



BARSHA SHAH

SERPENTINE PROCESS: Half of the town of Syaprubesi near the river was swept away on 26 August, along with two hydropower plants.

Karmacharya is surprised so few of the recovered bodies have been identified so far despite international support: “Private facilities like ours have the technical know-how. We cannot understand why the government is seeking more expensive and time-consuming international partners when there is domestic expertise readily available.”

There are also legal ramifications to the delay. A lack of a death certificate means family members could be denied relief, compensation and insurance. This especially affects children who lost both parents, but cannot be declared orphaned and access limited state benefits. Their parents are technically ‘missing’, not dead.

Section 40 of Nepal’s Civil Code 2017 stipulates that under ‘normal circumstances’ a person cannot be declared dead until they are missing for 12 years. But it also has a provision for judicial declaration of death without a wait period in times of disasters. Which is why the delay in issuing death certificates is so puzzling.

“We already have necessary legal provisions to address the current crisis. What we should focus on is streamlining the process for families, maybe by adding more officials, and deploying courts in Rasuwa, Dhading and Nuwakot,” says advocate Indu Tuladhar.

She adds: “The bigger legal issue could be issuing citizenships to children whose parents and relatives have all perished.”

The Home Ministry has drafted an amendment to the statute to streamline death registration and relief for relatives who have lost kin in disasters. For the relatives of the missing and those waiting for identification of bodies, that cannot come soon enough. 🇳🇵

The cruel math of the aftermath
PAGE 10-11

Picking up the pieces

Sonia Awale

The total death toll in the Trisuli Valley flood is likely to surpass 7,000. But only 1,453 bodies have been recovered with less than 10% of them identified.

This disproportionate figure in recovery and identification more than a month after the 26 August

catastrophe is yet another measure of the enormity of the disaster.

For families of the missing this has been the most grueling – and sometimes gruesome – task. They have had to pore through graphic photographs of hundreds of corpses at hospital morgues, provide DNA samples and wait for news. Lack of closure has prolonged the trauma for families in Nepal and abroad.

“The government could have set

up a Disaster Victim Identification Team to better manage the whole thing,” says forensic expert Harihar Wasti, who worked to exhume bodies during the Maoist conflict. “It will take another six months or even a year for all the bodies to be identified.”

Till this week, only 112 bodies had been identified and handed over to relatives. Family members have submitted 2,060 DNA samples,

and 1,329 tissue samples have been collected from recovered bodies. The labs are racing against time to identify the remaining 1,341 bodies.

“This is not a large processing number,” says Dibesh Karmacharya of the Centre for Molecular Dynamics Nepal, “but the delay could be due to the sheer number of bodies and their condition. The DNA database with the samples of next of kin is also taking time.”

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माथि चढ्न, भित्र पसेर सफा गर्न र प्लम्बिङ काम गर्न सकिने, आवश्यकता अनुसारको मोटाई, आकार र क्षमताको उपलब्ध छ ।

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Constructive Destruction

Can these progressive young disruptors become nation builders?



GUEST COMMENT

Alok K Bohara

Something keeps coming back to me as I watch from afar Nepal's new Young Turks in government. Whatever the slips here and there, something consequential is being attempted.

Political parties and governments have long operated through a 'relational system': who knows whom, who belongs to whose network, who owes whom. It is one of the ways the extractive politics of the past 30 years, and for many decades prior to that, worked.

The repeated push toward open competition for vice chancellorships and many other positions are almost an act of constructive destruction — an attempt to dismantle that relational system, popularly known as the politics of भगबन्दा, and gradually replace it with a more impersonal governing system, where rules and procedures matter more than personal access.

Ambassadorial appointments provide the latest experiment. Open competition is not magic, and may not be the right mechanism for every appointment. Diplomacy requires judgment, experience, political understanding and interpersonal skills that cannot easily be captured by an application form.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEPAL

These young leaders may not always get the mechanism right. They are young, educated and energetic, but relatively inexperienced in the unforgiving business of governing. Still, they deserve credit for daring to take on something much deeper than individual appointments. That may ultimately be more consequential than who wins any particular vacancy.

DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENTS

But daring to dismantle an old system and learning how to govern are two different things. A young government should be able to experiment, discover that an instrument is not working as intended, and change course. More worrying would be a government so invested in appearing decisive that it loses the capacity to learn.

Experimentation is valuable if it produces better consultation, better sequencing, better anticipation of unintended consequences,

fewer mistakes next time around.

The qualities that help disrupt an old political equilibrium are not necessarily the same qualities needed to construct the next one. Breaking an entrenched system requires courage, impatience, and a willingness to challenge convention. They did that.

Governing requires less exciting virtues: institutional memory, administrative competence, consultation and slowing down enough to think.

The same citizens who gave these young leaders an extraordinary mandate will not spend the next five years congratulating them for defeating the old parties. At some point, and probably sooner than they expect, the reference point will change.

People will ask much simpler questions. Are schools better? Are hospitals functioning? Are jobs appearing? Is corruption declining? Does the bureaucracy work better?

This is also where the media has an

important role to play. Neither cheerleading nor reflexive cynicism will help much. What we need is optimism with skepticism.

When the government challenges an entrenched patronage network, give it credit. When an open process becomes shady, ask questions. When it makes a mistake, say so. When it corrects one, acknowledge it.

There may also be a quieter consequence worth watching. If these experiments begin changing what citizens expect from government, the effect will not stop with those currently in power. The older parties will also face pressure

to self-reflect, reform, and compete under those changing expectations.

That could be the more consequential effect of this political disruption: not simply replacing one set of political actors with another, but changing the standards against which all of them must compete.

The Young Turks have already disturbed a political equilibrium that many Nepalis had come to regard as almost immovable. But disrupting the old relational system may turn out to be the easier part, and constructing an impersonal system of rules, competence and accountability will be much harder.

Raising the bar for how governance is conducted, even for those who come after them, might just be the most consequential outcome of this constructive destruction. 🇳🇵

Alok K Bohara is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of New Mexico. Follow him on Substack, Nepal Unplugged.

Trending Online



Nepal, one month after

by Sonia Awale

One month after the catastrophic Trisuli Valley flood, Nepal faces a long recovery as thousands of displaced survivors confront the hard realities of resettlement, climate vulnerability, and rebuilding their lives. Read the editorial at nepalitimes.com



Most reached and shared on Facebook

PM's impassioned UNGA speech

Prime Minister Balendra Shah delivered his much-anticipated speech in the UN General Assembly last week, appealing for climate justice for Nepal. Read his full address on our website.



Most popular on X

We had no name for what came down the Trisuli

by Tri Ratna Bajracharya and Truong Huyen-Chi
Nepal had planned for two kinds of floods: GLOFs and rising monsoon rivers. But on 26 August a flood for which we had no name ran 200km down the Trisuli. This is not a failure of expertise but of categorisation. Read the analysis online.



Most commented



Rethinking risk and development

by Ajaya Dixit and Monirul Mirza

The lesson of the 2026 catastrophe is that the physical and climatic conditions under which we plan development are changing. The task is not simply to use yesterday's development approach to adapt to tomorrow's climate, it is to rethink the development pathway itself. Details online.



