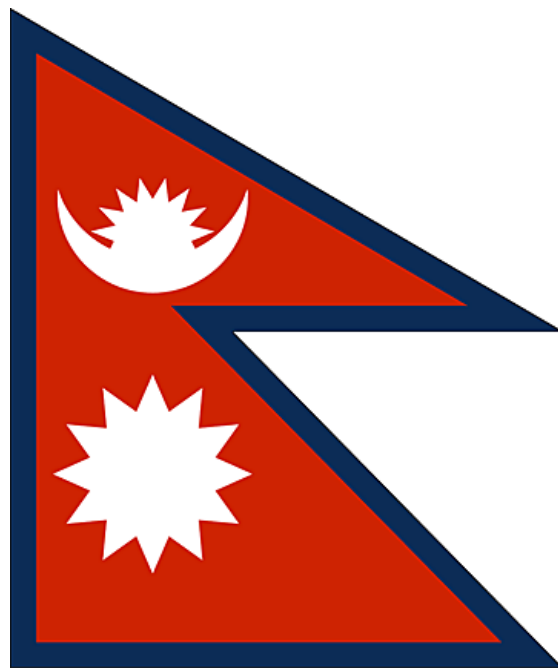


info@asaid



Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
Media and Telecoms Landscape Guide
May 2011

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1. Introduction

Nepal is a politically fragile country that is still feeling its way towards full democracy after a bitter civil war.

At the same time, this poor and mountainous country is dangerously exposed to earthquakes, floods and drought and outbreaks of infectious diseases.

A widely anticipated strong earthquake in the capital Kathmandu could cause more than 100,000 casualties and make more up to a million people homeless.

Nepal became a republic in 2008 after a 10-year civil war led to the abolition of its formerly powerful monarchy.

The Maoist uprising ended with a peace agreement in 2006. Two years later, the former rebels came to power through the ballot box, winning an absolute majority in the 2008 elections.

However, the civil war left over 16,000 people dead, according to government figures, and up to 150,000 internally displaced people and refugees.

It created deep divisions within Nepalese society. The country's politics are still riven by in-fighting.

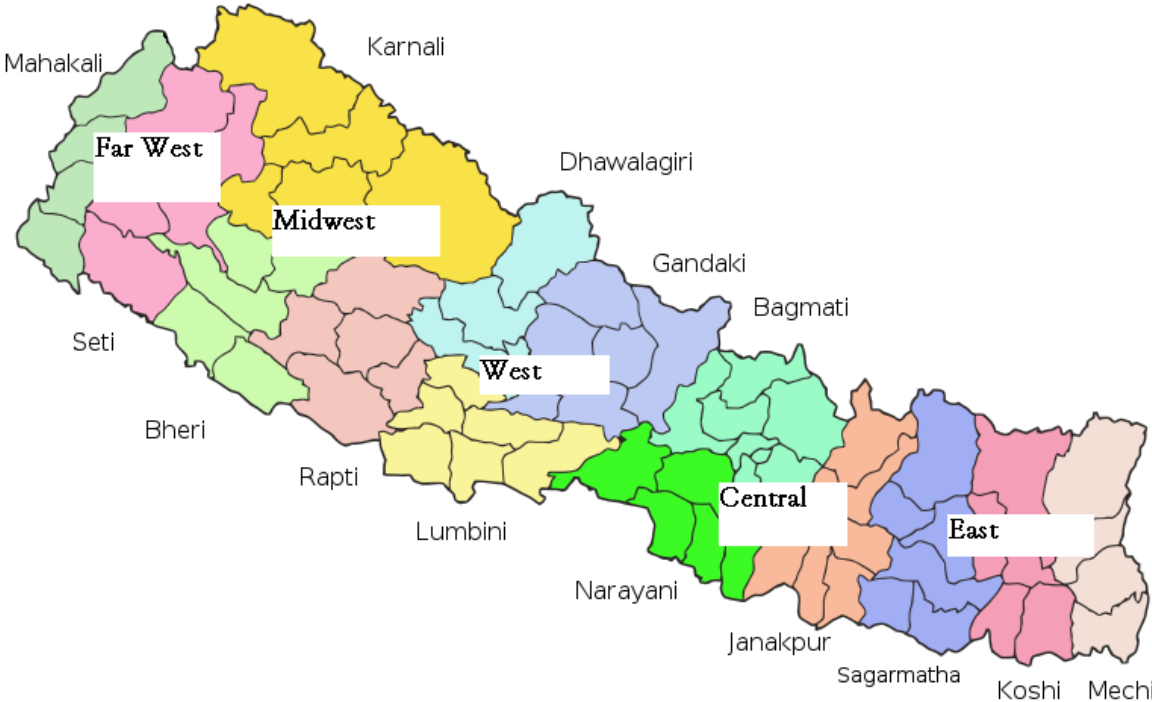
Nepal suffers from frequent floods, droughts and health epidemics. It is also subject to powerful earthquakes.

