

A Description and Rationale

Title

Digital Preservation of *Nepalī Traimāsika* and *Pūrva Ṭāimsa*: Two important sources for scholars of XX-century Nepal

Project Description*

The project aims to digitize the Nepali-language periodicals titled “*Nepalī Traimāsika*” (Trimonthly) and “*Pūrva Ṭāimsa*” (Weekly). A list of volumes and issues along with brief descriptions of the proposed titles are appended.

The digital copy will be prepared from the original periodicals. Digital copies of each will be sent to SAMP and kept at Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP).

(This is a continuation of a project to digitize Nepali newspapers and periodicals collected and filmed by the MPP under the supervision of LC consultants.)

Reasons for Consideration*

Nepalī Traimāsika: This semi-academic journal has remained an important platform for Nepali litterateurs, academics, historians, and socio-cultural commentators since 1959. Some of the early outputs of well-known historians and social scientists working in the post-Rana Nepal were published in the *Nepalī Traimāsika*, making this periodical the antecedent to academic journals which came to be published from Nepal in later years. The trimonthly is published by the Madan Puraskar Guthi, a Trust established in 1955, with the goal of “clearing every physical and mental roadblock for the overall development of Nepali literature”. As the Guthi became more active, the organization started publishing the *Nepalī Traimāsika* from the autumn of 1959 under the editorship of Kamal Dixit (1929-2016). [Disambiguation: Though the name of the Madan Puraskar Guthi appears similar to the Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP), and both are sister institutions, they are two separate entities with different objectives]. The *Nepalī Traimāsika* publishes articles and essays with scholarly rigor on various topics including the Nepali language, literature and linguistics, as well as history and culture. It also serves as the official communication platform of the Guthi. Though not formally closed, new issues of the *Nepalī Traimāsika* have not been published since 2016. The proposed run of *Nepalī Traimāsika* provides an important corpus for scholars in the humanities and social sciences to understand the Nepali cultural sphere and the intelligentsia since the fall of the Rana regime in 1950 up to the political change of 1990 and Nepal becoming a republic in 2006.

Pūrva Ṭāimsa: The weekly newspaper is published from Dharan, nearly 400 km east of the capital Kathmandu. Dharan is a town in the sub-tropical, inner Tarai region, built over forest clearings and populated mainly by those migrating from the eastern mid-hills and families of the British Gurkhas. This beginning has lent a unique identity to the town which has since grown into a city that continues to maintain its significance in economic, political and socio-cultural fronts for the past 70 years. Dharan was also a crucial hub of the political protests during the 1990 People’s Movement that brought an end to the Party-less Panchayat System and restoration of multiparty democracy and constitutional monarchy in Nepal. The proposed run of *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* captures the

buildup of political activities that led to the Movement and the subsequent socio-political developments in the half-decade after it.

Additionally, the contents published in the *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* are diverse and contain: (a) the latent socio-political moods that subsequently gave rise to the Janajati Movements (movements by the Indigenous Nationalities) in Nepal in the last decade of the XX century and the first decade of the XXI century; (b) the activities of local political groups that rose to have impact across the country; (c) writings by many local and national political leaders, activists and commentators; (d) Mr Giriraj Acharya, the publisher and editor of the *Pūrva Ṭāimsa*, himself is a political activist of the liberal democratic line, who has made substantial contribution through his writings and editorship of the newspaper: (i) in the struggle against the Party-less Panchayat regime, (ii) by providing the platform and mentoring an entire generation of journalists, writers and editors from the eastern region, thus adding import to the proposed digital preservation of the periodical.

Since *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* is a publication from outside the Kathmandu Valley, it represents a voice from the periphery, so to speak. This enhances the significance of the proposed work in the context of Nepal where only the publications from the center thus far have been prioritized for archiving.

The purpose of this project is to digitize the issues (1-229) of trimonthly periodical titled “*Nepalī Traimāsika*” and weekly newspaper titled “*Pūrva Ṭāimsa*” of the Year 1986 to 1995.

This proposal includes the cost of digitization and shipping cost of the copy to Chicago from Kathmandu. The indexing of “*Nepalī Traimāsika*” is also proposed. The need for indexing has stemmed from the frequent search and demand for the contents of the periodical from scholars.

Authors

Nepalī Traimāsika – Edited by Kamal Dixit (1929-2016), Sri Durbar Tol, Patandhoka, Lalitpur

Pūrva Ṭāimsa – Edited by Giriraj Acharya, Dharan.

Publishers

Nepalī Traimāsika – Published by Madan Puraskar Guthi, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur;

Pūrva Ṭāimsa – Published by Giriraj Acharya, Dharan; Private.

Proposal Contributors

Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP)

Details and Sources

Resource Types*

- Archival materials
- Newspapers
- Serials

Regions*

South Asia

Countries of Origin*

Nepal

Major Languages

Nepali

Source Format*

Paper

Target Format

Digital

Identifiers

Nepalī Traimāsika – ISSN: 25050877, OCLC: 6723885, LCCN: 82645663

Pūrva Ṭāimsa - Unavailable

Links

For *Nepalī* – <https://www.worldcat.org/title/nepali/oclc/6723885/>

<https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?searchId=2737&recPointer=0&recCount=25&bibId=11263034>

For *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* – Unavailable

Source and Holdings

Location	Format	Holdings/Range	Notes
Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP)	Printed (Original)	<i>Nepalī Traimāsika</i> / Issue No. 1 – Issue No. 229 (October 1959 – October 2016)	From original periodicals; No Gaps

Location	Format	Holdings/Range	Notes
Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP)	Printed (Original)	<i>Pūrva Ṭāimsa</i> (Weekly)/ v.4:no. 35 – v. 13:no. 36 (1986 – 1996)	From original periodicals; Gaps;

Source and Holdings Notes

Run of *Nepalī Traimāsika* and *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* is housed at the Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP). *Nepalī* is published by the Madan Puraskar Guthi, Lalitpur and *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* is published by Giriraj Acharya, Dharan.

Physical Details

The size of the *Nepalī Traimāsika* is 22 cm x 14 cm and contains approximately 50 pages per issue. The size and number of page may vary at times.

The size of the *Pūrva Ṭāimsa* is size 37 cm x 25 cm contains approximately 6 pages per issue. The size and number of page may vary. The proposed collection of periodicals is broad in scope and will be of value and interest to scholars from a wide range of disciplines including history, political science, education and anthropology.

Existing Reformatted Materials

Nepalī Traimāsika: A limited run (V. 191-212) of the *Nepalī Traimāsika* can be found at the Guthi url (<https://guthi.madanpuraskar.org/nepali-traimasik/>). However, the contents are preprint versions and they do not concur exactly with the published versions of the said run. No other reformatted materials exist in the public domain. Upon inquiry, the Madan Puraskar Guthi has confirmed that they have not received any formal request for permission to host the reformatted contents online.

Pūrva Ṭāimsa: No reformatted materials of the proposed run of this periodical are known to exist.

The pdf format of the each digitized issue will be made available to reader/ researcher.

Intellectual Property Considerations

Nepalī Traimāsika is published by Madan Puraskar Guthi, Lalitpur. The Madan Puraskar Guthi has granted permission to the Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP) to digitize and host the copies online.

Pūrva Ṭāimsa is published by Giriraj Acharya, Dharan. Request letter for permission to digitize and host online the proposed run has already been submitted to the publisher and we foresee no hurdles in obtaining the approval.