For the 548th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 15 news from 8 sources and 13 selected happenings from five countries.

Water scarcity in Sankhuwasabha district of northeastern Nepal, has forced people out of their village. The longest river of Nepal, Karnali, located in the western Nepal is being polluted from the direct disposal of wastes from settlements. Rajpur Rural Municipality of Dang District in western Nepal has been suffered from an outbreak of measles. Spot-billed ducks which are native to south India, have been found reproducing and making Ghodaghodi lake of western Nepal their permanent home since last five years. Two new endemic species of wild orchids has been discovered. In Jammu and Kashmir of northern India, the rapid conversion of agricultural land for other purposes has reduced the productivity. Sanjiangyuan National Park in Qinghai Province of northwest China is a home to 270 species of vertebrates including 69 protected species. A massive forest fire had started in the Yangner in eastern Bhutan. The rain harvesting program has changed the livelihoods in Gangtokha village in Tsirang.

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PAKISTAN
DROUGHT FORCING PEOPLE OUT
Water scarcity in Sankhuwasabha district of northeastern Nepal, has forced people out of their village. Over 3,300 families are living under acute water shortage in three municipalities of the district, 45 families have migrated to another area. An integrated water project is needed with a huge investment, but has not been initiated due to budget constraint.
Apr 23

RHINO’S BODIES FOUND DECOMPOSED
The nineteen out of forty one dead rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) were found completely decomposed in Chitwan National Park, south-central Nepal. The park experiences the death of 22-25 rhinos on an average due to natural causes, however 41 rhinos have been found dead so far since July of 2018.
Apr 25
https://bit.ly/2JkSnDn

DETERIORATING KARNALI
The longest river of Nepal, Karnali, located in the western Nepal is being polluted from the direct disposal of wastes from settlements. Lack of proper waste management system throughout the Karnali River Basin is the greatest problem in the region.
Apr 27
https://bit.ly/2Ys2UQF

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE TAKING TOLL
Tanjakot Rural Municipality of Humla district of western Nepal has experienced a sudden outbreak of an unknown disease. Nine people have died and over a dozen more have become ill from this mysterious disease.
Apr 27
https://bit.ly/2WICmKL

OUTBREAK OF MEASLES
Rajpur Rural Municipality of Dang District in western Nepal has been suffered from an outbreak of measles. Over 50 children have been reported ill so far in the village. A vaccination campaign has been initiated with a medical team to control the outbreak.
Apr 28

MIGRATORY BIRD RESIDING PERMANENTLY
Spot-billed ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), which are native to south India, have been found reproducing and making Ghodaghodi lake of western Nepal their permanent home since last five years. About 69 spot-billed ducks were recorded this year around the lake.
Apr 28
ENDEMIC SPECIES OF ORCHIDS DISCOVERED
Two new endemic species of wild orchids (*Calanthe Himalaicum* and *Habenaria Palpensis*) has been discovered. With this discovery, the total species of endemic orchids in Nepal has reached 19. The species *C. Himalaicum* was found at a height of 2,200 m above the sea level in Doti District of western Nepal while *H. Palpensis* was found at a height of 1,500 m from the sea level at Mujhung hill of Palpa District in western Nepal.

Apr 28

FISHING NETS BANNED
The government officials in Nalbari District of Assam in northeast India has banned the use of net with mesh size less than 7 cm bar and 14 cm. This prohibition has been effective from April 1 this year to July 15 next year.

Apr 22

CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AFFECTS LOCAL FARMERS
In Jammu and Kashmir of northern India, the rapid conversion of agricultural land for other purposes has reduced the productivity and has resulted 60% of state’s population poorer. The agriculture sector supports over 60% of the employment in the region.

Apr 28

HUMAN – WILDLIFE CONFLICT
Sanjiangyuan National Park in Qinghai Province of northwest China is a home to 270 species of vertebrates including 69 protected species. Many vertebrates including brown bears, snow leopard, and coyote have involved in conflict and resulted the loss of lives and properties. The park management committee has insured for more than 17,000 herdsman in October 2018 that has provided the compensation for the loss.

Apr 25
MASSIVE FIRE ENGULFED FOREST
A massive forest fire had started in the Yangner in eastern Bhutan and destroyed over 283 ha of chirpine (*Pinus roxburghii*) forest. However, the reason of fire has not been found yet.

Apr 22

DESTRUCTIVE WINDSTORM
An unfortunate windstorm hit Bardo Gewog of south central Bhutan and destroyed six houses in Langdurbi village and a house in Khomshar village. Relief package with disaster kits had been distributed to victims.

Apr 22

RAIN WATER HARVESTING, A SUCCESS
The rain harvesting program has changed the livelihoods in Gangtokha village in Tsirang. The residents with this program have been collecting the rain water and using to irrigate farmlands. People used to walk more than 2 kilometers to collect water in the past.

Apr 25

Pakistan- Himalaya