Most visited online page

Letters

ENERGY & DEVELOPMENT

A decisive shift toward renewable and sustainable energy sources is imperative ('After the deluge', Bikash Pandey, #1330). Anthropogenic interventions that alter natural systems risk triggering substantial environmental degradation, with consequences manifesting both imminently and over the long term.

Ranjita Malla

■ A balanced approach must pair realistic engineering standards with robust disaster insurance and risk-pooling mechanisms ('Rethinking risk and development in the Himalaya', Ajaya Dixit and Monirul Mirza, #1330). Halting development isn't a viable strategy—Nepal cannot afford to sit on the sidelines of economic growth.

Leben

■ Some things never feel like a distant memory, and I think this disaster will be one of them ('Nepal, one month after', Sonia Awale, #1330).

Alison Blanchard

■ This is a powerful reminder that recovery doesn't end when the headlines do. For the communities affected, rebuilding homes, livelihoods and a sense of security will take far longer than the news cycle. Continued support and attention will be vital as Nepal rebuilds.

Caroline Chapman

■ Global climate change calamities will only increase in frequency, and the Nepal government must stockpile, budget, and plan for future contingencies.

Amy Silvermine

■ Nepal has an opportunity to lead in naming a distinctive type of mountain disaster while recognising communities most affected by it ('We had no name for what came down the Trisuli', Tri Ratna Bajracharya and Truong Huyen-Chi, #1330). Local oral traditions and historical accounts of destructive events may offer a culturally grounded name for the type of event that devastated the Lhende-Bhotekosi-Trisuli corridor.

Kath March

■ This is an important reminder that disaster preparedness has to account for unexpected scenarios, not just the risks we already know. Nature doesn't always follow our categories, so adapting plans as new risks emerge is essential.

Isha Sharma

BLACK CARBON

They have the same problem with air pollution in Singapore: soot from

peat fires in Indonesia ('Glacier melting is black and white', Smaranika Shakya', #1329).

Deepak Shrestha

PM AT UNGA

He criticised the international system, pointing out that military weapons cross global checkpoints effortlessly, while developing countries struggle with basic access to fuel, fertiliser, and market-rate goods due to geopolitical bottlenecks ('Nepal PM's impassioned UNGA speech', nepalitimes.com).

Khemraj Upadhyaya

■ A powerful voice of humanity in a world filled with clamour. Nepal has reminded the world that peace, compassion, and our shared planet are more important than political calculations.

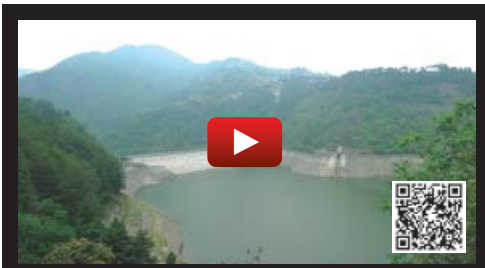
Devendra Ghimire

Online Package



THEY LOST EVERYTHING TWICE

Rasuwa's earthquake survivors were resettled in Khalte. The Bhot-Kosi Trisuli flood 11 years later killed many who had survived the 2015 quake. Watch video on YouTube.



DAMNED IF WE DO, DAMNED IF WE DON'T

As Nepal embarks on a dam-building spree, how well planners can balance geopolitics, rising energy demand, and economic growth with ecosystem protection and human rights will be tested. Subscribe for multimedia content.

1,000 Words



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEPAL / YOUTUBE

CASH TO ASH: RSP lawmaker Yagyamani Neupane proposed in Parliament to demonetise large denomination banknotes in order to control corruption and destroy ill-gotten wealth saying "Let's learn from India to destroy cash amassed through corruption". The Nepali Communist Party backed his proposal. Demonitisation in India was seen by economists as being politically motivated before elections and did not end corruption.

Times

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The integrity dividend

On World News Day and the International Day for Universal Access to Information this week, a call on all actors in the information space to do better

David Walmsley,
Mariya Gabriel, and
Liz Corbin

We are not short of information. We have never had more of it. Yet across the world, people struggle to answer the simplest questions: What actually happened? Who decided what? Is it true?

This is the paradox of our age. The most connected societies in history are also among the most vulnerable to confusion, manipulation and distrust. Information moves faster than accountability. Algorithms reward outrage before accuracy. Artificial intelligence generates plausible falsehoods at scale. In such an environment, the right to know is not just a matter of transparency; it is the heartbeat of freedom.

Without accurate understanding of what is going on and what is being done in your name, the fog of deceit thickens, and bad actors can mislead with impunity.

Society is most vulnerable when access to information is denied. Access Now and the #KeepItOn coalition documented 313 internet shutdowns in 52 countries in 2025, the highest number ever recorded. Shutdowns block journalism, silence communities and deny people potentially life-saving information.

Access to information laws are an anchor of information integrity, and UNESCO's latest monitoring shows progress. Its 2025 survey showed that 141 countries have legal guarantees for access to information. But adoption is not implementation, and many countries still face



practical gaps in oversight, appeals, enforcement, record-keeping and data management.

Information commissioners and other overseers turn legal provisions into enforceable rights. Yet many of them are hampered by weak mandates, delayed appointments, budget cuts, political interference, limits on their powers and attacks on their independence. For access to information to work, these bodies must be protected by law, given adequate powers and resources, and shielded from undue influence.

Access to information has to evolve, but examples of shortcomings are everywhere, even in countries with well-intentioned legislation. And in an information vacuum, brave and independent

journalism is indispensable. Journalism distils information into public understanding. It investigates, interrogates, corroborates and contextualises, but it also counters disinformation. It asks questions that some parties would rather avoid. And it gives citizens the means to participate meaningfully in public life.

FIGHTING DISINFORMATION

The damage caused by disinformation is real. UNESCO estimates that individual disinformation cases can incur economic and social costs of \$350 billion to \$510 billion - annually, through weakened public health responses, distorted elections, delayed climate action, financial losses, reputational harm and the

erosion of trust in institutions. Disinformation is therefore not just a communications problem. It is a governance risk, an economic liability and a direct threat to people's ability to make informed decisions.

Public service broadcasters and independent news media organisations are a key counterweight to this problem. Their mandate is not to chase engagement at any cost, but to inform and serve all audiences. But they face the simultaneous pressures of fragmented audiences, declining trust, political interference, financial constraints, platform dependency and rampant false, synthetic and manipulated content. Their struggle to keep producing quality journalism is not

a sectoral, but democratic concern.

The response must include renewed investment in public-interest journalism, editorial independence, fact-checking, open-source verification, media and information literacy, and collaboration across borders. Just as falsehoods travel globally, purveyors of trusted journalism must cooperate transnationally. The information ecosystem would be poorer and much more fragile without public service media – but they cannot defend it alone.

On World News Day and the International Day for Universal Access to Information this week, the challenge is practical, and we call on all actors in the information space to do better:

- Governments must enforce access to information laws and protect independent oversight.
- Platforms and technology companies must take full responsibility for the information spaces they create, in total alignment with international human rights law.
- And media organisations of all stripes should always choose rigour over reach.

