

Headlines Himalaya

Jan 1- Jan 7 (2017)

No. 487

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For the 487th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 26 news from 12 sources and selected 23 happenings from five countries. Chitwan, south central Nepal has become a hot spot for the migratory birds, coming from Siberia and Tibet this winter. Red Panda Network and Himali Conservation Forum have come together for a good cause of conserving the endangered red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) along with the involvement of the locals in Myagdi, western part of the country. In India, people of Kishtwar town, Jammu are still struggling for the daily supply of drinking water. Declination of Cardamom's (*Elettaria cardamomum* and *Amomum cardamomum*) quality has led to the downfall in its market price at 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

Jhumla prison faced water crisis
Sixty-six km track opened in Karnali corridor
Snowfall and light drizzle in Rasuwa
Banke health post wrestled with the shortage of medicine
Siberian bird migrated to Nepal
Unrepaired irrigation canal lowered the wheat production
Thirty-three metric tons of waste managed
Joining hands for Red panda conservation
End of struggle for drinking water
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Weather influenced winter Chillies

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JHUMLA PRISON FACED WATER CRISIS

An acute shortage of drinking water has compelled the prisoners to rely upon the contaminated water of Tila River, Jhumla, far western Nepal which has caused them to suffer from tonsillitis, stone and skin related diseases. Despite the notification of the problem to the Building Division Office (BDO), Drinking Water and Cleanliness Office (DWCO), the authorities have not addressed the problem. According to the Chief District Officer, the problem has arisen due to the lack of planning and management, before the construction of the jail.

Jan 2

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33621/>

SIXTY-SIX KM TRACK OPENED IN KARNALI CORRIDOR

Nepal Army (NA) has made a remarkable progress in the construction of Karnali corridor project, far western Nepal. As a result, 66 km out of targeted 196 km has been completed where vehicles started to ply on the Khulalu-Simikot road section, far western Nepal. The completion of this project is believed to bring remarkable growth of agricultural, health, education, tourism and the hydro sector in economically backward region, Karnali.

Jan 2

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33629/>

SNOWFALL AND LIGHT DRIZZLE IN RASUWA

Langtang, Kyanjin, Gosaikunda, Dhunche, Cholangpati, Lauribina and Chandanbari of northern areas of the Rasuwa district, central Nepal have received snowfall followed by light drizzle recently. This has dropped the level of the temperature in the northern areas of the district and affected the lives of the locals by the cold as a result of the snowfall.

Jan 2

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

BANKE HEALTH POST WRESTLED WITH THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICINE

The Health Post of Banke, mid western Nepal has failed to provide the basic medicines to the patients due to the shortage. According to the locals, it's been a two months that the medicine supply has been discontinued and the post is lacking even the antibiotics for general illnesses such as cough, cold and aches. The patients are compelled to return empty handed even when ready to pay high cost.

Jan 5

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33789/>

SIBERIAN BIRD MIGRATED TO NEPAL

Flocks of bird have arrived in Chitwan, south western Nepal flying across the mountains to escape the harsh winter. Mostly birds from Siberia and Tibet migrate to the temperate regions of Nepal as the temperature freezes in Tibet. Over 150 species of bird migrate into Nepal each year among them more than 22 are duck species and over 50 are water fowls species.

Jan 5

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33822/>

UNREPAIRED IRRIGATION CANAL LOWERED THE WHEAT PRODUCTION

Total of 76,500 hectares of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) crop cultivated in Parsa, Bara and Rautahaut districts of the central Terai, south eastern Nepal has been affected by an inadequate irrigation services. The problem arises after the destruction of the Gandak canal by the flood during August 2017, thus hampering the irrigation canal. Even after more than a year of this incident, the canal still remains unrepaired. As a result, about 20-30 percent of

wheat crop production is suspected to be affected in these districts according to the District Agricultural Development Office.

