



VACANCY: Chief Editor, Himal Southasian

SUMMARY: The Chief Editor provides overall leadership for editorial planning, content production, publication and user engagement of *Himal Southasian*, an entirely online publication covering politics, economics and culture in Southasia from a cross-border perspective. Chief Editor also functions as the chief executive officer of Himal Southasian (Guarantee) Limited, the holding company, and reports to the Board of Directors of this non-commercial media organisation. *Himal Southasian* operates as a virtual organisation with staff located in three countries.

Deadline for emailed applications: 10 June 2022

About *Himal Southasian*

Himal Southasian (<https://himalmag.com>) is Southasia's first and only regional magazine covering politics, economics and culture. The Southasian region is home to more than 1.4 billion people, and covers great swathes of interlocking geography, culture and history. Yet today due to political divides, neighbouring countries can barely talk to one another, much less speak in a common voice. For over three decades, *Himal Southasian* has strived to define, nurture and amplify such a voice.

An independent, non-nationalist and pan-regionalist publication, *Himal* tells Southasians about each other, and the rest of the world about this often-overlooked or misunderstood region. Providing critical analysis, commentary, opinion, essays and reviews – covering regional trends in politics and economics with the same perspective as culture and history – *Himal's* stories do not stop at national borders, but are followed wherever they lead.

Himal was founded in and edited from Kathmandu, Nepal, until late 2016. In 2017-18, the magazine moved its editorial operations to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and is now published by the not-for-profit company Himal Southasian (Guarantee) Limited which has a Southasian Board of Directors. From 2018, *Himal* has become a digital-only publication after 30 years of being published as a print magazine in monthly and

later quarterly formats. The content is available online for free access (without paywalls) – including the entire archive.

Published in English, *Himal* is meant for a general audience which includes those living in Southasia, as well as the varied Southasian diasporas around the world and anyone else interested in Southasian affairs. It carries original content in a mix of long form essays, shorter analyses and photojournalism features (and increasingly, multimedia content through its social media accounts). It does not engage in news reporting but provides vital context for better understanding processes that shape news events. The content originates from a network of contributors spread across Southasia and beyond who are journalists, academics or activists familiar with ground realities to provide authentic analyses and opinions.

Chief Editor Position

The position of Chief Editor falls vacant from August 2022, and the Board is searching for a suitable candidate for this full-time, senior journalistic position.

The *ideal candidate* would be:

- A Southasian national (i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) who firmly believes in a shared Southasian identity;
- Have relevant academic and professional credentials in journalism (former media practitioners now in academia may also apply);
- A senior journalist who has covered politics, current affairs or international affairs for an English language publication in Southasia or elsewhere;
- A person with substantial experience in editorial planning and execution covering text, photography and multimedia content; and
- A person with above journalistic experience who also has experience in managing a small editorial team that works remotely from multiple locations across Southasia.

The following would be considered clear advantages:

- Journalistic experience beyond own country, and preferably elsewhere in Southasia
- Experience in content planning and production in a digital-first or digital-only media, including the commissioning of podcasts, short videos and infographics
- Familiarity with online audience engagement methodologies

Duty station

Himal's editorial office is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. As *Himal* operates a virtual office, the Chief Editor may be located anywhere within the Southasian time zones.

The exact working arrangement will depend on the successful candidate's home city and circumstances.

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

As the editorial and operational head of *Himal Southasian*, the Chief Editor will play a leadership role to achieve the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the company. S/he has the overall responsibility for the following areas (detailed below):

- A. Providing leadership and strategic direction for the company and its publication
- B. Responsibility for managing the editorial process for all text, images, multimedia and interactive features
- C. Accountability on all matters relating to the company operations and finances

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Providing leadership and strategic direction

- Strategise the content of publication according to *Himal Southasian's* style, editorial policy and publishing requirements;
- Ensure that *Himal Southasian* mitigates risks by complying with well-established journalistic standards, ethical codes of practice and legal guidelines;
- Supervise managers and staff in the development of operational, financial and human resource plans which are in line with the objectives of the company;
- Lead and staff while encouraging good performance and professional values; and
- Represent *Himal Southasian* at relevant outside meetings.

B. Responsibility for managing the editorial process of *Himal Southasian* content

- Inviting or commissioning the submission of content (text, photography or multimedia), and editing those selected for publication;
- Hiring and working closely with freelance and contracted writers, photographers, videographers and graphic artists on story assignments, including preliminary research, assistance with sources, story angles and revisions;
- Ensuring editorial integrity of all content which includes adherence to media ethics and editorial standards, and respect for intellectual property rights;
- Oversight of editorial content for marketing, publicity and advertising;
- Oversight of creation of lively and engaging interactions on the website;
- Optimising the archives and exploring ways of making it more relevant and useful for readers to understand current issues in the context of recent history; and
- Overall management and leadership of the editorial team.

C. Accountability on all matters relating to the company's operational activities [Note: Some of these tasks will be shared with the Administrative & Finance Manager, with the Chief Editor bearing overall responsibility]

- Act as the principal liaison between the Chair and the Board of Directors of the company, by communicating effectively with the Board to make informed decisions, as well as seek the Board's involvement in policy and fundraising decisions;
- Ensuring timely and quality submission of financial and other management reports on a periodic basis to the Board and regulatory authorities;
- Ensuring the company abides by all relevant laws and regulations in Sri Lanka (country of registration) including those related to taxation and employment;
- Performance evaluations of editorial and non-editorial staff;
- Overseeing the annual report, analytical information for decision making purposes, and the timely sharing of these with the Board;
- Managing relationships with the company's philanthropic donors, preparing timely narrative and financial reports as contractually required;
- Convening and documenting the Annual General Meeting (AGM), other General Board Meetings of Himal Southasian (Guarantee) Limited; and
- Managing relationships with the company secretaries and company auditors.

A regionally competitive salary is on offer to the right candidate. Details will be shared with shortlisted applicants. The successful candidate is expected to start work in August 2022.

Applications can be sent until 23:59 GMT on 10 June 2022. Please send your curriculum vitae, together with contact details of two non-related referees, to: himaeditor@gmail.com Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.