

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 488th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from 10 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Kiwi (*Actinidia deliciosa*) cultivation is gaining popularity after its high demand in Fidim, Panchthar region, eastern part of the country. Waterfowl count survey, conducted in collaboration of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Nepal has come to an end with a record of 3,641 water birds in Shuklaphanta National Park, far western Nepal. Dairy market in Dhankuta, eastern Nepal is presenting lucrative and impactful opportunities to the people of that region. Lasha in Tibet, China witnesses the growth of more than 16 million tourists, this winter. In Bhutan, the artificial pond of Bumthang, northern part of the country has become successful in attracting, Black-necked cranes (*Grus* sps.).

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NEPAL

Viral disease spreads in Jajarkot
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INDIA

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CHINA

More than 16 million visitors in Lhasa
Wildlife benefitted from man-made sand-break forest

BHUTAN

Black-necked cranes in manmade pond

VIRAL DISEASE SPREADS IN JAJARKOT

Viral fever has spread in Junichande Rural Municipality 1, 2, 3 and other wards in Jajarkot, mid western Nepal, taking the lives of many people. Children below 5 years and older people are highly influenced by this disease. Two more people lost their lives due to viral fever flowing since three weeks including 1 month infant and 3 people. Symptoms like fever, joint pain, headache, cough and diarrhoea are seen in patients. The additional teams of doctors, medicines, health assistants along with the medical team of army as well as the volunteers of Nepal Red Cross society along with medicines are sent to the infected areas.

Jan 9

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/34064/>

EXCESSIVE POLLUTION IN MELAMCHI

The lack of waste management in Melamchi, Sindhupalchowk, central Nepal has turned out into heavy pollution. The wastes collected from houses and hotels are directly thrown into the water sources leading to various problems, diseases and environmental pollution. Though the government has urged the municipality to manage the wastes and also have provided the vehicles, but the municipality has been ignored due to less availability of dumping sites. Communicable Diseases such as common cold, cough, cholera, malaria are spreading in the market areas, thus affecting the lives.

Jan 10

<http://bit.ly/2ri6WQ1>

PATIENT NUMBER UPRISED AT DAMAULI HOSPITAL

The number of patients has risen at Damauli hospital, Tanahun, western Nepal due to the cold related diseases as a result of sudden decline in temperature. The hospital has been accepting more than 200 patients on a daily basis since last weeks, as reported by the chief at the District Health Office (DHO). People are infected from common cold, cough, fever and pneumonia, so hospitals have been suggesting patients to take boiled water, liquidized foods and to keep them warm.

Jan 10

<http://bit.ly/2Diy0Qu>

INSUFFICIENT MEDICINES IN DADELHURA

After the management of local governance, Dadeldhura Health Organisation, far western Nepal has suffered from insufficient amount of medicines. The local government has not been able to buy 32 types of free medicines mentioned by the Nepal Government, which resulted in insufficient medicines in health post. Normal medicines like Cetamol and pain killers for children are also in shortage in health post. The medicines have been insufficient in Samyama Health Checkpoints of Ajaymeru Gaupalika district, Saddani Health checkpoints of Parasuram Municipality, Jogbuda Hospital, Parigau health checkpoints, Rupal health checkpoints, Vagarkot health checkpoints. Instead of giving medicines to the district headquarter; the medicines are distributed to the general citadel by Nepal Government thus, leading to the difficulties in the lives of patients.

Jan 10

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

FARMERS GETTING CHEATED ON BULK RINGS

Farmers are getting cheated in Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) purchase by the industry and brokers as the industries are buying bulk in low price from the farmer than the fixed price through brokers. More than 20 lakh quintal sugarcane is produced in Rautahat, southern Nepal. Though the price of sugarcane was estimated at NPR 531.20 between a farmers union and the sugar industry in Kathmandu, but farmers have been claiming that the sugarcane should be purchased in prescribed rate, but Shree Ram Sugar Mills, Reliance Sugar Mills and Everest

Sugar Mills in Kathmandu, central part of Nepal has been purchasing sugarcane in NPR 20.20 less than the prescribed amount due to these, farmers are on heavy loss.

Jan 10

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

HIGH DEMAND OF KIWI

Kiwi (*Actinidia deliciosa*) plantation in Fidim, Panchthar, eastern Nepal has adjusted a good market and farmers are also getting a satisfied price in the market this year. Realizing the advantages of Kiwi on health, the production as well as the demand of Kiwi has encouraged farmers for the cultivation. Total of 150 houses have planted Kiwi seeds and others farmers as well, which is presently sold at NPR 300 per kg in the market as per the reports.