A major earthquake in the Kathmandu Valley occurs every 75 years or so.

The last one, measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale, occurred in 1934. In 2011 - 76 years later – a new earthquake was overdue.

Experts have conservatively estimated that when the next earthquake hits Kathmandu it will result in 40,000 deaths and 95,000 injured. The quake is also likely to make at least 600,000 people homeless.

Melting glaciers and the risk of earthquakes render at least twenty high altitude glacial lakes unstable.



Administrative divisions of Nepal

Source: Wikipedia

Tsho Rolpa lake in the Tama Khoshi basin in northeastern Nepal is widely regarded as the biggest risk. Its waters would directly threaten about 10,000 people if they were released suddenly in a deluge.

Earthquakes of up to 6.0 on the Richter scale are common in the East, Midwest and Far West of Nepal. They cause considerable damage and loss of life.

In 2008, the Saptakoshi River in southern Nepal burst its banks and rendered 100,000 Nepalese, homeless. The floods had an even bigger impact across the border in India, where three million people were displaced.

The Terai lowlands and Middle Hills areas of Southern Nepal are most vulnerable to flooding.

Nepal had an estimated population of 29 million in 2009.

More than 80% of the country's people live in rural villages and depend on subsistence agriculture.

Nepal is the poorest country in South Asia, The World Bank estimated in 2010 that, despite recent improvements, 31% of the population lived in poverty.

Over half of Nepalis can read and write. UNESCO estimated in 2008 that Nepal had an adult literacy rate of 58%,

However, the literacy rate is much lower in remote rural areas where there are fewer schools.

Nepal has an enormous diversity of culture and traditions. There are nearly 60 indigenous ethnic groups and nationalities.

However, the Hindu caste system and the structure of government have fostered the exclusion and marginalization of large population groups.

Over 80% of Nepalis are Hindu, about 11% are Buddhist and four percent are Muslim.

The official national language is **Nepali**, but this is spoken as a first language by less than half the population.