Free-flowing, reliable information is a shared benefit. But it depends on authorities that protect access to information, journalists who pursue truth above all else, and citizens' right to the facts. The integrity dividend is real, but it is only paid when all of us play our part. 🇳🇵

David Walmsley is the President of World Editors Forum, and Editor in Chief of Globe and Mail.

Mariya Gabriel is the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information at UNESCO.

Liz Corbin is the Director of News at the European Broadcasting Union.

BRIEFS

Turkish 737Max

Turkish Airlines is placing a massive order for up to 150 Boeing 737s with , 100 firm orders for Boeing 737-8 and options for an additional 50 Boeing 737 MAX. The agreement also includes substitution rights for the Boeing 737-10, the longest member of the 737 MAX family.



Turkish Airlines Chair Murat Şeker said the agreement marked a significant step in the continued expansion of the carrier's fleet. "The new aircraft will bring greater efficiency and flexibility to our operations, supporting the extensive network we serve from our hub in Istanbul," he added, saying it also supported Türkiye's aviation ecosystem.

Aloft awarded

Aloft by Marriott Kathmandu Thamel has been named the Nepal's Leading Hotel 2026 at the World Travel Awards 2026 held in the Maldives last week in recognition of its contribution to the hospitality and travel industry.

General Manager Vikram Singh said that being named Nepal's Leading Hotel 2026 is a proud moment for his entire team. He added: "It is also an opportunity to share with the international travel and tourism community that, while the recent floods have affected certain areas of the country, tourism continues across much of Nepal."

Electricity import

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is working to import 1,154 megawatts of electricity from India following disruptions to domestic power supply due to the recent floods. The imports will be done through the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur and Tanakpur-Mahendranagar transmission lines, among others. Last month's Trisuli flood knocked out over 400MW from existing plants and last week's landslides and floods disrupted generation and transmission, temporarily subtracting another 800MW from the grid.

Himalaya to Shanghai

Himalayan Airlines has resumed scheduled direct commercial flights between Kathmandu and Shanghai with its Airbus 320s leaving TIA on Mondays and Fridays and returning the next day. The airline is a joint venture between Tibet Airlines and Yeti Airlines and serves four destinations in West Asia, six in China, as well as Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur.



Nepathya in Seoul

Nepathya held a massive concert in South Korea for the sixth time. In between numbers, lead singer Amrit Gurung said, "The recent floods on the Bhoté Kosi and Trisuli rivers have left irreparable wounds. Let us unite for relief and contribute whatever you can to the Prime Minister's Natural Disaster Relief Fund." There are an estimated 180,000 Nepalis in South Korea.



Mustang apples

Apple farmers in Mustang are facing heavy losses as the Beni-Jomsom-Korala road has been damaged by the recent floods. The obstruction in transportation has caused the apples to rot in trees or storage houses. The bridge over the Kali Gandaki that was partially damaged is expected to be repaired in 10 days.



NMB + ICIMOD

NMB Bank and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have agreed to promote sustainable finance and climate-resilient development in Nepal. The partnership will bring together ICIMOD's expertise in regional research, science and innovation with NMB Bank's experience in the financial sector to support the development of practical and sustainable investment opportunities.

Cooking gas

The Ministry of Industry and Supplies is planning to categorise cooking gas consumers and provide them with consumer cards to ease supply and distribution. Households will be supplied 14.2kg cylinders and commercial consumers will be supplied with 45kg ones.

Foreign aid drops

Nepal's foreign aid commitment has declined, even as the government's spending capacity remains weak. Foreign commitments for the fiscal year 2025/26 stand at Rs161.46 billion, compared to Rs273 billion committed in the last fiscal year.

Wagle at AIIB

Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle has been elected vice-chair of Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB) during its annual meeting in Doha this week. Wagle urged the bank to invest in roads, hydroelectricity, communications and information technology as well as reconstruction after floods.



Nepal-China borders

The only three highways joining Nepal and China have been blocked by monsoon and floods. After Rasuwagadi-Kerung checkpoint was washed off on 26 August, Kodari was also blocked by landslides, and the Korala crossing in Mustang is inaccessible because of roads and bridges damaged by last week's rains. It may take up to 10 days for the Mustang road to reopen. This has affected Nepal's imports of EVs and consumer goods ahead of the Dasain-Tihar festivals.

What the Himalaya can learn from the Andes

Peru and Nepal share common risks from climate breakdown and glacial retreat

Kaede Polkinghorne

The Trisuli Valley flood on 26 August has led to a renewed sense of urgency in addressing Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) risk in the Himalaya. While there were geological forces at play in the Langtang Lirung slope collapse, glacial lakes similarly present a looming danger exacerbated by rising global temperatures.

On the other side of the planet, Peruvian communities have been coping with GLOFs since the 1940s. The history of glacial risk reduction in the Andes reveals lessons about what works and what does not.

The first and perhaps most important lesson from the Andes is the importance of consistent funding and public oversight when it comes to glacial risk reduction.

In 1941, a GLOF from Lake Palcacocha in Peru’s Cordillera Blanca mountain range killed thousands of people in the city of Huaraz and motivated the Peruvian government to study and control glacial lakes. Over the years, public hydropower companies supported that work, recognising its importance to their industry.

In 1970, a debris avalanche and mudflow off Mt Huascaran, similar to what happened in Nepal last month, was triggered by an offshore earthquake and destroyed the Peruvian town of Yungay, killing 30,000 people – the deadliest glacier-related disaster in history.

By the 1990s, Peru had completed a survey of glacial lakes in the Cordillera Blanca, identified which ones were hazardous, and intervened at 34 of them. Researchers and engineers developed a suite of strategies to manage lakes, from simple channels and earthen dams to complex valve systems.

However, neoliberal reforms beginning some 25 years ago led to the dissolution of state-run agencies and the privatisation of hydropower in Peru. Projects were underfunded and stalled even while global warming exacerbated the risks posed by glacial lakes in the Andes. In 2024, Lake Palcacocha flooded Huaraz for the first time in more than 80 years.

Even as Peru’s policy



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infrastructure for reducing GLOF risks began to decline, scientists found ways to exchange knowledge – including through a series of three USAID-funded workshops in Nepal and Peru hosted by Alton Byers, a mountain geographer at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Byers says it was important that the workshops did not resemble stale conferences: In 2011, 25 participants set out on a five-week trek to observe Imja Tso firsthand. One of them was Peruvian civil engineer César Augusto

Portocarrero Rodríguez, who became invested in Nepal’s GLOF risk reduction efforts and would later contribute to projects like the draining of Imja Tso.

Tso Rolpa and Imja Tso were lowered by about 3m each in 2000 and 2016 respectively, and Nepal is planning similar projects on four other potentially dangerous glacial lakes with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF): Lumding Tso, Hongu-2, Lower Barun and Thulagi.

Still, while Nepal continues to implement GLOF risk reduction

EXPANDING LAKES: Lake Palcacocha in Peru’s Cordillera Blanca mountain range (above) that burst in 1941, and the siphons installed that lowered the water level.

Peruvian and Nepali scientists at Imja glacial lake in Khumbu (left).

strategies from Peruvian pioneers, the Andes and Himalaya are dramatically different contexts.