Jan 10

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49698>

HERBS COLLECTION IN HIMALAYAS

District Forest Officer (DFO), Bajura, far western Nepal has granted the collection of Sugandhawal (*Veleriana Wallichii*), Mushroom (*Agaricus* sp.), Pashanbheda (*Bergenia ligulata*), Chiraito (*Swertia chirayita*) found in the Himalayas to the contractors every season in the present fiscal year 2074-2075. Six species of herbs have been allowed for collection namely, Chiraito 1250 kg, Karkatashringi (*Pistacia integerrima*) 800 kg, Sugandhawal 500 kg, Padamchal (*Rheum nobile*) 500 kg, Katuki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) 400 kg, Sunakhari Sungava (*Dendrobium densifloram*) 100 kg and others has been collected and transported. The sugar sheet 100,019 Kg, ordinary Mushroom 30,000 quintal and Timur (*Sichuan pepper*) 21,000 quintal has been sent to Nepalgunj on the month of Mangshir. The District Forest Office has cleared the black grain 400 kg, Lokta (*Daphne Bhoula*) 50 quintal and 1,000 kg of Allo (*Girardinia diversifolia*).

Jan 10

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49678>

GROWING MILK PRODUCTION IN DHANKUTA

Dhankuta, eastern part of Nepal had yielded around 13,000 tonnes of milk worth NPR 520 million in the last fiscal year, as more farmers took up commercial dairy farming. In the former year, the district has produced 12,500 metric tonnes of milk of worth NPR 500 million whereas, at present, the country's dairy sector contributes around 9 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A total of 950,000 families have been estimated to rely on this sector. Despite the high demand of milk, farmers have not been able to meet the demands due to the lack of programs to boost dairy production.

Jan 10

<http://bit.ly/2DJ5kRL>

DELAYED PROJECTS LEADING TO POLLUTION

Due to increased air pollution and environmental obstruction, the Ministry of Water supply and Sanitation has ordered the Project Implementation Department (PID) Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) to fasten its pipe setting works and to take particular measures for the conservation of environment. The pollution, health problems as well as traffic complication have risen up after the roads are dug for setting the water pipes. However, the PID has already laid a total of 65,000 meters of pipelines out of the total 77,500 meters for bulk distribution system.

Jan 11

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/34151/>

LOW POTATO PRODUCTION

Despite, the huge investment in potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) cultivation, there is a low production of it due to cold in Sunsari, eastern Nepal. The cold has highly affected the growth and development of potatoes resulting in the drying disease, decaying of tubers and also in the growth of citrus in potatoes. As nine thousand hectares of land in Sunsari support the potatoes cultivation, around 40 to 50 percent of potatoes are wasted leading to a great loss in the economy of the farmers.

Jan 11

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49753>

CATTLE FARMING: A BOON FOR THE YOUTHS

The huge numbers of young people are now attracted towards animal husbandry and agricultural production in Palpa, western part of the country. High market price of milk and vegetables has encouraged youths to start this type of occupation. Local youth has been able to earn around NPR 50,000 to NPR 1.5 lakhs per month from the livestock business and also their attitude towards this profession have increased over the years. There are altogether 65 households among which 27 households are earning unusual income from this work.

Jan 11

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49763>

WOMEN ATTRACTED TO MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

More number of women in Nepalgunj, Banke, mid western Nepal are engage now in the mushroom (*Agaricus* sps.) cultivation after a great success of this business in that area. The income from mushroom has helped the women to spend their daily expenses and also to support their children's education. As the demand for mushroom has increased so as the income, the livelihood of the local women has shown the drastic upliftment. District Agriculture Development Office, Bardia is continuously providing technological support to these women, to further encourage them towards mushroom farming.

Jan 11

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49733>

REDUCTION IN ORANGE PRODUCTION

The production of orange (*Citrus* sp.) in 'Orange Zone', Syanja, western part of Nepal has declined by 34 percent this year. Last year 20,000 metric tonnes of orange was produced while this year the production has reduced to 13,000 metric tonnes. Altogether 11,456 households have actively participated in orange farming in five municipality and six rural municipality of Syanja district but due to hailstorm, production of orange has diminished in the market this year. Although, the project is being operated for orange production development in the district but the farmers are unable to get the benefits.