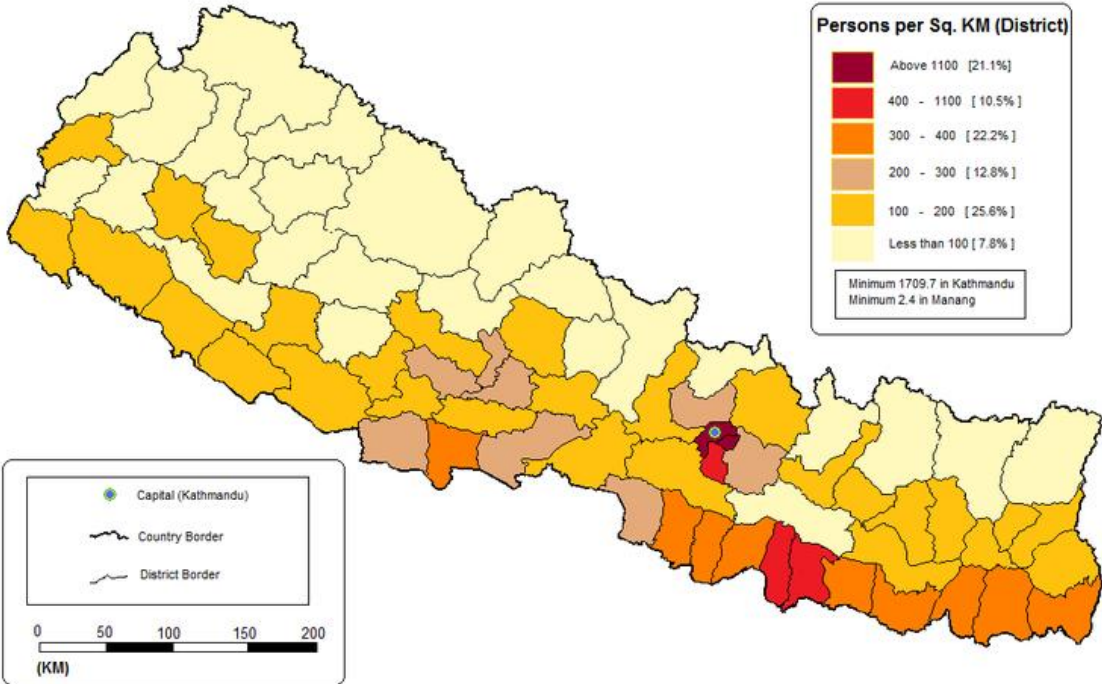
Most Nepalese can speak and understand Nepali, but 124 other languages are also spoken in the country.

The other main local languages are **Maithili** (2.8 million speakers), **Bhojpuri** (1.7 million) and the **Tharu** (1.4 million) and **Tamang** (1.3 million) dialects.

Speakers of one dialect of a language cannot always understand people who speak a different dialect of the same language.

Hindi is widely understood in the Terai lowlands and the Kathmandu Valley.

English is widely used in business and government, but is only spoken by a small educated elite.



Population distribution in Nepal

Source: Wikipedia

Nepal hosted more than 75,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepali origin in 2011, according to UNHCR. They were concentrated in four main refugee camps in eastern Nepal.

In addition, there were 20,000 Tibetan refugees in the country.

The media is extremely lively and diverse, but standards of journalism vary enormously.

News is often blatantly manipulated for political or commercial reasons.

Journalists and media owners are frequently subject to threats and intimidation from political factions. Self censorship to avoid risk is common.

In mid 2011, Nepal had at least 15 operating TV stations, over 300 radio stations and several hundred newspapers and magazines.

Television is growing in importance in urban areas, where it is now the preferred option for news.

However, radio continues to dominate the countryside, where most people live.

Mobile phone use has grown rapidly in recent years.

At the start of 2011, there were more than 10 million mobile phone lines in Nepal – one for every three inhabitants.

However, mobile phone use is still mainly concentrated in urban areas, where many handset owners have SIM cards for two different networks.

Young people increasingly use their mobile phones to listen to the radio.

Nepal was a monarchy for 240 years until the declaration of a republic in 2008.

It never became part of the British Empire, although during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the British Resident did have considerable influence over government policy.

In 1959, King Mahendra issued a new constitution and the first democratic elections for a national assembly were held.

However, the king scrapped parliament and promulgated a new constitution in 1960.

The revised constitution did away with party politics and confirmed the absolute power of the monarchy.

King Birendra, who came to power in 1972, eventually made fresh concessions to persistent demands for greater political freedom.

Multi-party elections were held in 1991 and the centre-left Nepali Congress party won a majority of the seats in parliament.

In 1996, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN (M)), launched an insurgency in five districts: Rolpa, Rukum, Jajakot, Gorkha and Sindhuli.

In 2001, King Birendra and nine of his relatives were assassinated, apparently as the result of an internal feud within the royal family.

Birendra's brother Gyanendra assumed the throne, but the credibility of the monarchy had been dented by the massacre and the Maoist rebellion escalated in intensity.

In April 2006 a coalition of political parties took control of the government, stripped King Gyanendra of most of his powers and entered negotiations with the rebels.

