

IIDS CENTER FOR GEOSTRATEGIC AFFAIRS

RES HIMALAYA

JOURNAL

*political / economic / social / strategic questions
shaping Nepal & its wider neighbourhood*



ABOUT

RES HIMALAYA

(/REIZ ,HIMƏ'LEIƏ/)

Res Himalaya is a biannual journal published by the Center for Geostrategic Affairs. It examines the political, economic, social, and strategic questions shaping Nepal and its wider neighborhood.

The journal sits between academic research and public affairs. Each issue will bring together long-form essays (approximately 2,000 words), on one thematic area which will be determined by the journal's editorial team. Contributors with relevant interest, expertise, and perspectives may explore questions that daily journalism rarely has the space to address within these thematic areas. Rather than reporting events as they happen, Res Himalaya seeks to understand what they reveal about the forces shaping the region.

The journal will publish contributions from researchers, practitioners, policymakers, journalists and independent writers, alongside work from IIDS researchers. Contributors will be offered an honorarium for published pieces, subject to the journal's editorial arrangements.

Res Himalaya aims to offer the depth of a research publication with the analysis, accessibility, and relevance like in a magazine.

IN THIS EDITION



The 2026 floods across Central Nepal and Tibet have forced Nepal to re-examine how it has built its economy and settlements around a landscape that is clearly becoming more difficult to predict.

Beyond disaster management, the floods have brought renewed attention to the concentration of hydropower projects along river basins, the movement of settlements towards roads and river corridors, and to the standards used to build homes and public infrastructure in disaster-prone areas. The floods have also raised a larger geographical question about where Nepal sits within its river systems.

The idea of being ‘upstream’ or ‘downstream’ is less static than what national borders suggest. Tibet is upstream of Nepal, while Nepal is upstream of much of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in northern India. India is then upstream of Bangladesh in the Ganges and Brahmaputra systems, and of Pakistan in the Indus System. When rivers cross political boundaries, so do the risks associated with. What does this mean for Nepal’s relationship with Tibet, India, and the wider Himalayan region?

This issue of Res Himalaya will look beyond the immediate destruction and into questions that follow a disaster: How are bodies managed after mass casualties? Who decides what gets rebuilt and where? How can successful flood-resilient infrastructure be designed? And who ultimately pays for climate-related losses? With foreign governments, international agencies, and corporations pouring in with assistance, including NVIDIA’s \$10 million contribution, disaster relief also raises questions about responsibility, philanthropy, and climate politics.

Res Himalaya invites contributors to examine these and other questions that the floods have brought to the surface by using Nepal as a starting point to explore wider questions of development, geography, and power across the Himalayan region.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Res Himalaya publishes original, thoughtful writing that engages seriously with the theme of each issue. Articles should have a clear argument, central question, or idea. Rather than simply describing a topic, contributors should explain why it matters.

The journal welcomes perspectives that connect geopolitics, history, political economy, economics, society, technology, security, diplomacy, culture, and related fields. The issue theme is a point of departure, not a rigid boundary, and contributors may approach it from different perspectives.

Articles should be research-informed but accessible. Res Himalaya sits between academic research and public affairs: we seek the depth and analytical rigor of research writing without the conventions of a conventional academic journal.

Contributions may take the form of essays, analytical commentary, historical reflections, narrative analysis, or other forms of substantive nonfiction appropriate to the issue. Personal observations, experiences, interviews, case studies, and anecdotes may be used where they strengthen the argument.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

LENGTH, STRUCTURE & FORMAT

1. Articles should generally be 1,500–2,000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography.
 2. Longer or shorter submissions may be considered where the subject warrants it.
 3. Use headings and subheadings sparingly. Articles should read as coherent essays rather than research papers divided into numerous sections.
 4. Avoid excessive bullet points, numbered sections, tables, or technical formatting unless they are integral to the argument.
 5. Define technical terms, acronyms, and specialized concepts when they are first introduced.
 6. Write for an intellectually curious general reader, not exclusively for specialists.
 7. Submit the article as an editable Word document (.docx).
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AUTHOR GUIDELINES

STYLE & LANGUAGE

Aim for writing that is analytical, engaging, precise, and confident. We encourage a strong authorial voice and clear, direct prose.

