

Headlines Himalaya

July 9 - July 15 (2018)

No. 513

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For the 513th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from 12 sources and selected 19 happenings from five countries. Catastrophic landslides claimed the lives of 56 across Nepal. Nakhanda, north eastern India identified as a new habitat of endangered Ganga River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*). Assam Government formed an exclusive rhino protection force to minimise rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) poaching. Himalaya belt of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region inhabits a completely new canine species (*Canis aureus*).

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

Rhinos gifted to China
Livestock farming uplifts livelihood
Landslide inflicts catastrophe
Landslides across Nepal: Death tolls to 56

INDIA

Endangered Dolphin sighted
Man eater Leopard
Force for Rhino protection
Heavy rain claims seven lives
Landslides block roads across northern India
Tea producers in trouble
Sapling plantation in Shimla

CHINA

New species spotted
Mudslide blocks highway
Remote sensing of permafrost
Tibet up skills Thangka painters

BHUTAN

Agriculture and food security: A mandatory curriculum
Village grapples with irrigation water shortage

PAKISTAN

Monsoon tree planting campaign launched
Water shortage troubles people

RHINOS GIFTED TO CHINA

A pair of one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has been transported to China from Kathmandu as a gift to Chinese Government. One male and one female calves were loaded in truck after small farewell function organized by Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal. These calves will be accompanied by doctors and caretakers. According to former Chief Conservation Officer of CNP, Nepal has been gifting rhinos to various countries for establishing cordial relations with other nations and he believes this will help in increasing the rhino's population.

July 10, 11, & 12

<https://bit.ly/2A25shb>

<https://bit.ly/2Af6lxJ>

<https://bit.ly/2LNJK20>

LIVESTOCK FARMING UPLIFTS LIVELIHOOD

The business of cattle farming in Lamjung, central Nepal has gratified some of the poor families by uplifting their livelihood. The Poverty Reduction Fund program has encouraged the villagers for goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) farming. According to the Chairman of community organization, the locals have also been involved in cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) cultivation as they have got loan in cheap interest rates from the rotation of poverty programs.

July 13

<https://bit.ly/2v255NN>

LANDSLIDE INFLICTS CATASTROPHE

Rainfall triggering landslide at Jajarkot, western Nepal, has destructed paddy (*Oryza sativa*) cultivation spread in large area. Along with this, it has displaced five families and posed great threat to dozens of houses. The landslide has also been reported to obstruct the local roads on which the local government has given an assurance to clear this blocked road as soon as possible.

July 14

<https://bit.ly/2A3Ql6K>

LANDSLIDES ACROSS NEPAL: DEATH TOLLS TO 56

Continuous rainfall all over Nepal has killed around 56 people and injured dozens of people in different part of country. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council have urged the provincial governments and District Disaster Management Committees to maintain high alert to cope with disasters during the monsoon. It has also assigned the National Emergency Operation Centre to coordinate with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology for the dissemination of early information about rain forecast to the concerned ministries and security agencies.

July 14

<https://bit.ly/2LK9uMv>

ENDANGERED DOLPHIN SIGHTED

The endangered Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has been sighted in large numbers at Nakhanda, the confluence point of Pohumara and Kaldiya River in Barpeta district, north eastern India. The sighting is noteworthy as the river dolphin in Assam was previously believed to be found only in Brahmaputra, Subansiri and Kulsi rivers. This report now confirms the fourth home of the species.

July 10

<https://bit.ly/2N6lzLO>

MAN EATER LEOPARD

A man eater leopard (*Panthera pardus*) has killed a person in Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR) of Raiwala, northern India. According to the officials, it seemed the man was killed after being dragged into the forest late last night by the big cat. The same leopard was suspected to kill a 5-year-old girl in nearby area on June 14.

July 10

<https://bit.ly/2A1H0fG>

FORCE FOR RHINO PROTECTION

Exclusive rhino protection force has been rolled by the Assam government, north eastern India to control the frequent poaching of rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) for their horn. The government of Assam has appointed around 90 youth constables and it has devised a well laid out mechanism for their training, using latest technology to the appointees for their capacity building. The constables would be mobilized in Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Manas National Park.

July 11

<https://bit.ly/2uWHUEF>

HEAVY RAIN CLAIMS SEVEN LIVES

Continuous heavy rainfall in Uttarakhand has killed seven people in Dehradun district, northern India and also has led to waterlogging in various localities. Moreover, a cantilever bridge was washed away by the flood and several landslides were also reported from the region.