Byers recalls Portocarrero telling him: “The first step to controlling a lake is building a road to it.” Building a road to a glacier is a relatively straightforward task in the Andes, where mountains jut upwards from grasslands, but is much more difficult and expensive across much of the Himalaya. These limitations have meant relying on straightforward techniques, like open channels, as opposed to the more elaborate siphon systems that are common in Peru.

With Nepal demanding climate reparations to rebuild after the Trisuli Valley flood, Peru also sets an example in reallocating accountability from the places most impacted by climate breakdown to the actors causing it.

A decade before Lake Palcacocha’s 2024 flood, Peruvian

farmer and mountain guide Saúl Luciano Lliuya filed a lawsuit against RWE AG. With support from Germanwatch, Lliuya argued that the German energy provider has contributed 0.47% of the emissions causing climate change and should therefore be responsible for 0.47% of the costs associated with protecting his Huaraz home.

In 2017, Lliuya won an appeal determining that major emitters can be held liable for risks resulting from climate change under German civil law. Ultimately, however, his case was dismissed. The court did not consider his home to be at high enough risk of flooding. Even though a GLOF from Lake Palcacocha would most likely inundate his property and such an event is highly likely to occur at some point, it is highly unlikely to occur in any given year.

Byers says that similarly contradictory calculations of risk account for the prevalence of ill-fated hydropower infrastructure on Nepal’s rivers. But, he adds, if an area has “been under water once from a GLOF, it will be underwater again”. Modeling and field observations – from both scientists and local elders who are intimately familiar with recurring flood patterns – can help keep this reality front-of-mind.

EARLY WARNING

Like experts from Nepal, Byers points to early warning systems that combine real-time lake and glacier monitoring with community-based preparedness strategies as a priority, especially post-Rasuwa.

Peru is developing early warning systems, too. Strategies include identifying which environmental variables are both critical to early detection and measurable by sensors, targeting text alerts to community leaders like school principals and hospital chiefs, and hosting workshops along the catchment area to understand how different communities perceive risk.

In Huaraz, a mural depicting evacuation routes demonstrates how embedded knowledge of GLOF risk has become in the local community.

Byers highlights the importance of participatory and place-based system design: “Every lake is different, every hanging glacier is different, and every warning system will be different.” 🇵🇪

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PHOTOGRAPHING PHOTOGENIC NEPAL

New book captures the richness of Nepal's natural world, and its creatures great and small

Ajay Narsingh Rana grew up in Kathmandu's urban jungle. His father Mohan Narsingh designed postage stamps, using photographs of impeyan pheasants, ghoral, and butterflies to convert them into line drawings on tissue paper and printed on tiny stamps depicting Nepal's rich biodiversity.

Rana's uncle was a forester from whom he was inspired to look out for flora and fauna in tiny green pockets still left in the city. Growing up in a household that maintained a closeness to the natural world and images portraying it laid the foundation of what was to become Rana's lifelong passion: photographing Nepal's biodiversity.

He took up mountain biking and hit the trekking trails, pedalling deep into the wilderness of the mountains and plains. He always had his

camera handy, but says one does not even have to be a technically proficient photographer to take good pictures in Nepal — the country is already so photogenic.

all over, you just had to look," he recalls. "Human beings are evolved into thinking that insects are harmful and zap them if they get the chance, but they are vital to the ecosystem."

He googled the images to identify and classify the insect pictures, and started posting the images on his website prakritinepal.com, sharing them on social media to spread his knowledge, get people excited about small living things. The site then grew into a wider platform to celebrate Nepal's rich biodiversity in pictures.

It is no surprise that Ajaya Narsingh Rana's self-published new book, *The Wild Wonders of Nepal*, starts with the smallest critters, the rich birdlife, to charismatic large mammals of Nepal, photographed

using macro to tele lens. The book is a visual feast of nature at its most abundant, rich and wild — a diversity that is possible because of the incredible altitude and climate variation of the country.

Rana's passion for nature and the need to protect it shows through in every photograph, caption, and explanatory text. He has taken meticulous pains to get the reproduction of the photographs exactly right. And the result is a picture-perfect book.

The Wild Wonders of Nepal, is being launched on 2 October, and is sprinkled with quotes from international environmentalists, and this one by the American scientist Jonas Salk seems truest to the message Rana tries to convey: 'If all the insects were to disappear from the Earth within 50 years, all life on Earth would end. If all human beings disappeared from Earth within 50 years, all life on Earth would flourish.'

Kunda Dixit

camera handy, but says one does not even have to be a technically proficient photographer to take good pictures in Nepal — the country is already so photogenic.

While international photographers concentrated on the megafauna like tigers and elephants, Rana was fascinated by what his macro lens could capture. He zoomed in on tiny creepy crawlies, discovering their vibrant colours, unique textures, and shapes hard to see with the naked eye. The Covid lockdown of 2020 and the restrictions on travel allowed him to capture nature in its minutest detail in the small patch of greenery near his home in Kathmandu. As expected it was buzzing with insects, arachnids, worms, butterflies, grasshoppers, of all shapes, sizes and colours.

It was the monsoon six years ago, and there were even the carnivorous larvae of fireflies crawling about devouring snails in the undergrowth. An open space that many would not even give a second glance to as they drove past was a treasure trove of life.

"They were hopping, buzzing, fluttering, and zooming around

 nepalitimes.com

More photos online.



The Wild Wonders of Nepal
Ajay Narsingh Rana
Self-published, 2026
www.ajayrana.com
131 pages



Nepal's artists raise money for flood survivors

Art for Rasuwa is a unique fundraiser exhibition to help flood survivors by donating their works



When disaster strikes, artists often respond in the language they know best: through their work.

Journalists bring information in news photographs, videos, and reportage. Artists add an important emotional element to raise collective consciousness and spur action.

Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) is organising a fundraising exhibition, Arts for Humanity, of paintings, photographs, and sculptures. Proceeds go to relief efforts for communities affected by last month's Bhote Kosi-Trisuli flood.

Taking part in this unique initiative are Nepal's established masters and emerging talent, with works by prominent artists including Thakur Prasad Mainali, Sharada Chitrakar, Mukti Simha Thapa, Vatsa Gopal Vaidya, alongside promising younger artists like Ishan Pariyar, Krishna Lama, Suman Thapa, Prakash Mijar, and others.

What makes the exhibition particularly remarkable is that the organisers at NAFA have put a price cap of Rs20,000 on every artwork on display. In many cases, art pieces whose market value would ordinarily run into hundreds of thousands of rupees will be available at a fraction of their usual price.

For collectors and first-

time buyers alike, the exhibition presents a rare opportunity to acquire original works from some of Nepal's most respected artists while contributing directly to a humanitarian cause.

"This is perhaps one of those rare moments when art collecting and social responsibility come together so meaningfully," says NAFA's Erina Tamrakar. "Buyers will be not only be taking home a piece of art, they will be helping families rebuild their lives."