Jan 5

<http://bit.ly/2mrd2IP>

<http://bit.ly/2CQ1AwG>

THIRTY-THREE METRIC TONS OF WASTE MANAGED

In the 243rd week of Bagmati Cleaning Campaign, about 33 metric tons of waste has been extracted from the territory of Bagmati River near Koteshwor, central Nepal. Nepal Army along with Nepal Police and other related committees and institutions have joined together for the cleaning campaign as per the report.

Jan 6

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49569>

JOINING HANDS FOR RED PANDA CONSERVATION

The mass participation of the locals from Gurja Community Forest, Myagdi, western Nepal have been sighted in the awareness and training programs conducted by Red Panda Network and Himali Conservation Forum as a potent effort for Red Panda conservation. Approximately 200 individuals of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) has been estimated in the community forest of Gurja and Lulang adjoining the Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, western Nepal.

Jan 6

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33881/>

END OF STRUGGLE FOR DRINKING WATER

Drinking water tap has been established for the first time in the Dalit Villages of Dolpa, far western Nepal. This project has been initiated by Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project financially with the total budget of NPR 2.4 million. As per the report, 31 houses of Dalit community have been benefitted by this project.

Jan 6

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33838/>

ECSTATIC OKHALDHUNGA: A RESULT OF SUSPENSION BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Locals of Okhaldhunga, eastern Nepal have been very delighted with the construction of 194m of suspension bridge over the Sun Koshi River. The suspension bridge connects Palapu of Okhaldhunga district with Khangsang of Sindhuli district, eastern Nepal which has now simplified the lives of the locals in terms of transportation.

Jan 6

<http://bit.ly/2EuV272>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49562>

TONS OF DUST IN ONE AND HALF MONTHS

Kathmandu Metropolitan Municipality, central Nepal has collected 1200 tons of dust in the period of one-and-a-half months under the 'Clean the City' campaign. The campaign was started at the end of November, 2017 which collected dust firstly from Sundhara to Nayasadak, Ratnapark, Jamal, Lainchaur, Putalisadak, Singhadurbar, Tripureshwor, and Baneshwor, as informed by the Environment Management Department. The collected dusts are being managed at Teku, Kathmandu, central Nepal on a continuous basis.

Jan 6

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49548>

MOUNTAIN MEDICINE TRAINING IN NEPAL

Twenty medical doctors from Nepal, Australia, Europe and America have successfully gathered and took part in the mountain medicine training which was held in Kathmandu, central Nepal and Manang, north western Nepal. Experimentation with altitude sickness, moving on fix line technique, glacier walking, high altitude trekking, basic ice climbing, crevasse rescue techniques have been practiced during the courses. The main goal of a month long training was to produce highly qualified altitude doctors in Nepal.

Jan 7

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

TOURIST NUMBER INCREASED AT KAKADVATA CHECKPOINT

The number of tourists entering Nepal via Kakadvitta checkpoint of Jhapa, south eastern Nepal, has increased by 1,323 in 2017. Most of the tourists visiting Nepal via the eastern check point were from United State of America and Bhutan. While the total tourist number has increased, the number of Bangladeshi tourist entering through Kakadvitta has decreased by 300 compared to 2016.

Jan 7

<http://bit.ly/2Fon31t>

BEEKEEPING BUSINESS ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION

Beekeeping business in Dhaulagiri, western Nepal has been hampered due to the chronic exposure of bees (*Apis* spp.) towards the high amount of pesticides used in vegetable farms. As a result, the population of bees have declined over the past five years. The village now has to import honey from the other places whereas in the past, the place used to generate a good amount of honey.

Jan 7

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/33900/>

India-Himalaya

REQUIREMENT OF EXTREME MANPOWER IN SOIL TESTING LABS

Because of the lack of manpower and huge vacancy in the Agriculture Department, the analysis of soil sent by the villagers of Dodo district, Jammu, northern India were neglected. Nine posts of ZAE0, 30 posts of JAE0 and two posts of Lab Assistant are still vacant since two years. However, the villagers have been visiting the department day by day with a hope to acquire the result of the given samples.

