Snow leopards are inhabitants of high mountains of central Asia, specially the Himalayas. Preparations are undergoing for its treatment. Usually, long term survival of the species is threatened by habitat loss, poaching and human-wildlife conflict.

July 19

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/wounded-snow-leopard-found-mustang/>

India-Himalaya

SOIL EROSION CAUSES ECONOMIC LOSS

The massive erosion caused by the Buroi river flood in Bishwanath district of Assam, India has washed away houses and agricultural land of several families causing damage over millions of rupees. Several villages in downstream are severely affected, which was caused by the haphazard digging of sand and gravel at the source of Buroi River.

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<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1716/state050>

UNESCO LISTS KHANGCHENDZONGA NATIONAL PARK ON WORLD HERITAGE LIST

UNESCO has listed Khangchendzonga National Park located in Sikkim, as the India's first mixed (cultural as well as natural) heritage site on the UNESCO Heritage List. The Park hosts significant number of endemic, rare and threatened species found in Central/High Asian Mountains. With this record, the total number of World Heritage Site in India reached 35.

July 17

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Khangchendzonga-National-Park-on-Unesco-World-Heritage-List/articleshow/53255032.cms>

WORLD BANK FUNDS FOR BETTER APPLE PRODUCTION

The World Bank has funded Rs 11.15billion to the Himanchal Pradesh, India under the Horticulture Development Project to boost apple production in the state. The project aims to introduce new technology for better productivity, provide subsidy on anti-hails nets. Apple is the main-stay of the 0.17 million families across the seven districts of the state.

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<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/rs-1-115-cr-project-to-boost-apple-productivity/267305.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/World-Bank-funds-1-15-thousand-crore-project-to-save-Himachali-apples/articleshow/53256875.cms>

Bhutan-Himalaya

TRADITIONAL WATER SHARING MECHANISM LEADS TO DISPUTE

The misuse of customary rights on water resources has created unequal water distribution mechanism on rural villages like Wangdue, Punakha and Paro, central part of Bhutan. The Water Regulations 2014 has granted right on equal basis for every individual but some landlords were found charging money for water use. Water related dispute are common in many villages during the paddy cultivation season.

July 15

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/water-sharing-still-a-problem-in-wangdue/>

DOMESTIC FIRE WOOD CONSUMPTION IN BHUTAN DECREASES

The electricity supply and installation of bio-gas plants in different villages of Bhutan has decreased the consumption of firewood in houses. Yet, there is significant consumption in institution like schools in recent years.

July 17

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/firewood-consumption-declines/>

NEW BIRD RECORDED IN BHUTAN

A new bird of Pheasant family, Temminck's tragopan (*Tragopantemminckii*) has been recorded for the first time in Bhutan from Larjab in Lauri village of Samdrupjongkhar. The bird is found across the eastern Himalayas that cover Eastern India, Myanmar, Vietnam and Bhutan. Though it was spotted earlier, it

remained to be confirmed only few weeks ago. With this new record, the number of birds species in Bhutan reached 715.

July 17

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/temmincks-tragopan-in-bhutan/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

FLOODS WASH AWAY MULTIPLE MINI POWER STATIONS

Flash floods resulted by heavy rainfall has swept 140 mini power stations and 20 houses in Shangla district, northern Pakistan. The two km road stretch which linked Lodhar to other areas was also destroyed by the flood. Pakistani Army have started the rescue operation to the affected families.

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http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=16_07_2016_181_007

TREES CHOPPED DOWN FOR WIDENING THE ROAD

The Road Authorities of Peshawar have cut down 639 trees planted along the road side for widening the 24km road section between Kohat and Hangu areas. Poor co-ordination and lack of proper planning between different concerned departments has attributed to such ill-advised measures.

July 16

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=16_07_2016_181_008