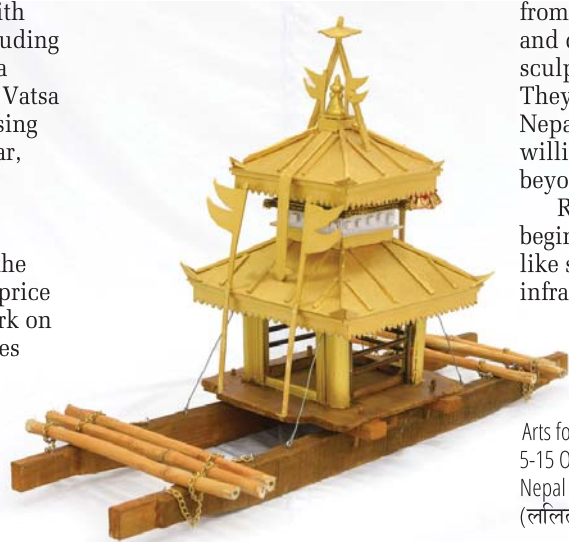
Under the exhibition's fundraising model, 70% of the proceeds from each sale will go directly to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, 10% will go

to NAFA artists' welfare fund, and 20% is allocated to the participating artist. However, many artists have voluntarily chosen to donate their entire share, ensuring that 100% of the sale value of their work supports relief efforts and the artists' welfare fund.

The initiative highlights the long-standing role of Nepal's artistic community in responding to national crises. Beyond their aesthetic value, the works on display become expressions of solidarity with communities facing loss and uncertainty.

Visitors can see a diverse range of artistic styles and mediums, from contemporary paintings and documentary photography to sculpture and mixed-media works. They reflect both the richness of Nepal's creative landscape and the willingness of artists to contribute beyond the studio.

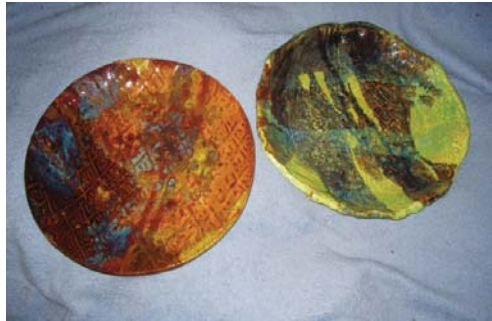
Rebuilding will necessarily begin with practical necessities like shelter, food, and infrastructure. Yet the exhibition conveys the message that recovery depends on solidarity. 🇳🇵



Arts for Humanity
5-15 October
Nepal Academy of Fine Arts
(ललितकला प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठान) Naxal



Events



Clay and Coffee

Paint your own clay slab with your creative thoughts. Instructor guidance and materials provided, along with complimentary coffee. **3 October, Rs1,500, 3pm, Pratibimba, Bimba Restaurant and Bar, Thamel**

Brahman

Pinky Singh Khanuja's solo exhibition Brahman 2026 explores the interconnectedness of form, nature and spirit. **2-4 October, 10am-7pm, Gallery MCube, Chakupat**



Labim Bazaar

Indulge in a wide variety of bakeries and other delicacies, along with handicrafts, clothing and more. Support local businesses. **Every Saturday, 10am-4pm, Labim Mall, Pulchok**

Kathmandu Climate Week 2026

This year's Kathmandu Climate Week will feature high-level dialogues and discussions on diverse thematic areas of climate justice. See the full schedule and venues at climateweekktm.org **2-5 October, Kathmandu**

Run for Relief

Join a 12km run to provide relief to flood-affected communities. Donations from participants are optional. Contributions will be documented to maintain transparency. **3 October, 5:30am, Fitmaxim Nepal, Tokha**



Pal Khoriya Forest Hike

Be one with nature as you enjoy views of lush green forest and good company along the Pal Khoriya hiking route this weekend. **3 October, Rs1,000, 6:40am, Brikuti Mandap**

Thimi Heritage Walk

Go through a guided heritage walk with Saurav Thapa Shrestha and find out about the culture, heritage and traditions enrooted in the alleys of Thimi. **3 October, 7am-9:00am, Rs500, Kwalakhu Dyah (Balkumari Temple), Thimi**



Music

Sounds from the Himalayas

Yaju and the Mischievers and Thuma Souls will be performing live to raise funds for victims of the recent floods. **3 October, Rs750, Moksh, Jhamsikhel**

Sangeet Night

Join for an unforgettable evening full of music and dance. Put on your dancing shoes and pull out your best moves. **3 October, Rs800, 5:30pm-10pm, Sensa-The Urban Sanctuary, Boudha**



Shree 3

Shree 3 will be performing live to woo their audience and fans. Join for an evening of acoustic music and good vibes. **2 October, Rs500, 6:30pm, Eden, Sanepa**

Kutumba

Join this charity event where Kutumba is joined by special appearances from Hari Bansha Acharya and Madan Krishna Shrestha. All proceeds will go to children and families affected by the recent floods. **2 October, 5pm, Rs4,850, Yala Darbar, Shankhamul**



The Eras Night

Gather together for a Taylor Swift themed party and enjoy her extensive discography, many of which are all-time hits. **3 October, Rs500, 7pm, XO Club, Thamel**



Getaway



Tiger Tops Chitwan

With Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge's ongoing local resident offer, experience culture, nature and do some birdwatching and village walks. **Chitwan National Park, Chitwan, 9851217265**

Temple Tree Resort and Spa

A peaceful place to stay, complete with a swimming pool, massage parlour and sauna, it'll be hard to leave once visitors arrive here. **Gaurighat, Lakeside, Pokhara (61)465819**



Gokarna Forest Resort

The resort is a paradise, thick with century old trees rustling out natural tunes and great restaurants for fine dining, and an expansive golf course. **Gokarna (01) 4450002**

Hotel at the End of the Universe

In this quaint sanctuary, located in scenic Nagarkot, settle into one of the rustic cabins, eat local cuisines and marvel at the mountains. **Nagarkot (01) 6680109**

Chandragiri Hills

Chandragiri Resort sits atop lush green hills overlooking Kathmandu Valley. Catch glimpses of snow-capped mountains, marvel at stunning sunsets and take a dip in their infinity pool before summer ends. **Thankot (01) 5970796**



Dining

Tip Top

In the mood for Indian food? Enjoy sweets, South Indian cuisines and other meals at Tip Top. The Chola Bhatura is a must-try. **New Road (01) 4240470**

Hankook Sarang

Enjoy a variety of Korean dishes like Tteok-bokki, Gimbap and Bibimbap. You can also try various Banchan (Korean side-dishes) with Korean BBQ. **Tangal (01)4421711**



Akari & Koko

Vivanta Hotel's Asian-inspired fusion restaurant and bar serves an impressive assortment of East Asian dishes with modern twists. Try their sushi and pad thai. **Jhamsikhel (01) 5525002**

The Workshop Eatery

Indulge in an assortment of doughnuts, fries and burgers at Workshop. The Nutella Doughnut and the Workshop BBQ Chicken Burger is a must. **Jhamsikhel, 9860431504**



Chez Caroline

Tucked away from the street noise and fumes, this is the place to visit for authentic French and continental cuisine in Nepal. Try their Profiteroles au Chocolat and Choux pastry filled with vanilla ice cream and hot chocolate sauce. **Baber Mahal Revisited (01) 4263070 / 4264187**

Weekend Weather



Not Over Yet

The monsoon is in full retreat, chased by westerly winds pulled by the jet stream. But it has not given up yet. Some residual moisture, combined with a massive circulation over Burma means we are likely to see some passing showers over the weekend, with possibly some thundery showers in Kathmandu Valley on Sunday. It will be hot and humid whenever the sun is out.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 26° 17°	 26° 17°	 26° 17°

Our Pick



Gabe Rotter's psychological crime thriller The Beast in Me follows author Aggie Wiggs, who has retreated from public life since the death of her son. Her tragedy and solitary lifestyle has left her unable to draw inspiration to keep working. But when the house next door is brought by real estate Nile Jarvis, a man suspected of murdering his first wife, Madison, Aggie finds renewed purpose as she seeks to uncover the truth behind Madison's disappearance. The series stars Claire Danes and Matthew Rhys, who won the 2026 Emmy for this performance. Watch on Netflix.

