

# Headlines Himalaya

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No. 335

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For the 335<sup>th</sup> issue, we reviewed 15 news reports from 10 sources and selected nine happenings in five countries. In Nepal, world renowned Ramsar site, Mai Pokhari wetland is at risk while in India poaching of one horned rhino continues unabated. Similarly, in Tibet, China, launching of gas heat project has decreased the emission of greenhouse gases and Bumthang district in Bhutan has become the first district of the country to receive highest number of black necked cranes. Likewise, school students in Peshawar, Pakistan are getting opportunity to learn importance of historical sites of their area with the initiative of a local NGO.

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	<i>Mai Pokhari in Danger</i> <i>Electricity Leakage at Sindhupalchowk</i> <i>Operation against Deforestation</i> <i>Tusker Havoc</i> <i>Snowfall Troubles in Mustang</i>
INDIA	<i>One-Horned Rhino Killed In Assam</i>
CHINA	<i>Gas Heat Project Reduces Emission</i>
BHUTAN	<i>More Black Necked Crane in Bumthang</i>
PAKISTAN	<i>Importance of Historical Sites</i>

## Nepal-Himalaya

### MAI POKHARI IN DANGER

A group of geologists from Department of Geology and Namsaling Community Development Center investigating the reasons for the drying of the Mai Pokhari lake and wetland in Ilam, eastern Nepal doesn't have concluded that there is no geological reasons for drying up of water. The wetland is situated at an altitude of 2121m and is enlisted in the list of Ramsar sites since 28 October, 2008. According to the scientists, to increase the level of underground water for the lake, small water recharging ponds should be built around the area.

January 3

<http://www.ekantipur.com/kantipur/2071/9/18/full-story/337087.html>

### ELECTRICITY LEAKAGE AT SINDHUPALCHOWK

About 40 per cent of electricity is being leaked illegally in rural areas of Sindhupalchok district, central Nepal. According to Nepal Electricity Authority, local people in remote areas of the district lighten their houses by using hooks on transmission line. Authorities have already arrested two local people and penalized NPR 23,757 for such illegal activity.

January 3

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/1476>

#### OPERATION AGAINST DEFORESTATION

District Forest Office of Banke in mid western Nepal has destroyed more than 1200 huts encroaching around 260 ha of Sidhababa Community forest. Those houses were built by the flood victims of Rapti River. According to the victims, the trend of encroachment of forest area would continue until flood risk management activities are instigated in Rapti River.

January 3

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/1450>

#### TUSKER HAVOC

People at Thori VDC of Parsa district in central Nepal are having sleepless nights for the last one week after an elephant started to enter villages and destroy houses, animal sheds and agricultural farm. As mentioned by locals, the elephant has already destroyed two dozen houses but concerned authorities are not taking any action to control the problem.

January 4

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/01/04/national/tusker-troubles-thori-villagers/399889.html>

#### SNOWFALL TROUBLES IN MUSTANG

Continuous snowfall in Mustang, western Nepal has made the lives of local people difficult by disrupting the electricity supply and air flight. Similarly, people in Jajarkot, Dolpa and Rukum are also having hard times due to the continuous snowfall since 2 January. According to the authorities, this is not only making the lives difficult but also hampering the local animal husbandry and local economy.

January 4

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/1469>

### India-Himalaya

#### ONE-HORNED RHINO KILLED IN ASSAM

Poaching of one horned rhino continues unabated in Assam, northern India as one more female rhino was killed by the poachers at Rajiv Gandhi National Park in Darrang district of the state. According to the officials, this is the 26<sup>th</sup> rhino that was killed by the poachers in Assam in 2014 and since 2001 a total of 193 one-horned rhinos have been killed by the poachers in the area.

January 1

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/nation/poachers-kill-one-horned-rhino-in-assam-park.html>

### China Himalaya

#### GAS HEAT PROJECT REDUCES EMISSION

More than 100,000 households are now equipped with gas facilities in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region southwestern China which has made the lives of locals easier in winter and also reduced emission of harmful gases. The heating project was launched at the end of 2012 and people were provided facilities at very affordable price. This project has reduced total emission of carbon dioxide by around 180,000 tons, sulfur dioxide by 1,652 tons, nitrogen oxide by 510 tons, soot emissions by 2,544 tons and cinders by 13,900 tons.

December 29

[http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201412/t20141229\\_2184330.html](http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201412/t20141229_2184330.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### MORE BLACK NECKED CRANE IN BUMTHANG

Bumthang district in central Bhutan has recorded the highest number of black necked cranes in the last two decades. Till date, 34 cranes have been spotted in Bumthang, 22 in Gyetsa, four in Tang and eight in Dramphel. According to the Division Forest Office (DFO), number of cranes visiting Bumthang this year is approximately double than the last year. Earlier only around 10 to 15 cranes flew in at this time of the year.

January 2

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/more-black-necked-cranes-in-bumthang/>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL SITES

Non governmental organizations in Peshawar, northern Pakistan have come forth to educate school students about the importance of historical places of the district. An NGO De Lass Gul, has recently taken the students of government schools to Peshawar Museum and Archives Library in collaboration with Peshawar Uplift Programme and Elementary and Secondary Education Department where they were briefed about their importance. Peshawar is among the oldest living cities of South Asia.

December 29

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-292939-Programme-launched-to-raise-awareness-about-historical-sites>