These talks led to a Comprehensive Peace Accord, signed in November 2006.

The Maoists secured a majority in multi-party elections for a Constituent Assembly held in 2008. Nepal was subsequently declared a Federal Democratic Republic and the monarchy was abolished.

Nepal at a glance

Population	29.3 million (World Bank 2009)
Main Languages	<p>Nepali is the official language, but English is widely used in business and government.</p> <p>The most widely spoken other languages are Maithali (2% of the population), Bhojpuri (8%), Tharu (6%) and Tamang (5%) (Wikipedia)</p>
Per capita GDP	\$465.4 (UN 2008)
Adult Literacy	<p>Adults(15+): 57.9%</p> <p>Youth (15-24) Male: 86%</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">Female : 75%</p> <p>(UNESCO 2008)</p>
Mobile phones	10 million (Nepal Telecommunications Authority - NTA 2011)
Mobile phone penetration (phones per 100 inhabitants)	37% (NTA July 2011)
Mobile network coverage	100% coverage is claimed, but the mountainous terrain means that coverage is very patchy
Internet penetration rate	10.9% (NTA July 2011)
Ranking in UN Human Development Index 2010	138 (out of 169)
Ranking in Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index 2010	119 (out of 178)

2. Media overview

The media in Nepal is extremely lively and diverse, but journalists are frequently subject to threats and intimidation.

There were at least 15 TV stations and more than 300 officially licenced radio stations on air in August 2011.

The country also boasted about 100 daily newspapers.

The standards of journalism vary enormously. Many media organizations often manipulate the news quite blatantly for political and commercial reasons.

Government censorship is rare, but the intimidation of media professionals is common. Some have even been murdered.

In February 2011 the press freedom organization Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) said: *'Nepal has reached an extremely worrying level of attacks on the media, mostly the responsibility of political parties and religious groups'*

Nepal ranked 119th out of 178 countries listed in the RSF 2010 Press Freedom Index

In 2010 three media owners were murdered.

The Committee to Protect Journalists' Impunity Index lists countries where journalists are killed regularly and governments fail to solve the crimes. It ranked Nepal as 7th worst state in the world between 2000 and 2009.

Many journalists practice self-censorship to avoid risk.

The government maintained a monopoly on radio broadcasting until 1997, when the first privately owned radio station went on air.

Private television stations were allowed to start broadcasting in 2002.

There has been an explosion of independent broadcasting since then.

Independent weekly newspapers have been published since the 1960s, but privately owned daily papers did not appear until 1993.

According to the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), 99 daily newspapers and 399 weekly newspapers were being published regularly in 2009.

Television is growing in importance in urban areas. It is now the preferred option for news for town and city dwellers, according to a broadcast audience survey conducted by the US-based media development organization Equal Access in 2006-7.

Radio still dominates rural areas, but television is catching up fast.

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) survey of three rural districts in 2009 found that 72% of households had access to a radio and 52% had television.

Daily and weekly newspapers are still the most influential sources of information for Nepali decision makers.

The most important dailies are, **Kantipur, Annapurna Post** and **Nagarik**.

The most influential weeklies are **Nepal, Ghatana Ra Bichar, Bimarsha, Deshantar** and **Jana Astha**.

Three English language dailies, **The Himalayan Times, Republica** and **The Kathmandu Post**, and one weekly, the **Nepali Times**, are widely read by the elite.

The internet is an increasingly important source of news and information in urban areas.

Traditional forms of media – like street dramas, ‘miking’ (mounting microphones and speakers on a van or a rickshaw that goes around town announcing messages) and posters in public places, are still popular in the countryside.

Radio Nepal, the state radio service, started broadcasting in 1951. It started FM transmissions in 1995.

Today Radio Nepal runs 17 local FM stations across the country.

Most of Radio Nepal's programmes are in Nepali, but the network also carries news bulletins in English and several local languages.

In 1997 the first independent community radio station, Radio Sagarmatha, was established after a long battle with the government.