सामाजिक सञ्जाल प्रयोगमा सचेतता अपनाऔं

- सामाजिक सञ्जालमा अपरिचित व्यक्तिको साथी बन्ने अनुरोधलाई विश्वस्त भएर मात्र प्रतिक्रिया जनाऔं ।
- अपरिचित व्यक्तिलाई जथाभावी साथी बन्न अनुरोध नपठाऔं ।
- सामाजिक सञ्जाल तथा अन्य विद्युतीय माध्यमबाट चिड्छा पुरस्कार जस्ता आर्थिक प्रलोभनका प्रस्तावको भरमा नपरौं ।
- आफूले प्रवाह गरेका सन्देश वा सूचनाबाट समाजमा पर्नसक्ने नकारात्मक प्रभावको ख्याल गरौं ।
- आफ्नो सन्देशले कुनै व्यक्ति वा अन्य कुनै समुदायको आत्मसम्मानमा चोट नपुऱ्याऔं ।



नेपाल सरकार
विज्ञापन बोर्ड

Harka Gurung: a scholar Nepal needs more than ever

What would Nepal’s foremost geographer have said about the Trisuli Valley disaster?

Jit Gurung

Harka Gurung, Nepal’s pioneer geographer, conservationist, and government minister would have been 87 this month, on the 20th anniversary of his death in the Ghunsa helicopter crash.

On 23 September 2006, Nepal lost its top environmentalists when the helicopter collided into a mountain in bad weather just after the inauguration of the handover of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area to the local community.

Along with Harka Gurung, Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Chandra Gurung, Tirtha Man Maskey, as well as representatives of the WWF and USAID were among the 24 killed in the tragedy.

In the aftermath of the Bhote Kosi-Trisuli disaster, what would Gurung’s advice have been? From the numerous books he wrote about Nepal, we can hear his gruff voice telling us in his usual direct manner: “Know your geography before you plan anything.”

Nepal’s most distinguished geographer, development thinker, conservationist and public intellectual would have had a word or two to say about how poor planning led to the great loss of life and national assets.

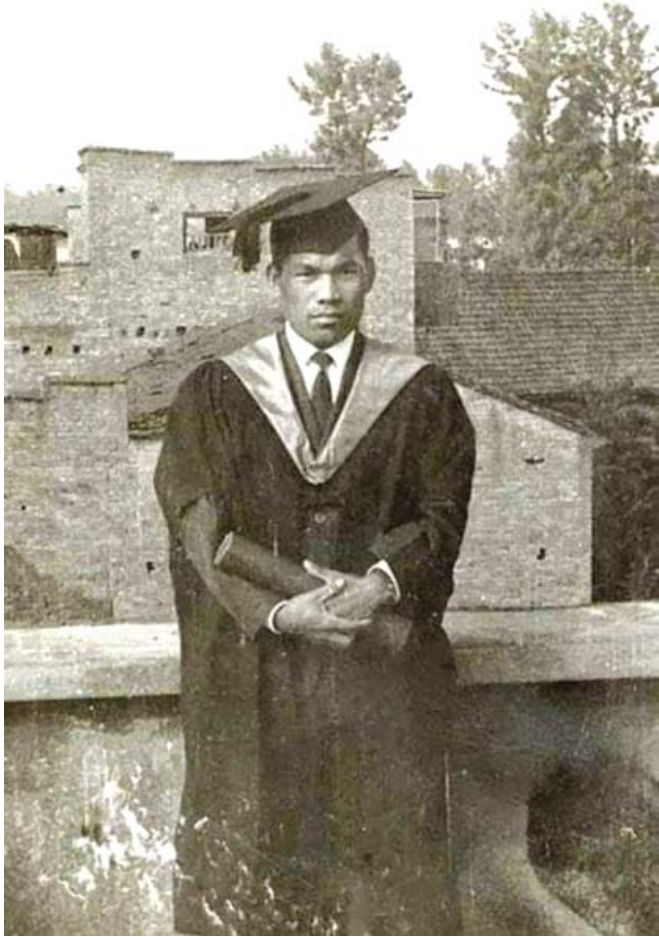
Two decades after Gurung’s death, the shock of that tragedy has faded with time, but the significance of his work has not. Nepal today needs the intellectual courage, public commitment and interdisciplinary vision he represented more than ever.

Gurung’s intellectual interests ranged across geography, demography, development planning, sociology, environment, tourism and the social and cultural dimensions of Nepal. The American Association of Geographers described him as ‘a prominent conservation expert and a leading authority on the Himalaya’.

His academic journey reflects the breadth of his knowledge. After early education in Nepal and India, he pursued higher studies in geography and earned his PhD from the University of Edinburgh in 1965. He then taught at SOAS, University of London, and Tribhuvan University, and conducted many research projects.

But Gurung’s wisdom was not just theoretical, it came from fieldwork and travels across Nepal. He was never content to remain within the confines of academia.

He believed that knowledge had to serve society and inform



public policy. That conviction brought him into the heart of Nepal’s development-planning process. He served as a member of the National Planning Commission, and became its Vice-Chair.

This job coincided with a formative period in Nepal’s efforts to understand and address the country’s extraordinary geographical and socio-economic diversity. A surviving 1975 planning document bears his name and has priorities that are more valid than ever. They may have lessened the loss of life in the Trisuli Valley catastrophe.

For Gurung, Nepal’s mountains, hills and plains were not merely physical landscapes, they shaped the opportunities, constraints and inequalities experienced by its people. His work therefore consistently connected geography with development, infrastructure, population, migration, environment and regional planning.

He later entered government as a minister, serving in different portfolios including education, industry and commerce, tourism, and public works and transport. His years in public office reflected another characteristic of his personality: a willingness to translate ideas into action.

RENAISSANCE MAN

It is difficult to fit Gurung into a single professional category. He was a geographer, but his geography was inseparable from questions of development and society.

He was a development expert, but he understood that development without attention to people, culture and environment could be deeply problematic. He was a conservationist, yet he believed conservation should involve and benefit local communities.

He was also an important voice on questions of social inclusion and national identity. His writings examined Nepal’s ethnic, cultural and political diversity and challenged approaches to nation-building that excluded sections of society. His message in the book Trident and Thunderbolt: Cultural Dynamics in Nepalese Politics about a more inclusive Nepali nationalism, one capable of creating a genuine sense of belonging among different communities, was way ahead of its time.

