

Headlines Himalaya

Dec 18- Dec 24 (2017)

No. 485

Editorial Team: Sofiya K.C and Rajita Budhathoki

For the 485th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 18 news from 10 sources and selected 16 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, the introduction of mobile app has simplified the uplifting of water for irrigation in the hilly area of Myagdi, western part of the country. A new species of true frog, *Odorrana arunachalensis*, has been recorded from Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh, northern India. In Bhutan, 57 new species of fish have been discovered in an inventory survey of river basins that lies in the western part of the country.

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!

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SETI: A GOOD SOURCE OF ECONOMY

Workers have been benefitted by collecting the sand piles from the bank of the Seti River in western part of Nepal, compiled by the monsoon flood. Locals of Pokhara, central Nepal buy this sand with high price as these sand have a good quality than that of mines. This has become a strong source of income for workers in winter.

Dec 18

<http://bit.ly/2pOALGY>

SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN RURAL BAJHANG

As monsoon has ended and sources of drinking water went drying up, locals have been facing major scarcity of drinking water in Bajhang, far western Nepal. Women in the rural areas have been forced to awake late night and line up to collect water.

Dec 19

<http://bit.ly/2pRt9nd>

KUMALS WORRIED ABOUT FISH STOCK

Locals from Kumal settlements in Palpa, western Nepal are largely dependent upon fishing as their major source of income. Since the water level has fallen compared to last year, they have been worried about the decrease in number of fish in the river.

Dec 20

<http://bit.ly/2C8lsyT>

TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS DUE TO WESTERLY WINDS

Westerly winds have heralded cloudy weather condition throughout the country and western region is found to be the most affected region as stated by Weather Forecasting Division. The temperature of Kathmandu valley, central Nepal has reached up to 5.6 degree Celsius in minimum and 19.5 degree Celsius in maximum while Jumla, mid-western Nepal has its lowest temperature at 1.4 degree Celsius.

Dec 20

<http://bit.ly/2B3YzYS>

RISE IN HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Two different cases of human wildlife encounter have been found in different parts of Nepal. Wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*) have been destroying houses and attacking people in Urlabari, Millajung, Sundarharaicha and Belbari areas of Morang, eastern Nepal which causes local to forced to stay awake all the night as they are being terrorised by the tuckers, while a woman has been killed in a bear's (*Ursus* sp.) attack in Doti, far-western Nepal. Bear attacked the women when she went to collect woods in a nearby forest area. This year in Doti more than dozen cases of injury have been recorded that are caused by bear attack.

Dec 20 and 21

<http://bit.ly/2C7Dr8F>

<http://bit.ly/2lpzqB5>

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES DECLINED CRANES POPULATION

The reviewed master plan to build at least four deluxe hotels and one international meditation centre has started to show up by building new concrete structures inside the protected zone, near Lumbini Crane Sanctuary, western Nepal. The population of vulnerable Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*) has declined to 150 individuals over the years due to habitat destruction and human intervention.

Dec 21

<http://bit.ly/2Az7AJ1>

POWER PRODUCTION REDUCED BY 45%

The power production of Kaligandaki 'A' has been reduced by 45% this winter. Kaligandaki 'A' located in Syangja, western Nepal has been producing only 80 MW due to the low river current in Kali Gandaki and its tributaries despite its capacity of generating 144 MW electricity. This has been the lowest production of the year, according to Nepal Electricity Authority.

Dec 21

<http://bit.ly/2Eebppg>

MOBILE APP: A NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR IRRIGATION

A farmer from Beni, western Nepal has been using mobile app to turn-on the electric motor which then lift the river water up to 250 metres uphill. This technology has helped the farmer to irrigate the land quite easily just on a click of a button

Dec 21

<http://bit.ly/2lo6z0d>

<http://bit.ly/2zJfoqy>

ADULT RHINO FOUND DEAD IN DADHAGAUN

An adult rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) with a radio collar has been found dead in Dadhagaun inside Bardiya National Park (BNP), mid western Nepal. This rhino of age 38 years was predicted to dead of age related diseases as per an investigation done by BNP administration. The vital parts of the rhinos were taken before burying the carcass.

Dec 22

<http://bit.ly/2zMvqA0>

India-Himalaya

NEW SPECIES OF FROG DISCOVERED

Odorrana arunachalensis, a new species of true frog (Ranidae) has been discovered by scientists from Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Arunachal Pradesh, northern India. A black band-like mark between the eyes has been reported to be the distinguished characteristics of this species, according to scientists.

Dec 23

<http://bit.ly/2lo2BEI>

CULPRIT GOT RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT

The total of 44 encroachers of the Manas National Park (MNP) of Baska district in Assam, north eastern India have been sentenced three years of laborious imprisonment with fine of around USD 800 by the sessions court for violating the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. They inhabited the land of the MNP in Bahbari and Bhuyanpara ranges after which the MNP authority have complained the matter to the Gobardhana Police Station and arrested the encroachers to file a case against them.

Dec 24

<http://bit.ly/2Dus5aP>

China Himalaya

TOURISTS FLOW INCREASE IN LHASA

The city of sunlight, Lhasa, capital of south western China's Tibet Autonomous Region has received a record of 16 million tourists in the first 11 months with a total earning of USD 3.4 billion which is 21 percent higher than the previous year. Home to hundreds of cultural heritage sites, including the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbu Lingka, Lhasa, China is endowed with more than 3,000 hours of daylight annually.

Dec 18

<http://bit.ly/2lgag02>

Bhutan-Himalaya

CONTAMINATED WATER RESULTS MASS SICKNESS

A team from Gelephu Central Regional Referral Hospital (CRRH) have visited Khempagang village in Samtenling village block of Sarpang District, southern Bhutan, after people started suffering from diarrhoea, vomiting and fever. They collected the water samples suspecting the contamination after around 30 people felt sick. The team suspects that the food was stale which led to the food poisoning.

Dec 20

<http://bit.ly/2zLeLMS>

NEW FISH SPECIES RECORDED

According to National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries (NRCRLF), 57 new fish species out of 104 species, have been recorded in an inventory survey of Amochhu, Wangchhu and Punatshangchhu river basin in Bhutan. The development of hydropower projects and sand mines in basins have affected aquatic management plan. In order to ensure sustainability of resources and aquatic diversity, community fisheries has been established and poisoning waters, setting traps and diversion of water were restricted.

Dec 20

<http://bit.ly/2lgxXxL>

Pakistan- Himalaya

ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

A three-day anti-polio campaign has inaugurated in seventeen districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. The campaign has been targeted to administer an anti- polio vaccine to five million children below the age of five. Tight security measures have been taken to ensure security of polio teams.

Dec 18

<http://bit.ly/2CmwRld>

FOREST FIRE KILLS TWO

After the fire erupted in a forest near Bashkoli village, Abbottabad district in the Hazara region of eastern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Pakistan, two forest officials have been burnt to death and two others sustained severe burn injuries while fighting to blaze. Although the resident of the area tries to extinguish the fire, the intensity destroyed thousands of trees in the forest.

Dec 23

<http://bit.ly/2DtieC8>