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By Republica KATHMANDU, Aug 18: The veteran poet, Madhav Prasad Ghimire popularly known as National Poet died in Kathmandu on Tuesday. According to the family sources, he died at the age of 101 at his residence in Lainchaur at 5:55 pm today. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. 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Some key details about his life and work include: He had little formal education as a child but developed a love of poetry from his father. He published his first poem in 1992 and has since authored over 200 songs, poems, and plays. He has received many prestigious literary awards including being named Nepal's national poet. Even in his later years, Ghimire continued to actively write and his works remained popular among students and teachers.0 ratings0% found this document useful (0 votes)3K views19 pagesMadhab Ghimire is a renowned Nepali poet who has made significant contributions to Nepali literature. He was born in 1919 in Lamjung District of Nepal. Some key details about his life and wo...AI-enhanced title and description Madhav Ghimire, born on October 22, 1919, is among the last of the older generation of poets in Nepal. He was motivated by works of Rabindranath Tagore. His childhood was spent in Lamjung District [illegible] among the hills. Ghimire's writing career developed gradually and in 1946, he became the editor of Gorkha Patra. Sharada and Udaya were other journals in which he began to publish his work. Ghimire was the Vice Chancellor of the Royal Nepal Academy from 1979 to 1988 and Chancellor from 1988 to 1990. During his tenure, he led delegations to China, Russia, and Bangladesh. For his work, he has received the Distinguished Academy Medal, Shree Prasiddha Praval Gorkha Dakshinabahu, Bhanubhakta Award, and Tribhuwan Pragya Puraskar among others. In terms of popularity, excellence and acclaim, Ghimire is considered a source of inspiration in Nepali Literature. He began writing songs and poems 67 years ago and continues to do so even today. He has written poems, long narrative poems, lyrical-epic poems, and ballads and has rendered immense contribution to the enrichment of Nepali literature. The Royal Nepal Academy's Modern Nepali Poems (1972 First ed.) commends his poems as [illegible]manifestations of the Nepalese life'. Some of his most praised pieces are Aphnai bansuri aphnai gita, Asvatthama:gitinatak, Gauri, Indrakumari, Rajesvari, and Rashtra-nirmata. The Library of Congress has fifteen works by him. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, who has died aged 101, was one of the last of the Nepali literary figures from among the older generation. Known as Rastra Kavi, or national poet, Ghimire was also a playwright and essayist.Ghimire died at his residence in Lainchaur on Tuesday evening.He is best known for his literary works such as Gauri (epic), Kinnar Kinnari (lyrical anthology), Charu Charcha (essay collection) and Shakuntala, yet another epic.One of his most popular works is Malati Mangale. The musical drama was first staged in 1985 to widespread national and international acclaim and continues to get staged even today. “He was a humble and friendly person. His poems are simple and in the meantime deep and evocative,” said Satya Mohan Joshi, the centenarian historian and cultural expert. “His poems carried emotion and values.”Though he dabbled in plays and essays, Ghimire’s forte was chhanda poetry, a style of rhythmic poetry that has a fixed meter. Perhaps the most iconic of his works is the widely acclaimed Gauri, an epic ode on his late wife.“He was shattered and grief-stricken when his first wife died and he wrote an eponymous elegy in her remembrance, full of pathos and emotions, which I think people will remember him for," said Abhi Subedi, a professor of English at Tribhuvan University, poet, playwright and linguist.Subedi, who is also a columnist for the Post, has translated Ghimire’s works into English. Ghimire was born on September 23, 1919 at Putsun in Lamjung district. Later, he moved to Duradanda village to pursue further studies in Sanskrit. As a child, he was very studious, he’s said, and it didn’t take him long to publish his first literary work.His first literary work, Bairagya Pushpa, was published in the Gorkhapatra daily when he was just 14.The demise of Ghimire has created “a huge void”, said poet Viplob Pratik, who has published two anthologies of poetry. “There are various subgenres in Nepali poetry, but the most disciplined of them is the chhanda,” Pratik told the Post. “If one grasps the rules of the chhanda, its meter, one can write a poem. But more often than not, such poems have no soul in them. In our canon, only three or four poets could infuse their chhanda poetry with soul. Ghimire certainly was one of them.”Among his best known poems are Nepali Hami Rahaula Kaha, Gaauchha Geeta Nepali, Himal Pari Himal Wari, and Baisakh. In their essence, the poems revolved around the themes of patriotism and the beauty of nature.An entire generation of Nepalis grew up with the poem Gaauchha Geeta Nepali, which was included in school textbooks, where he talks about Nepal and Nepalis thus: Gaucha geet NepaliJyoti ko pankha uchaliJaya jaya jaya NepalSundar shanta bishalAccording to Subedi, as a poet, Ghimire came from a romantic school of thought and was a contemporary follower of Mahakavi Laxmi Prasad Devkota’s work and he wrote in the same vein as Devkota.