Many of the issues Gurung examined decades ago remain unfinished business. His intellectual legacy deserves to be revisited not merely as history, but as a resource for thinking about Nepal’s future.

He contributed to promote mountain tourism, and served in the committee responsible for giving indigenous names to Himalayan peaks.

He understood that the long-term protection of Nepal’s natural heritage could not be achieved by simply drawing boundaries around protected areas. Local communities had to be partners in conservation.



It was therefore tragically symbolic that his final journey was connected to such an effort.

There was another side to Harka Gurung that is sometimes overshadowed by his academic and public achievements: his interest in mountaineering and the Himalaya was not that of a distant observer. He engaged with the landscape directly, travelling through it, studying it and experiencing its challenges. He was equally at home with maps and mountains, research and policy, books and jumars.

Harka Gurung’s books include works such as Pokhara Valley: A Geographical Survey, Vignettes of Nepal, Annapurna to Dhaulagiri, A Decade of Mountaineering in Nepal Himalaya, 1950–1960, Faces of Nepal, Nature and Culture, From Exclusion to Inclusion and Nepali Nationalism.

His writings remain valuable because they were not simply descriptive. They asked difficult questions about what Nepal was, how it was developing and who was benefiting from that development.

He brought a geographer’s eye to the country’s physical landscape, a social scientist’s understanding of communities, a planner’s concern for development, and a nationalist’s desire to see Nepal become a more confident and inclusive country.

The best way to pay tribute to Harka Gurung today is not just to praise his achievements. It is to ask: Would he be satisfied with the quality of Nepal’s development today? Would he accept the gap between Kathmandu and the rest of the country? Would he have been silent about environmental degradation, unmanaged urbanisation, depopulation of the

hills, the pressures on mountain communities, or the exclusion of marginalised groups?

Most definitely not. His legacy reminds us that development must be geographically sensitive, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable, that Nepal cannot be understood from Kathmandu, and that national progress requires serious scholarship, evidence-based planning and the courage to challenge conventional wisdom.

Perhaps most importantly, he

demonstrated that a public intellectual need not be detached from public life. A scholar can enter government without surrendering intellectual independence. A policymaker can remain a researcher. A nationalist can believe in diversity and inclusion.

That synthesis is rare — and that is why his absence continues to be felt. Nepal has changed enormously since that September day in 2006. Yet many of the questions that occupied Gurung remain before us: How should development be distributed across regions? How can Nepal protect its fragile environment while creating economic opportunity? How can its enormous cultural diversity become a source of strength rather than division? How can the Himalaya be protected while the people who inhabit it enjoy dignity and opportunity?

These are not merely questions for the government. They are questions for scholars, planners, conservationists, educators, citizens and a new generation of Nepalis.

The helicopter crash took his life and the life of many others, but it could not take away Harka Gurung’s ideas. His books and scholarship remain, as do his contribution to planning, geography and conservation. His vision of a more inclusive Nepal remains.

The most fitting tribute to Harka Gurung today would be for Nepal to continue the journey he began — to build a country that understands its geography, values its diversity, protects its natural heritage and places knowledge at the service of its people. To help build a Nepal he believed was possible. 🇳🇵

Jit Gurung is a native of Tangting, Kaski and is currently serving with the United Nations in the Central African Republic.



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The Himalayan

The cruel math of the aftermath

Krishna Malla in Rasuwa

Eight-year-old Buchana Tamang was in her Grade 3 class at Nilkantha Secondary School in Rasuwa. School had just started that morning, when there was a gigantic roar and a pressure blast of cold air preceding a wall of brown water, mud and debris that came crashing down the Bhote Kosi.

Being at school saved her life. But the flood swept away her parents, Pasang and Daisy, along with their home which was below the school. Orphaned, Buchana has nowhere to go, and she is now under her school's care.

Sanjay Magar was at his Mahendra Secondary School in Nuwakot, where he stayed for two days before being airlifted by rescuers to a holding centre in nearby Bidur.

"The flood swept away our house, farm, the bridge to our school," says the 12-year-old. "I have no idea where I will go to school now."

Seventeen-year-old Sabina Tamang now finds herself the sole guardian to two siblings Rabin and Govinda after the flood took away their parents Nima and Rikchi. Father and mother are gone, their school was swept away, so the responsibility of their uncertain future falls on Sabina's shoulders.

Mukesh Tamang, 11, had lost both his parents three years ago, and this time his two older siblings, Muskan and Roshni, were taken away by the debris flow. Now, he has neither home nor family.

Ambika Majhi from Bhaise village is sheltering at a nearby school with her three sons. Across the Trisuli, the children's school was damaged and the flood took away her home and livelihood.

"How will I send my sons to school now? How will I put a roof over their heads?" she asks.

LOSS AND HEARTBREAK

Up and down 80km stretch of the Trisuli from the China border right down to Bidur, there are stories of loss and heartbreak behind every one of the 7,000 killed or unaccounted for. The flood has put the care and education of over 14,000 children at risk. A government survey showed that at least 102 children lost both parents, many more lost one, and hundreds are still separated from families.



NEPAL PHOTO LIBRARY

Many schools across Nuwakot and Rasuwa, the hardest-hit districts, have now been swept away or buried under the debris-strewn riverbed. In other schools that remain physically intact, many students and staff are still missing, presumed dead. Many others have been permanently displaced.

Timure in Rasuwa, 7km from the China border, was almost completely obliterated by the flood. Among the schools swept away is Rastriya Adharbhat School. Of the school's 35 students, 25 are missing and six of the teachers are also missing (box).

In Rasuwa, at least 100 out of the 508 students and three staff

members from Nilkantha Secondary School are still unaccounted for after the flood. Another 87 students have their lost guardians, among whom 56 lost both parents. The school has now become a shelter for many of its own students who have lost everything and everyone.

"Our hostel can accommodate 100 students, but we now need additional residential capacity for at least 150 students and 30 staff who survived," says Nilkantha principal Madhav Lamichhane.

In Bidur Municipality, seven teachers and 233 students from various schools are still missing more than a month after the flood. Hope has faded for them to be ever

found. The wall of mud damaged three public and two private schools, one college, the Islamia Quarania Madrasa, and an Extended Education Training Unit operated by the provincial government. The flood also swept away a hostel for blind and visually impaired students (pictured above).

At Trisuli Bazar's Tribhuvan Trishuli Secondary School, one of Nuwakot's oldest, quick response to early warning by the school's staff and a subsequent mass evacuation saved all students who were on the school's premises on 26 August. The historic school building which had an enrolment of 1,643 students was swept away.

The flood swept away at least 30 bridges — ranging from pedestrian suspension bridges to motorable ones — across the Trisuli from Syaprubesi, and Uttargaya in Rasuwa to Galchhi in Dhading. Hundreds of children who used to cross the river to attend school on the other bank have not been able to attend classes.

Before the flood, Tara Prasad Shrestha, who is the head teacher at Bidur's Mahendra Secondary School, used to make the daily journey from home to work across the Simchaur bridge in seven minutes. With the bridge now gone, the only way for him to get to work is to cross the river via a perilous

"We will return and rebuild."



