

Headlines Himalaya

Jan 21– Jan 27 (2019)

No. 541

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For the 541st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 17 news from 11 sources and selected 13 happenings from five countries. Nepal has been ranked the worst in the world, in terms of air-quality among the 180 countries surveyed. An awareness program was organized in Beni, western Nepal in an effort to protect king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*). The villagers are still in limbo in remote Reshwari village, northern Kashmir after a bridge collapsed during flash floods in 2017. National level China mountaineering team is set to clean-up Tibetan mountains. An agreement has been signed up among three research and conservation organizations to study Black-necked Cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) in Bhutan. The French government has decided to finance Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Project to improve issues of urban transportation and maintain clean environment.

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

Erratic weather disrupts normal life
Landslide in Kaligandaki blocks water flow
Nepal ranked the worst in air pollution
Bagmati cleaning campaign completes two hundred eighteen weeks
King Cobra conservation initiative

INDIA

Locals demand bridge to be rebuilt
Assam tea workers to be provided with rice at no cost

CHINA

National team to help clean Tibetan mountains

BHUTAN

Collaboration to study Black-necked Cranes
A young farmer motivated to commercialize farming
Management team assures locals of no risk

PAKISTAN

France to finance Peshawar bus corridor project
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa spends millions on development

ERRATIC WEATHER DISRUPTS NORMAL LIFE

Snowfall in Karnali province, mid-western Nepal has made the lives of people difficult by disrupting the roads, electricity and air flights. Due to wind, rain and snowfall power supply has been obstructed in Baitadi district, far-western Nepal and also hindered the maintenance work. Solukhumbu-Kathmandu road has also been disrupted due to heavy snowfall. Despite these impacts, farmers in Karnali, mid-western Nepal and Mustang, western Nepal have expressed their happiness after snowfall as it would help them have good crop yields.

Jan 22, 24, 24 & 26

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

<https://bit.ly/2SaQr5e>

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

<https://bit.ly/2D6uSZq>

LANDSLIDE IN KALIGANDAKI BLOCKS WATER FLOW

Landslide in Kali Gandaki River in Gharapjhong Rural Municipality of Mustang, western Nepal blocked water flow in the river terrifying people living near the bank. An excavator being used for the construction of the Jomsom-Korala road had been used to remove the blockage.

Jan 24

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

NEPAL RANKED THE WORST IN AIR POLLUTION

Nepal has been ranked the worst in the world, in terms of air-quality among the 180 countries surveyed. With the lowest scores on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), it is indicative of Nepal of the need for national sustainability efforts especially on enhancing air quality, protecting biodiversity, and reducing GHG emissions.

Jan 25

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

BAGMATI CLEANING CAMPAIGN COMPLETES TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN WEEKS

The campaign in six years has helped manage thirteen thousand metric tons of solid waste of the Bagmati river bank, Kathmandu, central Nepal. Giving a major positive impact, different campaigns have been started for rivers like Bishnumati, Dhobikhola, Manohara, Hanumante, Karmanasa, and Kodku in Kathmandu. However, there is still a certain group of population which contribute in continuous disposing of waste.

Jan 27

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

KING COBRA CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

To protect a rare species of snake called king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), efforts are underway in the Koshepani forest at Ghatan of Beni, western Nepal. The Road Division Forest Office organized conservation awareness programmes and imparted knowledge about the ecological importance of snakes to the locals. Due to climate change, king cobra commonly found in Terai, is lately migrating to mid-hilly areas.

Jan 27

<https://bit.ly/2WDO1e6>

India-Himalaya

LOCALS DEMAND BRIDGE TO BE REBUILT

A bridge that connected the remote Reshwari village, northern Kashmir and other surrounding villages was collapsed during flashfloods in 2017. The villagers are still in limbo and they have expressed their frustration to the concerned authorities as the reconstruction of the bridge has taken so long.

Jan 23

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

ASSAM TEA WORKERS TO BE PROVIDED WITH RICE AT NO COST

Ahead of the elections, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Assam government located in north eastern India is going to make rice (*Oryza sativa*) free for tea garden workers and 0.15 dollar per 1 kg of rice for non-tea workers. The beneficiaries are given rice under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Jan 28

<https://bit.ly/2Tq9aX4>

China Himalaya

NATIONAL TEAM TO HELP CLEAN TIBETAN MOUNTAINS

The upgraded Tibet Mountaineering Team to the national level China Mountaineering Team will perform large-scale clean-up activities this year. It will mark the first time remains of mountaineering victims above 8,000 m will be recovered in Mt. Qomolangma, which is the Tibetan name for Mount Everest. The team plans to spend USD 590,000 on this campaign.

Jan23& 25

<https://bit.ly/2MM9SLL>

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

COLLABORATION TO STUDY BLACK-NECKED CRANES

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) signs an agreement with the Crane Conservation Germany and Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) to study Black-necked Cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) in Bhutan. The agreement was followed after the approval of the study by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) including financial support.

Jan 21

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

A YOUNG FARMER MOTIVATED TO COMMERCIALISE FARMING

A young man from Gangtokha village, Dagana district, western Bhutan was inspired to harvest chillies (*Capsicum sp.*) after Nichulavillage block agriculture office's drive for winter chilli production. The farmer produced 1.8 metric tons of chillies on 0.2 ha land in the year 2018.

Jan 23

<https://bit.ly/2Sdv6IE>

MANAGEMENT TEAM ASSURES LOCALS OF NO RISK

Some sources, who are following the Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project in western Bhutan, have warned that the landslides and crack on the right bank of dam construction is a serious problem. However, the project management and the economic affairs minister have assured that there is nothing to worry about the safety issues of the dam. The management has hired a third-party expert and radar has been installed on the hill to observe the underground movement.

Jan 25

<https://bit.ly/2GkzJt7>

Pakistan- Himalaya

FRANCE TO FINANCE PESHAWAR BUS CORRIDOR PROJECT

The French government has decided to provide a soft loan of USD 147 million for the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Project. The project aims to contribute to the government's strategy to resolve the issues of urban transportation. It would also help in improving energy efficiency and air quality through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Jan 23

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

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA SPENDS MILLIONS ON DEVELOPMENT

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has spent over USD 359 million on various developmental projects. The projects include provision to clean drinking water, pavement of streets, construction of bridges, improvement of drainage system, and solarisation of tube wells. Other more than 5000 projects are on progress.

Jan 27

<https://bit.ly/2D2taYI>