Jan 11

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49732>

WATERFOWL COUNT IN SHUKLAPHANTA

Waterfowl count in Shuklaphanta National park, Kanchanpur, far western Nepal has been completed with the approach of National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and Zoological Society of London (ZSL-Nepal) guided by the leading ornithologists. The survey was done by the direct observation method along with the help of binoculars. Among 878 species of birds found in Nepal, 424 species (including water birds) have been found in Shuklaphanta which is more than that of previous year's record. The water birds from North Pole and Siberia in winter migrate to Suklaphanta that offers appropriate habitats and food.

Jan 12

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49791>

DRYING TINJURE LAKE

The lakes in the Tinjure Milke Jaljale (TMJ) regions have been drying due to the lack of proper inspection of the problems in that area. The TMJ consists of 28 species of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* sps.) of 32 species in the world. Lack of conservation, urbanization and pathways are predicted to be the reason for the drying up of TMJ Lake and also the nearby areas. Mostly the foreigners used to visit the place to observe different species of

Rhododendron, lakes, mountains, but drying up of lake has resulted in the decrease of migratory birds along with the reduction of the tourists flow, thus hampering the economy of the people.

Jan 13

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49840>

RESCUE OF A CROCODILE

An adult Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), about 2 feet long found in the central point municipality-11, Nawalparasi, western Nepal has been rescued by Sector Forest Office, Arundkhola; Armed Police Force Chormara; Police Station, Arundkhola and Nepal Army. The gharial is then released in Narayani River, southern Nepal by the team. However, the gharial was suspected to be lost in the search of food.

Jan 14

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49857>

HEAVY LOSS TO FARMERS

Despite taking ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) as a cash crop in Dhankuta, eastern part of Nepal, farmers are not satisfied with the income from ginger cultivation. Due to the decline in the quality of ginger, Indian market has denied to buy the ginger this year. Farmers are now facing difficulties to earn their living due to decline in the price of gingers, as 300 houses are fully dependent on it.

Jan 14

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/49867>

India-Himalaya

ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND

More than 20,000 hectares of forest land were found illegally encroached in Jammu and Kashmir regions of northern India, according to the data provided by Forest Department to the Legislative Council. Total of 23 First Information Reports (FIRs) had been lodged, 10 from Jammu and 13 from Kashmir, related to encroachment but the forest departments claimed that 4,732.44 hectares had been removed from encroachment.

Jan 10

<http://bit.ly/2DOPo0A>

LEOPARD FOUND DEAD IN RUDRAPUR

A leopard (*Panthera pardus*) estimated to be five years old has been found dead in Raipur village of Udham Singh Nagar, northern India. The carcass of the leopard has been sent for post-mortem. As per the Forest officials, the cause of the death could be poisoning as the traces of the blood were observed in its mouth while its teeth, skin and other body parts were all uninjured.

Jan 10

<http://bit.ly/2Bc9LSr>

China Himalaya

MORE THAN 16 MILLION VISITORS IN LHASA

The Lhasa, Tibet has received around 16 million visitors with the growth rate of 17.56 percent and the tourist revenue USD 0.47 billion with the growth rate 21.94 percent respectively in the year 2017. The tourism revenue has reached to around USD 28 million in Spring Festival and around USD 40 million in Tibetan New Year. Lhasa tourist industries have mainly emphasized on festivals, integrated tourism resources and created delightful atmosphere and hold sensational festival activities with unique Tibetan characteristic to welcome the more tourists.

Jan 8

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

WILDLIFE BENEFITTED FROM MAN-MADE SAND-BREAK FOREST

Man-made sand-break forest of the nature reserve that lies in southwest China's, Tibet Autonomous Region has been increased by an area of 680 hectares over the years. The forest now has become the residents of many animals including red deer (*Cervus* sps.), blue sheep (*Pseudois* sps.) and various species of birds as their winter home.

Jan 9

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

Bhutan-Himalaya

BLACK-NECKED CRANES IN MANMADE POND

A pair and two juveniles of Black-necked cranes (*Grus* sps.) have been spotted in the artificial pond in Bumthang, northern Bhutan. These artificial ponds have been developed by the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) with the help of local community that offered a good roosting area for this threatened species. There are three artificial ponds in Phobjikha valley, central Bhutan that provide the winter home to 383 cranes. Total of 499 cranes have arrived in their winter home, Bhutan as per the reports.

Jan 10

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