When the wall of mud and debris engulfed the four-storey Rastriya Adharbhat School in Timure on the morning of 26 August, headmaster Phurba Dorje Ghale (left) watched helplessly from his house, 50m up the slope. "There was nothing I could do, the surge was so sudden that there was no time to think or warn the staff to get to safety," Ghale recalls. The school was run by 11 staff, including six teachers from outside Rasuwa district.

With an anguished voice, Ghale remembers the names of his colleagues who were swept away: "Ramchandra BK taught English, Santosh Shrestha taught Mathematics, along with Himansingh Tamang, Kanchhi Ghale,

Kavita Neupane, and Sonam Butti, all lived at the school. All gone."

The flood destroyed at least 200 houses in Timure, which is only 7km from the China border. The school offered classes up to Grade 8, and was a state-of-the-art building that had a well equipped computer lab. Most students were children of freight handlers who worked at the border crossing.

"We had a small number of students, but it was a well-run, quality school," Ghale says. "We can rebuild the structure, but our teachers are gone, where will we put the surviving children?"

Thinking about the displaced survivors

has only strengthened Ghale's resolve to get his school back up and running for the community. The government should identify where it is safe to rebuild and make necessary arrangements so that the community can rebuild and return, if not here, then on higher ground, he says.

Ghale adds: "Survivors here have said that they will return if we rebuild the school, so that is what I want to do, come back and rebuild. Leaving and settling elsewhere is not an option for those of us who live here in the mountains— despite our great loss, this land is near and dear to us."

Schools still standing shelter students who have lost everything and everyone

LOST AND NOT FOUND

	Missing	Dead	Total
Students	396	20	416
Teachers	21	2	23
Others	1	0	1
Total	418	22	440

Impacted schools and students

District	Physically damaged schools	Used as shelters	Intact	Total affected schools	Affected students
Dhading	8	2	4	14	5,066
Nuwakot	11	16	1	28	6,315
Rasuwa	4	7	10	21	3,074
Total	23	25	15	63	14,455

cable crossing.

“We had 250 students before the flood, now it appears the number will drop by at least 50,” says Shrestha. “Among them are 25 students who used to cross the bridge to attend school, and 25 children whose homes and farms were swept away.”

At Bidur’s Prithvi Secondary School, 104 out of the 928 students used to commute to school from settlements across the Trisuli River. The flood swept away the homes of 63 of these students.

Headmaster Baburam Lamichhane says that in the

aftermath of the disaster, parents of students who are marooned on the school’s side of the river are asking that their children be admitted at his school.

Even schools that survived are so close to the river, or were so damaged by the flood that it is too risky to hold classes there.

“There are many unanswered questions now,” says Bidur Municipality Education Chief Navaraj Sapkota. “How safe are these schools? How will parents send their children to school, how will children continue their education, and how will the

municipality resume and manage the remaining institutions?”

Officials say that there is an immediate need for an integrated plan that includes hostel facilities, temporary learning centres, and psychosocial counselling for children who have lost families, homes, and educational material.

Across Nuwakot and Rasuwa, arrangements are underway to turn still functional insitutions into boarding schools, including Annapurna Panchakanya Basic School in SHERA and Koming Wangfel Secondary School in Syaprubesi.

Tribhuvan Trishuli Secondary School is being temporarily relocated to Division Office in Ward 9, but a lack of road access has hindered delivery of relief material from the Chaudhary Foundation.

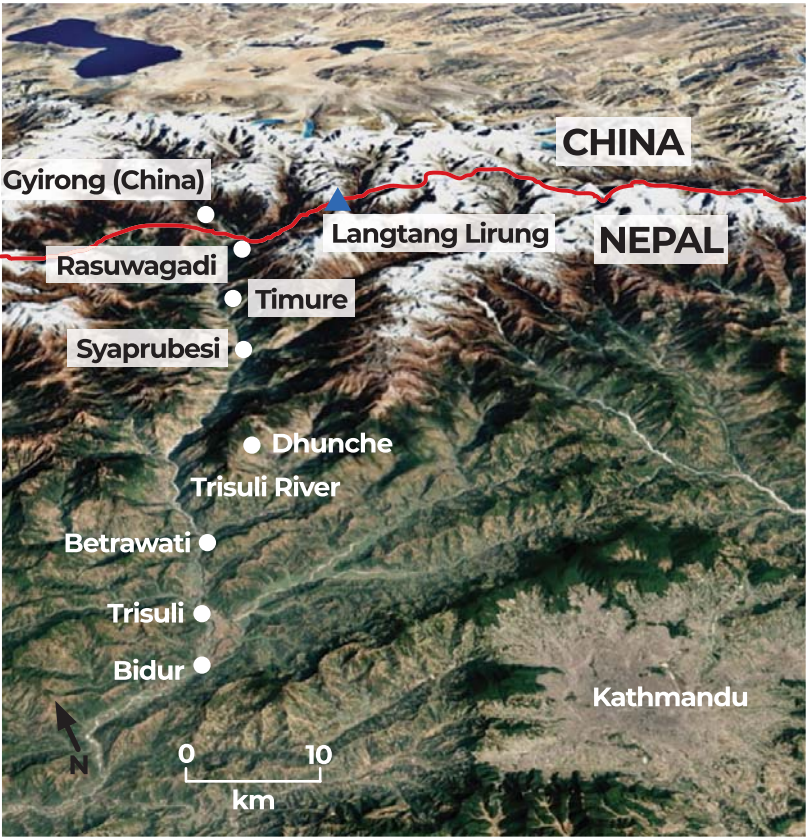
REMAPPING SCHOOLS

A proposal for a hostel accommodating 350 students has been submitted to the Ministry of Education. But securing safe and sufficient land to rebuild the school remains a challenge.

“Because many schools and settlements are under metres of sediment and boulders, school locations need to be re-mapped and their catchments redefined,” says Uttargaya Rural Municipality Education Chief Bodhraj Pathak.

Provisions under Nepal’s Education Act and National Education Policy dictate that schools must be constructed and operated based on geography, population, and risk factors. Two or more schools can be consolidated if student enrolment is low.

In theory, these guidelines ensure that there is a reasonable distance between children and their schools, as well as a safe way for them to reach there. However, arbitrary permits for schools on hazardous terrain with no regard



for disaster risk or geographical accessibility mean policies are limited to paper.

More than a month after the flood, many children remain cut off from schools due to damage to roads and bridges. Many families have relocated to neighbouring districts and Kathmandu.

Enrolment policies must be flexible so children can attend schools wherever their families have relocated, without hassles or paperwork, says Baburam Lamichhane of Prithvi Secondary School.

Experts agree that all three levels of government should be on the same page to set up an integrated education crisis fund to set up temporary learning centres and distribute educational materials in affected institutions.

The government must also fast-track budget disbursement for reconstruction, they add.

Schools must be rebuilt so they serve a multi-purpose function, and can be used as community shelters in times of calamities, says educationist Bishnu Karki.

“We must take this crisis as an opportunity to overhaul guidelines on the construction and operation of our schools,” he adds, “We must rebuild schools only after evaluating geographical and geological risks, and adopt climate resilient infrastructure standards.”

This field report was translated from Sikshak Magazine and financially supported by the Karkhana Group’s Civil Society Empowerment for Accountable Education (CSE) project.



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