

Headlines Himalaya

June 16 - June 22 (2018)

No. 514

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For the 514th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 21 news from 11 sources and selected 21 happenings from five countries. Herbal plantation proved as an economically beneficial option to the farmers of Salyan district, western Nepal. Wrong policies contribute to the wildlife declination at Dachigam National Park, Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. Bhutan has undergone an increment of 20% in the number of cottage and small industry within a year since June 2017.

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FLOOD CAUSES HUGE DAMAGE

The flood triggered due to heavy rain on July 11 and 12, in Bhaktapur district, central Nepal has caused the loss of worth NPR 7.41 crore. Three people were killed and four were injured in this natural disaster. Furthermore, industries, petrol pump, school, livestock and poultry were also severely damaged.

July 17

<https://bit.ly/2O4naTd>

CNP CLAIMS TO ACHIEVE ZERO POACHING OF RHINO

According to the Assistant Conservation Officer and Information Officer of Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, the illegal poaching of rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has not been recorded since April 7, 2017. But 26 rhinos have died due to the natural causes like locking horns with one another, sweeping by flood, wound infection and ageing in the fiscal year 2074-75. A team from the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) has been studying the factors that caused the death.

July 17

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

FARMERS ATTRACTED TOWARDS HERBS PLANTATION

The farmers of Salyan district, western Nepal have shifted their traditional method of crop plantation to the medicinal herbs like Tejpat (*Cinnanomum tamala*), Kurilo (*Asparagus officinalis*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*). The good economic output from medicinal herbs has attracted the farmer towards medicinal plant farming.

July 18

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

KAILALI LOSING ITS FARMLANDS

The fertile farmlands in Kailali, western Nepal has been converted into infertile due to plotting, urbanisation, modernization. The farmlands are being developed into real estate by splitting the ancestral property as the government has banned the partition of land for development. According to the Chief of the survey office of the district, the government should also prohibit division even when ancestral property is being partitioned for the purpose of saving fertile land from further fragmentation.

July 18

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

SURVEY IN RIVERS OF JHAPA

The Chinese authorities have started the feasibility survey of nine rivers of Jhapa, eastern Nepal. The purpose of the survey was to study the status of river and to maintain the drift of river along with making the proper plan for the establishment of embankment in the river.

July 18

<https://bit.ly/2n68BTY>

CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS: PRIORITY OF RAMGRAM

Ramgram Municipality, the headquarter of Nawalparasi, south central Nepal has taken a step towards the conservation of wetlands from the encroachment. There are more than 50 lakes and ponds in the area. The municipality has prepared the operational plan for wetland preservation thereby accelerating the livelihood of people.

July 18

<https://bit.ly/2n6jghn>

MYAGDI TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT

The construction of eleven suspension bridges at different place in Myagdi, west central Nepal have made about 2,500 households easy to travel and also helped in the promotion of tourism. Among them, one bridge is one of the longest suspension bridge which is about 365.8 m long at Raghuganga. These bridges have been constructed by the District Technical Office, Myagdi.

July 20

<https://bit.ly/2Axu8OJ>

RIVER DIVERTED TO TACKLE FLOOD

Four hundred households living near the embankment of Lalbakaiya River of Inarba in Rautahat, central Nepal have been comforted as the course of river has been changed away from settlement area. The river course has been changed as the embankment was damaged. Thirteen spurs have been constructed by the Water Induced Disaster and River Control Division Office with the help of Nepal Army, Police to change the course of the river. Meanwhile, fifty families has been displaced due to threat of landslide in Gorkha, western Nepal. Similarly, the flood water has started to decrease in Saptari, eastern Nepal however the displaced people are still unable to return their houses.

July 20

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

CYCLE RALLY IN KATHMANDU VALLEY

In the early morning of July 21, around 3000 cyclist gathered at Lalitpur, central Nepal to participate in Kora cycling challenge. Kora is a clockwise tour of religious places which is followed by both Buddhist and Hindu religions. Cyclist of various age groups and foreigners participated in the rally. Apart from Kathmandu, the rally will be taking place in Pokhara, Butwal, western Nepal, and Dharan, eastern Nepal.

July 21

<https://bit.ly/2vvGy3Z>

DAM INUNDATES RICE FIELDS

Around 250 hectares of paddy field (*Oryza sativa*) in Kapilvastu, western Nepal have been submerged by the dam constructed at Mahasai River, India, by Indian side close to the Nepal-India border. According to the villagers, the dam is just 300 m across the border and every monsoon, the dam gates of Indian side are closed which causes problem on the Nepal side. The District Chief has urged the Water Induced Disaster Control Division Office to talk about the issue with the Indian authorities.

