

# Headlines Himalaya

Dec 25- Dec 31 (2017)

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For the 486<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 13 news from 8 sources and selected 13 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Endangered Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) stork was spotted in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve after more than two decades. In India, cold tightened its grip on Jammu and Kashmir as the night temperature plummeted to minus 14 degree Celsius. Rise in the trout farming to meet up with the domestic demand of the fish in Bhutan.

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**            *Darchula citizens struggled for electricity*  
*Breathe of freedom*  
*Cold leaves mustang empty*  
*Adjutant seen in Koshi Tappu after 22 years*

**INDIA**            *Migratory birds vulnerable to poaching*  
*Tiger found dead in Nichlamari forest area*  
*Wular Lake turned into a garbage dump*  
*Awareness rally against drugs threat*  
*Battal villagers faced water crisis*  
*Leh recorded coldest winter*

**CHINA**            *An aid to Tibetan medical treatment*

**BHUTAN**            *Demand of trout in fish centres*  
*Wangchu's water unsafe for health*

### DARCHULA CITIZENS STRUGGLED FOR ELECTRICITY

Locals of Lekam, Darchula, far-western Nepal have been restrained from the use of electricity for the past five months after a local micro hydropower project has closed-down. Around 120 households have been facing difficulties due to the breakdown of a machine that produced 11.5 kilowatt of electricity. Project constructed three years ago at the cost of NPR 4.1 million had been waiting for a budget for the restoration of a machine.

**Dec 27**

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

### BREATHE OF FREEDOM

With the efforts of the Central Investigation Bureau and animal welfare activist, a 19 and 17 -years-old sloth bear (*Ursus sp.*) of have been freed of the pain and imprisonment by the Nepal Police from Rautahat, east central Nepal. The last two known dancing bear in Nepal had been found travelling 160 km across the eastern Terai from Sukhipur of Siraha district, along with the bears owners after they had been on the run since four days. According to the conservationists, wildlife position of sloth beers for dancing was banned by Wildlife Conservation Act (1973) but illegal practice continued due to ignorance.

**Dec 27**

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

### COLD LEAVES MUSTANG EMPTY

Natives of upper Mustang, western Nepal have shifted to lowlands to evade the frost cold leaving most of the villages empty. As per the sources, tourism has also been affected after majority of the hotels and lodges closed down. While most of the locals sheltered in lowlands during cold, some have migrated to India and other different parts of Nepal.

**Dec 27**

<http://bit.ly/2AmT3zg>

### ADJUTANT SEEN IN KOSHI TAPPU AFTER 22 YEARS

An endangered member of stork family, Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) has been seen at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, eastern Nepal after 22 years. Ornithologists claimed that these birds used to live in the roadside trees of Inaruwa, Dharan, and Biratnagar areas of south eastern Nepal but have disappeared over the years due to habitat destruction. These birds play a massive role in balancing ecosystem, according to the conservationists.

**Dec 27**

<http://bit.ly/2AmM1ur>

### MIGRATORY BIRDS VULNERABLE TO POACHING

The migratory birds in Kashmir's water bodies have become highly susceptible to poaching due to the lack of well-equipped Wild Life Department required for the proper scrutiny of the place. The wetland of Kashmir, northern India is an alternative habitat for the migratory bird species like Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), Brahminy Duck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*),

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) and many more. Despite the increase in poachers, wildlife department are still mute towards the protection of these migratory birds.

**Dec 25**

<http://bit.ly/2E35LoZ>

#### **TIGER FOUND DEAD IN NICHLAMARI FOREST AREA**

A Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) of the Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve has been found death with multiple injuries in Nichlamari Forest Area camp, Assam, north eastern India. According to the authorities, the tiger has died after it encountered a fight with wild buffaloes (*Bubalus arnee*). After post-mortem examination, the body has been buried by the forest staff inside the park area.

**Dec 27**

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

#### **WULAR LAKE TURNED INTO A GARBAGE DUMP**

The famous lake of Bandipora, northern India has turned into a garbage site due to the ignorance of the government. Instead of heavy charges, the administration seems to be in contact with land mobs which encouraged an illegal dumping in the site. Complete negligence has resulted in a heavy spread of mosquitoes and other harmful insects leading to a suffocating environment.

**Dec 29**

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

#### **AWARENESS RALLY AGAINST DRUGS THREAT**

In order to spread awareness among the youngsters about the negative impacts of drugs in health, National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government, Sri Pratap Memorial Rajput College of Commerce, has conducted one day awareness rally in Jammu, northern India. Besides rally, various programmes were organized with a view to draw the attention of different sections of society.

**Dec 30**

<http://bit.ly/2CDH1Yf>

#### **BATTAL VILLAGERS FACED WATER CRISIS**

Battal villagers of Udhampur district, northern India have been facing water crisis after the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has interrupted water supply since three months. The people have held a protest against PHE demanding the release of water once in a week but remained unremarked.

**Dec 30**

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

#### **LEH RECORDED COLDEST WINTER**

Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, northern India has experienced the coldest winter this year. The temperature was noted 14 degree Celsius below the freezing point and has a possibility of snow fall and temperature drop. Since, temperature is frequently noted by the officials, Kashmir has been broadcasted as dry weather for few days by weather officer.

**Dec 31**

<http://bit.ly/2COp0TN>

## China Himalaya

### AN AID TO TIBETAN MEDICAL TREATMENT

The total of 12 victims suffering from a lethal but common parasitic tapeworm disease, that have been infected with cysticercosis, have received free Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans in Tibet. One of the victims have also got an aid of around USD 1,377 as the surgical cost of the disease, which has been found to be unaffordable by the victim. The victims got the sponsor from the joint project between China and the United States, established in 1987 in order to improve education in health care, environmental protection as well as art and culture in Lhasa and other Tibetan areas.

**Dec 31**

<http://bit.ly/2ESnO2x>

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### DEMAND OF TROUT IN FISH CENTRES

With the increment in the demand of Trout fish (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) the National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake in Haa, western Bhutan has received several proposals to enhance trout farming in the country. In Bhutan about 3,000 to 4,000 metric tonnes (MT) of trout is consumed annually among which partly is imported from Kashmir, northern India and other sources. So, the centres targets to increase the farming of Trout's to meet the needs of the people and to replace the imports.

**Dec 26**

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

### WANGCHU'S WATER UNSAFE FOR HEALTH

The water quality test of Wangchu river, Bhutan has assured the presence of *E.coli* bacteria that has highly altered the natural quality of water and could cause diseases such as typhoid, diarrhoea, and fever. Project Director of Wangchu Water keeper Alliance claimed that about 8 to 63.4 MPN (Mega Pascal) of *E.coli* was found per 100 milliliter of water in the area like Dodena, midwestern Bhutan which is least polluted and 2,238 MPN per 100 milliliter in Centenary Farmer's market which is highly polluted. Leaking septic tanks, waste water treatment discharge and animal waste were reported to be the major sources for high *E. coli* presence in the area.

**Dec 31**

<http://bit.ly/2Cnc0na>