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# नेपाली आवाज



## Still Waiting

**ANUP KAPBLE**

16 YEARS AFTER THEY WERE FORCED OUT OF THEIR COUNTRY BY A DICTATOR, MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND BHUTANESE REFUGEES IN NEPAL CONTINUE TO WAIT FOR A SOLUTION TO WHAT HAS BECOME ONE OF SOUTH ASIA'S WORST REFUGEE CRISIS. **11 »**

Plastic jerrycans, marked with the names of its owners, are lined up by 2PM to collect water at this communal water tap in the Khuduna Bari Bhutanese Refegee Camp in remote eastern Nepal. The water runs for an hour or two at 3PM. Photo: KASHISH DAS SHRESTHA

## AIDS REPORT

**मृत्युसंग लड्दै, चेतना छुट्टै  
बाकी जीवन अरुका लागी**

**DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA**

एक समयमा आफ्नै परिवारका लागि पनि बोझ बनेका नरेशलाल आज सबैका प्रिय बनेकाछन् । सानै देखी लागु औषध दुर्व्यसनको लतमा फँसेका उनको रगतमा एचआईभी पोजेटीभ भएपछि उनी आफ्नै परिवार भित्र तिरस्कृत जस्तै भएका थिए तर आज त्यस्तो छैन ।

०५४ सालदेखि एचआईभीसंग लड्दै आएका ३६ वर्षीय नरेशलालले अहिले बाकी जीवन खुशी साथ विताई रहेका मात्र छैनन्, समाजउपयोगी काम गरेर अरुको निरश जिवनमा समेत खुशीयाली ल्याएकाछन् । जिवनको अन्त्य र मृत्युको पर्याय मानीने एचआईभी लागेपछि जिवनका सबै सपना र चाहना अन्त्य हुन्छन् भन्ने धेरैको सोचाई छ । तर, नरेशले यस्तो सोचाई भएका एचआईभी संक्रमितहरूलाई एकत्रित गरी मृत्युको आतंक भित्र सुन्दर जिवनको खोजी गरिरहेकाछन् । २०५८ सालमा पुर्वाञ्चल क्षेत्रमै पहिलो पटक आफुलाई एचआईभी संक्रमित घोषणा गर्दै संक्रमितहरूको हक अधिकारको पक्षमा आवाज उठाउदै सार्वजनिक भएका नरेश भन्छन् “सुरुमा संक्रमित भन्दा मानीसहर टाढा भागथे अहिले, माया र सम्मान गर्छन् ।” उनको प्रयासबाट अहिले पुर्वाञ्चल भरी नै संक्रमितहरू संगठित बन्न पुगेकाछन् ।

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## Dr. Govinda in US



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## किरात प्रदेशमा किचला

पश्चिममा वर्गीय संघर्षको नारा दिएर सफल भएका माओवादीलाई पूर्वमा प्रभुत्व जाउन पहिल्यैदेखि “जातीय” नारा चर्काउँदै अएको विद्रोही राई-लिम्बूहरूलाई साथ लिनु परेको थियो । जातीय स्वायत्तता र आत्मनिर्णयको अधिकार अर्थात् छुट्टै किराँत राज्यको सपना देखाएर माओवादीले खम्बूवान राष्ट्रिय मोर्चा र लिम्बूवान राष्ट्रिय मुक्ति मोर्चा हात लिन सफल भए । तर अहिले यही क्षेत्रमा राई र लिम्बु स्वायत्तताका लागि किचलो खडा भएको छ **16 »**

## Digital Himalaya



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## Op- Ed

One of the dynamics of the late 20th century and early 21st century politics has been the import of democracy in third world countries. However, democracy (in the purest, most liberal sense) has succeeded in only a handful of countries around the world. The reasons behind democratic failure can only be evaluated by reviewing historical, social and economic factors. **18 »**

## Digitizing and Distributing Visual Footage from the Himalayas

**Dr. Mark Turin**

The Digital Himalaya project aims to develop digital collection, archiving and distribution strategies for multimedia anthropological information from the Himalayan region. Based at Cornell and Cambridge universities, the project began in December 2000. The initial phase involved digitizing a set of existing ethnographic archives comprised of photographs, films, sound recordings, fieldnotes and texts collected by anthropologists and travellers in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian Himalayas from the beginning of the 20th century to the present.

The five collections involved in the first phase of the project make use of a wide range of original recording media and were chosen for their historical value and their coverage of diverse geographical areas and ethnic peoples of the Himalayan region:

(a) the Williamson Photographic Archive: 1,700 photographs taken between 1930 and 1935 by the British Political Officer Frederick Williamson in Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. Williamson's collection is now held in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, and includes a number of rare historic images.