July 21

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

COMPENSATION TO PEOPLE

In 43rd year of establishment of Sagarmatha National Park (SNP), eastern Nepal, a compensation amount of about 24.4 lakh has been distributed to 62 people of buffer zone area who have been affected by the wild animals of the park. According to the Conservation Officer of SNP, this type of activities bring positive attitude in people towards the conservation of wild animals in the National Park.

July 22

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

EXOTIC TIMBER CAUGHT

In Lakhimpur, north eastern India, the Forest Department recovered and seized exotic timber from different parts of the district which worth several dollars. The officers from Forest Department raided the area and captured 3.7 pieces of Simal tree (*Bombax ceiba*), Bogipoma (*Chukrasia tabularis*) and other species. Altogether 188 pieces of plants have been taken under police control.

July 16

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

CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN AT KAMAKHYA TEMPLE

Cleaning campaign of Kamakhya Temple, northern India has been carried out under Swachha Bharat Abhiyan by 75 membered team of the Oil India Limited's Pipeline Department. This temple has been recognized as a Swachha Iconic Place and its development responsibility has been taken up by Oil Department. The cleaning team visited the temple area and cleaned up the garbage, plastic waste, dry leaves along with the road Bogola Mandir with Kamakhya temple as well as the parking area.

July 17

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

FATALITY OF MITHUNS DUE TO FMD

Large number of mithuns (*Bos frontalis*) roaming in the jungle has been infected with foot and mouth disease (FMD), at Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India. Till now, 15 mithuns and 10 cows (*Bos taurus*) have been reported to die with no proper treatment. The epidemic has been found to have affected the economy of poor farmers who closely depend on agriculture and animal rearing.

July 18

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

WRONG POLICIES CONTRIBUTE TO WILDLIFE DECLINATION

Due to the wrong policies of authorities, the wildlife at Dachigam National Park, Jammu and Kashmir in northern India is on the verge of deterioration. As per sources, the Wildlife Department and other concerned Department were issuing mining lease rights to the cement factories which may cause high risk to wildlife. The pollution emitted from these factories is predicted to be highly impactful to the wildlife thus endangering the wild species of the park.

July 19

<https://bit.ly/2n7dOL8>

TRAINING ON REVIVAL OF VILLAGE PONDS

One day training program has been organized on "Networking projects on revival of village ponds through scientific intervention", at Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. The main aim of this program was to resuscitate the pond along with the participation of local people through use of proper scientific ways and indigenous knowledge. This pond can be helpful in dry season and it can also be used to collect rain water during rainy season.

July 21

<https://bit.ly/2OGJ6Fk>

China Himalaya

FREQUENT SIGHTING OF SNOW LEOPARD

As per Chinese researchers the habitat of rare snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) have been extending in most areas of China. More than 60 snow leopards have been sighted in Urung, north eastern China from 2014 to 2018 and total population of snow leopard in China is estimated to have exceeded 1000. The snow leopard is protected animal in China and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has kept it in endangered to vulnerable list.

July 20

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

COMPENSATION AIDS IN CONSERVATION

The government has spent USD 109 million as compensation to the damage caused by wild animals. Due to the increase in the number of wild animals in Tibet Autonomous Region, south western China, the case of interactions between the wild animals and humans have increased. The compensation was financed by the government, while the rest was supported by insurance companies. The main aim of this program was the protection of wild animals.

July 20

<https://bit.ly/2O5K1Oe>

Bhutan-Himalaya

INCREMENT OF COTTAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRY

During the period of one year (June 2017 to June 2018), the cottage and small industry have grown up by about 20 percent. With the increase in the number of industry, employment opportunities for the people have also multiplied. Human resources were also upskilled through the trainings.

July 17

<https://bit.ly/2n3Atb5>

SOLAR FENCE: BOON TO GANGKHAR VILLAGERS

Gangkhar village of Udorong village, southern Bhutan is surrounded by dense forest which makes wild animals easy to enter the village and destroy the crops. People have spent sleepless nights to guard their crops. The life of people have become easier as the village has been solar fenced which is 4.7 km in length and covers over 121 hectares of land. According to one of the farmers, the amount of crop harvested has increased thereafter.

July 20

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

FARMERS IN DILEMMA

Farming activities have been halted in several parts of Bhutan due to less rainfall and farmers are still waiting for the downpour. According to one of the villagers, despite the availability of sufficient water sources, lack of irrigation channels has led to the situation of drought. He further added that if irrigation channels were built then people would not have to depend on rain water for irrigation. The National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) reported that the drier weather is the result of the phenomenon called as break monsoon which may last for one to two weeks.

July 21

<https://bit.ly/2Mch8PS>