Avoid unnecessary jargon, complicated sentences, and writing that reads like a conventional academic paper, policy memo, press release, or newspaper op-ed. Make an argument while allowing the reader to follow the reasoning behind it.

Historical context should illuminate the present rather than become an end in itself. Where appropriate, consider beginning with a person, event, observation, contradiction, question, or striking fact rather than a generic introduction.

Strong conclusions should leave the reader with something to consider rather than simply summarizing the preceding paragraphs.

House Style

- Use “Nepali,” not “Nepalese.”
- Use “Himalaya” consistently; avoid using “Himalayas.”
- Use American English spelling and conventions throughout.
- Spell out numbers at the beginning of sentences; use numerals elsewhere.
- In running text, write “10 percent.” Use “10%” in scientific, statistical, tabular, and data-heavy contexts.
- Define acronyms at first use and use the abbreviated form thereafter.
- Prefer clear and direct language over jargon or unnecessarily complicated phrasing.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

EVIDENCE & SOURCES

Res Himalaya is semi-academic. A formal literature review or extensive methodological apparatus is not expected, but accuracy is essential.

Factual claims, statistics, quotations, historical assertions, and other verifiable information must be accurate and supported by reputable sources. Prioritize primary and authoritative sources wherever possible, including government publications, official datasets, international organizations, research institutions, academic publications, original documents, and credible investigative or journalistic sources.

Secondary sources may be used where appropriate, particularly for historical context, commentary, or reporting. Avoid relying on Wikipedia, anonymous websites, unsourced social media posts, AI-generated material, or low-quality aggregators as authoritative sources.

Where a claim is contested or based on a particular interpretation, make this clear and identify the relevant source or perspective. Authors are responsible for fact-checking their work before submission. The editorial team may conduct additional fact-checking, but responsibility for the accuracy of submitted material rests with the author.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

CITATIONS

All citations should follow the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), Notes and Bibliography system.

1. Use footnotes rather than parenthetical author-date citations.
 2. Use footnotes where a reader needs to verify a fact, quotation, statistic, argument, or source-derived claim.
 3. Direct quotations must always be attributed and cited.
 4. Substantive ideas or arguments drawn from another source should also be cited.
 5. Include a bibliography listing the sources cited in the article.
 6. Authors do not need to cite every sentence or provide an academic-style literature review. Citations should support substantive factual and research-based claims without interrupting the flow of the article.
 7. For online sources, include the relevant URL and publication or access information as required by CMOS.
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AUTHOR GUIDELINES

ORIGINALITY, AI & PLAGIARISM

All submissions must be the author's original and unpublished work. Authors must properly acknowledge ideas, language, data, and material drawn from other works.

Res Himalaya does not accept articles generated by or substantially written with generative AI tools. Authors must not use ChatGPT or other generative AI tools to generate, rewrite, substantially restructure, or otherwise produce the submitted article.

AI tools must not be used to fabricate sources, quotations, statistics, references, interviews, or other information.

Plagiarism, fabricated citations, misrepresentation of sources, and unattributed reproduction of another person's work will not be accepted. Authors should disclose if substantially similar material has previously appeared elsewhere and should not submit the same article simultaneously to multiple publications without informing the editorial team.

The author is responsible for the originality, accuracy, attribution, and integrity of the entire submission. Submissions may be subject to editorial screening for originality, sourcing, factual accuracy, and inappropriate use of AI. Where appropriate, the editorial team may request clarification about the research and writing process or supporting materials.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Please include the following with your submission:

1. Article title
2. Author's full name
3. Current affiliation and position, if applicable
4. Short author biography of approximately 50–80 words
5. Email address
6. Article word count
7. Short article summary of approximately 50–100 words
8. Footnotes and bibliography, where applicable

JOURNAL FACTS

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