By 2009 the government had licensed 380 radio stations.

However, according to the Ministry of Information and Communications, only 319 of these were actually on air in 2011.

About 40% of the private stations are owned by commercial interests. A further 40% are owned by NGOs and other non-profit making organisations. About 15% are cooperatives.

There are also several production houses and NGOs which produce and distribute broadcast media products.

These include the **Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN)**, and **Search for Common Ground (SFCG)**. Both these organisations produce a number of popular radio and TV programmes, including dramas and talk shows.

Some of the larger Kathmandu radio stations cover most of the country on FM.

State-owned **Radio Nepal** and the private stations **Radio Kantipur** and **Image FM** all have broad national FM coverage.

In addition, there are several radio networks that share broadcast content. These are based on individual stations in Kathmandu.

These networks distribute news and current affairs programming to partner stations in the interior. They also incorporate contributions from these provincial radio stations into their own programming.

The largest news sharing networks are:

- **Uiyalo 90 Network**
- **Nepal FM**
- **Community Information Network (CIN)** of the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB).
- **ABC Network**

The **BBC Nepali service**, which broadcasts for 30 to 60 minutes per day is relayed by more than 150 FM stations across the country.

Most Nepali radio stations claim to be politically independent, although in reality they tend to sympathise with one political view or another.

During the 1996-2006 civil war the Maoist rebels operated a number of clandestine radio stations. These were subsequently legalised and licenced.

The government originally forbade private FM radios from broadcasting news, but the courts overturned this ruling in 2005.

Since then, many radio stations have broadcast hourly news bulletins.

Nepal's radio stations cater for a variety of audiences.

Young people in cities and towns listen to musical entertainment and phone-in programmes.

Young people in rural areas are also fond of radio dramas.

Housewives in rural areas are keen on soap operas and entertainment shows in Nepali and other local languages such as Maitheli, Tharu, and Tamang.

Working class rural men, the educated elite and community decision makers listen regularly to news and current affairs programming.

Most people in rural areas listen to the radio at home. They also like to listen to radio on their mobile phones when they are travelling on foot.

In the towns and cities, people mostly listen to radio in their cars and in shops and work places. They are more likely to watch television at home at night.

Nepal has a huge number of radio listeners' groups, mostly in rural areas. Their members gather regularly to listen to a specific programme and discuss it among themselves afterwards. Often they provide feedback to the broadcaster.

The Human Right Programme by produced by the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), a human rights group, and the Good Governance Programme by the anti-corruption NGO Pro Public each have over 5,000 listening groups.

Antenna Foundation Nepal's *Chhinophano* programme has more than 3,500 listening groups and *Saathi Sanga Manka Kura* (Chatting With My Best Friend), produced by the US-based media development organization Equal Access, has over 1,000.

Until recently, FM stations in the interior relied heavily on radio stations and production houses in Kathmandu to produce content for them.

These stations still relay programmes funded by international donors that carry underlying social messages.

They also carry news and current affairs programmes produced by some of the better-resourced FM stations in Kathmandu.

However, more and more radios outside the capital are now producing content themselves.

Most of them produce their own local news and current affairs programmes, although they still link up with stations in Kathmandu for national and international news.

Local radio stations are also producing more and more issue-based social message programmes, including talk-shows and dramas. Many of these are broadcast in local languages.

State owned **Nepal Television** began broadcasting in 1984. It enjoyed a monopoly of free-to-air television in Nepal for the next 18 years.

The first private TV channel began broadcasting on cable in 2002.

But the breakthrough for independent television came 2003 with the launch of **Kantipur Television** and **Image Channel**. Both quickly became very popular.

In August 2011 there were at least 15 TV channels on air in Nepal. Most of them rely on satellite and cable for distribution outside Kathmandu.

Only state-run **Nepal Television** is widely available as a terrestrial free-to-air TV broadcaster outside the capital.

Kantipur TV (KTV) is the most popular private TV channel. It now has a bigger audience share than Nepal Television in urban areas.