Jan 3

<http://bit.ly/2FopK2W>

KISHTWAR TOWN ON WATER CRISIS

Although the people of Kishtwar town, Jammu, northern India have spent millions of dollars for different water systems but they are still in shortage of water. Public blamed the officials of Hydraulic Division for encouraging bribery, nepotism and making illegal connections at the time of water supply. The mechanical division also supplied low standard machinery which has resulted in a problem in pumping station. To compensate the water crisis, the department set water tankers, but the water given to the public was unhygienic and unhealthy.

Jan 5

<http://bit.ly/2qQ3zQ5>

AVALANCHE ON SADHNA TOP

Snow avalanche on Sadhna top, northern Kashmir in northern India has resulted in the death of seven passengers and two Beacon commanders. One of the Beacon officers was hurt while the other was found under the snow

which was released by the rescue team. Among the seven travellers, a 7 years old boy was found alive and rescued whereas remaining six passengers are still missing.

Jan 5

<http://bit.ly/2CZfll2>

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

POLICY FOR TEA GARDENERS

The government of Assam, north eastern India, had run a strategy to uplift the living standard of tea garden workers by organizing 'Chah Bagicha Dhan Purashkar Mela' in three tea estate areas in the presence of Ministers, Deputy Commissioners and Manager of tea state. The main purpose of this program was to bring ideas within the tea gardeners and to give them direct profit through banking system; also the amount of USD 39.49 out of USD 78.98 was transacted to the tea garden labourers.

Jan 5

<http://bit.ly/2Ev8k3y>

China Himalaya

TIBET: A HOME FOR BLACK NECKED CRANES

At present the rising winter in Tibet, China, has welcomed endangered Black necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*). Tibet has become an ephemeral shelter to over 8,000 black necked cranes, which is about 80 percent of world's total population. The suitable temperature and pleasant environment in Tibet have been reported to be the contributing factor for the glimpse of a huge number of this migratory bird.

Jan 3

<http://bit.ly/2mpqs8h>

ECONOMIC STATUS OF FARMERS IMPROVED

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has implemented series of policies to improve production and to uplift the living standard of people and pastoral areas of Tibet, China. The income has been recorded to be USD 1,595 per capita this year which was USD 876 at the end of 2012. Along with the economic status, the poverty has declined from 1,030,000 to 479,000 as per the reports.

Jan 4

<http://bit.ly/2D1eoo4>

Bhutan-Himalaya

DECLINE IN CARDAMOM PRICE

Though the market price of Cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum* and *Amomum cardamomum*) had a high value in the previous year, but in these recent years the price of Cardamom is declining in the market in Bhutan. According to Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC), the price of Cardamom has declined between USD 7.89 to USD 12.62 per kilogram against USD 11.04 to USD 22.09. Farmers have transformed paddy fields into cardamom grove seeing the high market value in the previous years but unfortunately the quality of these plants have been declining as compared to that of India and Nepal.

Jan 5

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

WEATHER INFLUENCED WINTER CHILLIES

The high temperature and rainfall have influenced the cultivation and production of winter chillies (*Capsicum* spp.) in Nichula, Village block of Lhamoizingkha, Dagana district, southern Bhutan. The farmers have to sow the seeds twice as the first seeds sowed in September could not germinate. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) has recognized three hectares of land for nurseries to cultivate chillies but the weather restricted their cultivation to only one hectare of land

Jan 6

<http://bit.ly/2Fs15KT>

Pakistan- Himalaya

ANTI POLIO IMMUNIZATION

The children in Lower Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Pakistan have promoted an immunization program against polio for protection. The meeting represented by the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Coordinator has concluded to inoculate the unvaccinated children of the previous year as this program was launched since last year to immunize 87,000 children but was interrupted due to security causes. Total of 63 teams including 829 mobile, 70 fixed, 46 transit and 18 roaming teams were made to facilitate the campaign.

Jan 4

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