“He has written patriotic poems, poems about the Himalayas, about the love between a man and a woman, and poems for children,” said Subedi. “He was a great classicist of the Sanskrit school of thought and a true poet.”Cultural expert Joshi, who turned 101 on May 12, is one of Ghimire’s contemporaries.‘A modern romanticist’ is how Joshi described Ghimire.“I believe his contribution is on par with the giants in Nepali literature like Bhanubhakta Acharya and Lekhnath Paudyal,” said Joshi.Ghimire also wrote songs—some of them quite popular, including “Aajai ra raati ke dekkhe sapana mai mari gayeko” (I wonder what a dream I had in the night that I had died).During his lifetime, Ghimire also held various public positions.In 1946, he was appointed the editor of the state-owned Gorkhapatra daily. From 1988 to 1990, he served as the chancellor of the Royal Nepal Academy—now known as Nepal Academy.The title of Rashtra Kavi was conferred on him by the government of Nepal in 2003. Of late, Ghimire had been working on Ritambhara, which would be his another epic.“I think the greatest loss for Nepali literature will be not getting to know the last mahakavya (epic poem) Ritambhara that he was working on, or maybe he has completed it,” said Joshi.In 2018, Ghimire told the Post that he only has to get through the last two cantos of the epic. “I write if I can, I don’t oblige, or try too hard,” he said. “There’s no point in trying too hard.”He did not consider living long as a feat.“If you live long, you also have to be able to give back to society,” he said. “Only then can you die in peace.” Madhav Prasad Ghimire (1919–2020) was a legendary Nepali poet, playwright, and scholar, honored with the title of “Rashtrakavi” (National Poet) for his lifelong contribution to Nepali literature. His writing embodies themes of patriotism, nature, love, grief, and human values, with a poetic style that bridges classical Sanskrit-influenced forms and modern lyrical beauty. With a career spanning over 80 years, Ghimire is celebrated as one of the last romantic-era poets of Nepal, whose legacy lives on in both academic and popular circles. Early Life and Background Born: September 23, 1919 (7 Ashwin 1976 BS) Birthplace: Lamjung District, Nepal Death: August 18, 2020 (3 Bhadra 2077 BS) at the age of 100 Ethnicity: Brahmin (Hill Brahmin community) Personal Struggles: Lost his mother at an early age. Deeply influenced by rural life, Vedic literature, and the majestic landscapes of the Himalayas. Education: Studied Sanskrit and classical literature in India (Banaras and Kathmandu). Later adopted modern literary forms and styles, helping transform Nepali poetry. Literary Contributions and Writing Style Madhav Prasad Ghimire wrote in diverse genres, including: Epic poetry Lyric poems Plays and dramas Essays and memoirs Key Themes: National pride and patriotism Romanticism and grief Nature and Himalayan landscapes Philosophy, love, and spirituality He masterfully combined traditional Sanskrit meter with modern narrative techniques, creating works that are both linguistically rich and emotionally resonant. Notable Works of Madhav Prasad Ghimire Title Genre/Theme Notes Gauri Epic poem, grief and love Written in memory of his late wife; one of the most beloved poems in Nepali literature Malati Mangale Play in verse, social reform Focused on women’s issues and feudal traditions Himalchuli Poetic homage Romantic description of Nepal’s landscapes Rastra Nirmata Patriotic poetry Tribute to national heroes and unity Aswathama Mythological epic Based on the Mahabharata, with a modern twist Manjari Poetry collection Love and longing Awards and Honors National Titles and Honors: Rashtrakavi (National Poet) – Bestowed by the Government of Nepal in 2003 Member of Nepal Academy (Nepal Pragya-Pratisthan) Recipient of numerous literary awards including: Sajha Puraskar Tribhuvan Pragya Puraskar Madan Puraskar Guthi Honor He was frequently invited to state functions, national ceremonies, and literary festivals, and was widely regarded as a cultural ambassador of Nepali values and language. Ghimire’s Impact on Nepali Literature and Culture Shaped generations of poets and writers with his elegant diction and moral themes Helped standardize literary Nepali through his role in government and academia Elevated the poetic tradition by merging Sanskrit heritage with modern sentimentality Inspired nationalism through powerful poems during political and social upheavals Interesting Facts About Madhav Prasad Ghimire He composed songs that are part of Nepal’s cultural identity, such as patriotic anthems played on national days. Lived through the Rana regime, democracy movement, monarchy, and republic era, chronicling Nepal’s transformation in verse. Known for wearing the traditional daura-suruwal and topi and maintaining a humble lifestyle despite national fame. He reached the age of 100, and his centenary was celebrated nationwide. Death and Legacy Died: August 18, 2020 State Honors: Given a national funeral with full state honors His works are taught in Nepali literature courses across schools and universities Continues to be cited in patriotic events, poetry readings, and literary discourse Conclusion: Why Madhav Prasad Ghimire Is Timeless Madhav Prasad Ghimire’s poetry is the soul of modern Nepal. His ability to capture emotion, natural beauty, and national spirit with simplicity and depth makes his work eternal and universal. He was not just a poet of words, but a poet of conscience, speaking to the dreams, sorrows, and hopes of an entire nation. For anyone exploring Nepali literature, poetry, or cultural history, the legacy of Rashtrakavi Madhav Prasad Ghimire is an essential starting point.

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