(b) the Furer-Haimendorf Film Collection: over 100 hours of 16mm film from various parts of the central and eastern Himalayas filmed between 1936 and 1980 by Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf, Professor of Anthropology at School of Oriental and African Studies in London. The films are supplemented by Haimendorf's detailed field diaries.

(c) the Naga Videodisc: part of Haimendorf's film archive overlaps with a large ethnographic collection relating to the Naga peoples of north-eastern India and parts of Burma, principally collected by five different anthropologists and travellers. These materials were compiled as an analogue videodisc in the 1980s, and included some 10,000 photographs, a large number of film and sound clips, and original fieldwork diaries and notes in an associated database. The videodisc is now technologically obsolete, and we hope to re-release it in a digital format.

(d) the Thak Archive: materials from a study of the Gurung village of Thak, central Nepal, including over 100 hours of film, more than 3,000 photographs, and continuous censuses and fieldnotes covering the period 1968 to the present, collected by Alan Macfarlane and Sarah Harrison.

research.

In January 2003, members of the Digital Himalaya team travelled to Gangtok (Sikkim) and Mustang (Nepal) with the purpose of returning usable digital copies of archival footage from the 1930s and 1960s to the communities concerned. While we

Himalaya website. Broadband Internet offers exciting ways of making such an archive available to a geographically diverse audience. In large parts of the West, however, and certainly in the Himalayan region, the bandwidth necessary to transfer large digital files with ease is still unavailable. Even if the appropriate hardware and software were in place, many of those who might like to view images of their own communities are not literate in English or familiar with the basic computer skills needed to search an online database. While the construction of a multilingual search tool remains a challenge, Digital Himalaya has implemented Nepali Unicode on the website and is continuing to explore the use of Unicode Tibetan.

More recently, Digital Himalaya has branched out into the digitisation of journals, texts and newspapers from the Himalayan region. We started out with Contributions to Nepalese Studies and Kailash: Journal of Himalayan Studies, for which all back issues are provided free of charge in PDF format as downloads from our website. After positive user feedback, we continued the project with other journals, including: Ancient Nepal, the Journal of Bhutan Studies, the European Bulletin of Himalayan Research, Peace and Democracy in South Asia, Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines, the Journal of the Tibet Society, and the Bulletin of Tibetology. Limited back issues of all these important regional journals are now online and freely downloadable. Some of the most interesting collections from the Himalayan region are not academic publications but rather journalistic, so we continued by digitising back issues of Himal, Nepali Times, Nation Weekly, Midweek and the Regmi Research Series. Most recently we have agreed to co-host Nepali Aawaz on our website.

Please visit Digital Himalaya at <<http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/>> and make use of the resources. We look forward to your feedback and comments.

*Dr. Mark Turin is a linguistic anthropologist based at the University of Cambridge. He is presently conducting a linguistic survey of Sikkim at the request of the local administration, and will return to Nepal in January 2006 when he will be working on the Chintang and Puma Documentation Project (CPDP) based at Tribhuvan University.*



A screenshot of Digitalhimalaya.com's homepage. The site hosts valuable and fascinating images and videos from the Himalayas.

(e) the Thangmi Archive: digital video, photographs and ethnographic data from the Thangmi communities of Dolakha and Sindhupalcok districts in north-east Nepal collected by Mark Turin and Sara Shneiderman from 1996 to the present.

Of the above five collections, three are finite, historical resources, while the latter two are collections that continue to grow. Depending on the success of this initial phase, the project may expand to include other high quality archives.

The project has three long-term objectives: (a) to preserve in a digital medium valuable ethnographic materials that are degenerating in their current forms; (b) to make these resources available in a searchable digital format to scholars and the Himalayan communities from which the materials were collected; and (c) to develop a template for collaborative digital cataloguing that will allow users to contribute documentation to existing collections and eventually link their own collections to the system, creating a dynamic tool for comparative

made use of laptop computers and high quality colour prints, it became clear during the field visit that DVD technology provided a powerful yet unexplored medium of exchange.

A DVD-based archive, functioning as a self-contained portable resource requiring neither Internet access nor a computer, is particularly suited to remote areas. Such an archive can provide access to non-literate users through controlled interactivity combined with high quality playable content using voiceovers in local languages. With the advent of small battery-operated DVD-Video players, it is possible to play DVDs in regions with no infrastructure or electricity supply, such as rural Nepal and Sikkim. Challenges remain, however, since the viewership of any DVD is constrained by limitations on the physical distribution of discs. Moreover, the pace of technological change suggests that DVD, in its current incarnation, has but a limited life-span. These factors make DVD a risky choice as a long-term archival medium.

High quality compressed films from the 1930s onwards can be freely viewed and downloaded from the Digital