July 12

<https://bit.ly/2Oe0bWS>

LANDSLIDES BLOCK ROADS ACROSS NORTHERN INDIA

Landslide triggered by continuous rainfall has blocked Dharamkot-Galu Mata temple road in upper Dharamsala, northern India disturbing the way of travellers in the area. Similarly, rain-triggered landslides have blocked the Gangotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, northern India leaving a large number of pilgrims stranded.

July 14

<https://bit.ly/2NHKgPh>

<https://bit.ly/2LxNvLL>

TEA PRODUCERS IN TROUBLE

Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) producers have been facing problems lately in Guwahati, northern India, due to various factors like below average production, inferior quality of tea, poor price realization and failure to make reasonable profit. Various delimiting factors such as age of tea bushes, failure to properly follow the cultural operations as recommended by the Tea Research Association (TRA), haphazard use of agro-chemicals, soil degradation etc. has led decreased production of tea. The quantity of pesticides in the tea leaves can be determined using an instrument for upgrading the tea business.

July 13

<https://bit.ly/2Oe7EFd>

SAPLING PLANTATION IN SHIMLA

On the occasion of three-day state-wide plantation campaign held in Shimla, northern India, more than 15 lakh saplings has been planted from July 12 to 14, 2018. According to the Forest Minister as many as 80,000 people had participated in the campaign including school children, women, senior citizens and youths.

July 15

<https://bit.ly/2LhdrvY>

China Himalaya

NEW SPECIES SPOTTED

Tibet Biodiversity Image Conservation (TBIC) researchers have filmed a new species of canine (*Canis aureus*) roaming through the Himalayas, in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The animal was confirmed to be a completely new canine species by a researcher at the School of Life Sciences, Peking University.

July 9

<https://bit.ly/2LxbPxu>

MUDSLIDE BLOCKS HIGHWAY

Sichuan-Tibet highway, south western China, has been obstructed by the mudslide triggered by continuous rain. Huge amount of debris has blocked the highway but no casualties have been reported so far. The Sichuan-Tibet highway is facing higher risks of floods and landslides amid the region's rainy season.

July 11

<https://bit.ly/2v268xd>

REMOTE SENSING OF PERMAFROST

Scientist have deployed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and thermal infrared remote-sensing technology to monitor permafrost changes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, south western China, which provides early warning of geological risks in major engineering projects. These devices collect images with high temporal-spatial resolution, leading to more accurate analysis of permafrost. The collected data helps in assessing the engineering risks caused due to the degradation of permafrost.

July 10

<https://bit.ly/2mGB8PK>

TIBET UPSKILLS THANGKA PAINTERS

More than 300 painters have been trained for Thangka paintings, a traditional Tibetan Buddhist art form in south western China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Thangka Painting Academy in Lhasa has been providing training to students from low-income families free of charge since 2012 with the aim to preserve the cultural heritage.

July 15

<https://bit.ly/2v1GCs3>

Bhutan-Himalaya

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY: A MANDATORY CURRICULUM

With the motive of providing students with cognitive skills in application of fundamental scientific principles in day to day life, the Government of Bhutan with Royal Education Council (REC) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to regularise Agricultural and Food Security (AgFS) as a subject in classes IX to XII. This law will be implemented from the coming academic year 2019. According to the Agriculture Secretary, the issues of agriculture sector and youth unemployment would be addressed by the MoU.

July 10

<https://bit.ly/2ulbOgl>

VILLAGE GRAPPLES WITH IRRIGATION WATER SHORTAGE

Farmers from Pangthang village in Kanglung, eastern Bhutan have been compelled to fetch water for irrigation from next nearer village as the village's only irrigation source has almost dried up. According to the farmers, they have been facing the scarce of water since long time back. To cope up with this problem, the farmers are switching their crops from paddy (*Oryza sativa*) to maize (*Zea mays*) with many left over fallow lands.

July 13

<https://bit.ly/2Oc3k9u>

Pakistan- Himalaya

MONSOON TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The monsoon tree plantation campaign has been inaugurated by the Chief Minister by planting tree in the lawns of Chief Minister's House. This campaign has been launched with a target of planting 300 million trees in three months. Additionally, the purpose of this campaign is also to motivate the people to plant more and more trees providing the facts that the trees play an important role in maintaining environmental cleanliness and overcoming the pollution.

July 13

<https://bit.ly/2JPW5Ri>

WATER SHORTAGE TROUBLES PEOPLE

People from two different localities of Kalugi and Mero in Topi tehsil, northern Pakistan have been facing water scarcity and are forced to fetch water from distant areas. The local employees who work in Tarbela Dam Powerhouse station near these areas also bring water from there for their domestic needs. According to the locals, despite of requesting several times for the maintenance of tube wells in the area, the concerned authorities have not responded till today.

July 14

<https://bit.ly/2JLvSDv>