

Headlines Himalaya

January 6-12, 2014

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Editorial Team – Chitra Magar & Jyotsana Dhungana

For the 285th issue, we reviewed 25 news reports from 8 sources and selected 12 happenings in four countries. In Nepal, pedestrians are paying off for poor road safety while rhino poaching is being controlled in northern India. Similarly, Bhutan becomes active in managing human-wildlife conflict, while Peshawar is likely to become a model city in Pakistan.

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 *Road Safety, A Tough Task*
Smuggling Continues in Sankhuwasabha
Middle Bhotekoshi in Process
Bird Flu Remuneration
Harnessing the Solar Energy
Scarcity of Drinking Water in Bhaktapur
Massive Reduction of Honey Yield in Jajarkot

INDIA *Controlling Rhino Poaching*
State Promoting Organic Farming

BHUTAN *Vigilance Against Poaching*
Human Wildlife Conflict Management

PAKISTAN *Peshawar to Be a Model City*

Nepal-Himalaya

ROAD SAFETY, A TOUGH TASK

Technical lapses in road construction, existing structure of roads and low consciousness among the drivers and pedestrian have made road security a challenging issue in Nepal. Five to seven persons in an average are losing life daily which accounts to nearly 2,000 in a year. Carelessness of the drivers is considered to be main reason for half of the road accidents.

January 6

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/29284-Road-safety-a-challenging-task>

SMUGGLING CONTINUES IN SANKHUWASABHA

Smuggling of Pangolin scales along with hides and bones of tigers and various medicinal herbs are uncontrolled in Sankhuwasabha district, north-eastern Nepal. The cost of Pangolin Scales ranges from NPR 60,000 to NPR 85,000 per kilogram in the local market. Extreme hunting has brought them on the edge of extinction although they are enlisted as protected animal species in Nepal.

January 6

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/01/06/national/pangolin-scales-smuggling-goes-unchecked/383472.html>

MIDDLE BHOTEKOSHI IN PROCESS

Middle Bhotekoshi project's civil and hydro mechanical works have commenced for the 102 MW project in Sindhupalchowk district, central Nepal. The work has begun after the agreement of NPR. 8400 million between Chinese company Gwangxi International Corporation and the project on January 1. Till date, of the total 18.06 ha for the project area compensation has been provided for 11.45 ha.

January 07

<http://nepaliheadlines.com/middle-bhotekoshi-project-civil-works-begin/>

BIRD FLU REMUNERATION

Nepal government has remunerated a total of NPR. 231.7 million to the poultry farmers who suffered from bird flu this year. According to Regional Directorate of Livestock Services (RDLS), 538 farmers in Bhaktapur got NPR 134.3 million, 237 producers in Kathmandu got NPR 41.9 million while 51 farmers in Kavrepalanchok received NPR 43.6 million and farmers of Makwanpur received NPR 1.29 million. Over the period, there were 215 reported incidences of the disease in the country.

January 08

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/01/08/business/govt-pays-rs-231.7m-in-bird-flu-compensation/383583.html>

HARNESSING THE SOLAR ENERGY

Increased load shedding of up to 80 hours per week as reported by the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has led the country to harness solar energy. Local stakeholders together with Pokhara sub-metropolis in Western Nepal have also introduced a project to install solar street lamps in two major business centers- Lakeside and New Road-in the city. Around NPR 2.2 million have been collected by business enterprises under the Pokhara Tourism Council while New Road Reform Committee has donated NPR 1.8 million for the project.

January 9, 6

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/01/09/editorial/harnessing-the-sun/383632.html>

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/01/06/national/pokhara-to-have-solar-street-lamps/383471.html>

SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN BHAKTAPUR

Locals of Bhaktapur district, central Nepal are suffering from acute scarcity of drinking water these days. The daily demand of the district is up to 8 to 8.5 million liters but the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) has been able to supply only 30 percent of it. The situation is a consequence of drying of water sources during winter.

January 10

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Acute+shortage+of+drinking+water+in+Bhaktapur&NewsID=402482>

MASSIVE REDUCTION OF HONEY YIELD IN JAJARKOT

Monsoon downpour during the flowering season has caused a massive decline in honey production in the Jajarkot district, mid-western Nepal. As reported by the District Agriculture Development Office the production has reduced by as much as 80 per cent (8.2 tons from 41 tons) compared to last season. However, the yield of oranges has increased by 5 per cent this year reaching 1,381 tons, grown in 140 hectares.

January 11

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=67804

India-Himalaya

CONTROLLING RHINO POACHING

In order to check rhino poaching, the forest department of Nalbari district of Assam, northern India has implemented a new strategy of providing additional officials and Bihu delicacies inside each forest camp during Bihu as the poacher are believed to be active during the period. However, the number of rhino has reached around 170 since 2001 in Guwahati district in the same state among which 41 were killed in 2013.

January 6, 9

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan0614/state08>

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan0914/at05>

STATE PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING

The Chief Minister's Organic Farming Project has been promoting organic farming by setting up 30 organic farms with an area of 50 ha each in Guwahati of Assam, northern India. Bio-fertilizers and planting materials have been distributed to farmers and two related organizations are reportedly involved in the quality assurance of the products.

January 7

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan0714/at092>

Bhutan-Himalaya

VIGILANCE AGAINST POACHING

Increased poaching of wild animals in different regions of Bhutan has led conservationists and officials to work hard in strengthening forest security. Recently, local forest officials have seized three musk deer pods from Wangduephodrang and two from Gasa. They have also destroyed 121 snares in Thimpu region along with 18 snares in Bumthang of Bhutan.

January 9

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/cost-of-poaching/>

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Electric fencing has proven to be a useful strategy to control human-wildlife conflict in Bhutan. From 2003 to 2013, 104.724 km including 44km of alarm fencing has been completed for which 8071.51 USD has been spent per kilometer of fence. The human wildlife conflict management endowment fund was established in 2011 and 12 community insurance schemes have been funded so far.

January 11

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/combating-human-wildlife-conflict/#.UtLs1NIW2JI>

Pakistan-Himalaya

PESHAWAR TO BE A MODEL CITY

To improve the cleanliness system, provision of drinking water and municipal services, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister for local government and rural development has finalized plans in which Peshawar in northern Pakistan would be presented as a model city. The redressal of problems confronted by people was the top priority of the present government and all resources would be utilized to provide better civic facilities to the masses.

January 7

<http://pakistan.onepakistan.com.pk/news/city/peshawar/273487-peshawar-to-be-made-a-model-city-inayatullah.html>