Avenues Television (ATV), a satellite news and current affairs channel, occupies the number three slot in terms of audience share.

Most cities have cable television distributors.

These often bundle their own separate TV channel in with their package, using it to play songs-on-demand. Some also cover local events of special interest.

These unregistered services are slowly becoming fully-fledged, independent television channels.

Television is popular among all age groups in urban and peri-urban areas.

Comedy dramas that contain a strong dose of social and political comment are popular across all age groups and social classes.

Programmes that play music videos and take calls from listeners are popular among the young urban crowd.

Adults, especially working men, tend to watch news and current affairs programming.

Television stations gather their own news and often provide breaking stories.

This has increased the popularity of television news programmes.

Many radio stations still rely heavily on picking up stories from the newspapers, although an increasing number are setting up their own fully fledged news gathering operations.

Television is widely watched in towns and cities and the surrounding countryside.

It is also popular in more remote rural areas wherever people have electricity and the means to buy television sets.

But in areas beyond the reach of cable networks most people can only receive the state TV channel, unless they have a satellite dish.

Indian television channels that transmit soap operas are popular among viewers who have access to cable TV - especially among housewives and young women.

Most television stations broadcast in Nepali. Some carry news bulletins in English,

The presenters of some youth entertainment programmes use a combination of informal Nepali and English.

Two TV stations - **TTV**, and **Nepal 1** (which operates from India) broadcast mostly in the **Maitheli**, **Tharu** and **Bhojpuri** languages of the Terai lowlands of Southern Nepal.

Private weekly newspapers first appeared in the 1960s, but independent daily newspapers only hit the streets of Kathmandu in 1993.

That year marked the launch of the Nepali language broadsheet **Kantipur** and its English language sister paper, **The Kathmandu Post**.

Since then there has been dizzying growth in the numbers of national, regional and local dailies, weeklies and other periodicals.

Most mainstream newspapers and magazines are published in Nepali. However, a handful are written in English.

The English-language press is mainly read by the educated Nepali elite, foreign aid workers and the diplomatic community.

Most privately owned newspapers claim to be editorially independent. However most of them have a political axe to grind.

Some weeklies newspapers are more directly linked to political parties.

For example, **Chhalphal** and **Drishty** closely reflect the views of the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (CPN UML), while **Ghatna Ra Bichar** and **Bimarsha** are connected to Nepali Congress.

Some business dailies, such as **Arthik Abhiyan** and **Karovar** have also appeared.

A few newspapers are published in local minority languages.

For example, three weeklies - **Jhigu Swaniga** and **DeshayMaru Jhya** - are written in **Newari**, a language widely spoken in the towns of the Kathmandu valley.

And in Janakpur, a city in southeastern Nepal, the daily newspaper **Simanchal** is published in **Maitheli**.

The Internet is increasingly popular, but is still largely limited to urban areas.

According to the Nepal Telecommunications Authority there were 3.1 million Internet subscribers in Nepal in July 2011, giving a penetration rate of 10.9%.

Newspapers, radio and TV stations are increasingly establishing their own websites.

The social networking site Facebook is very popular. By mid-2011 there were over one million Facebook users in Nepal.

Facebook is sometimes used to organise social and political events, to initiate dialogue and discussions, to generate opinion, and to create pressure.

In May 2010 tens of thousands of people attended a peace gathering in Kathmandu after being summoned by viral SMSs and Facebook messages.

Twitter is less popular, but it is well used by journalists, educated youth and bloggers.

SMS messages are also widely used to spread information.

3. Large media groups

State radio and television broadcast nationwide. But there is only one large privately owned multi-media group in Nepal which reaches every part of the country.

Kantipur Publications Pvt. Ltd www.ekantipur.com was set up in 1993 to produce Nepal's first two privately owned daily newspapers.

The Nepali language **Kantipur** and its English language sister paper **The Kathmandu Post** were both instant hits.

In 2011, Kantipur claimed a daily sale of 250,000.

The group moved into radio in 1998 with the launch of Kantipur FM. This has since been rebranded as **Radio Kantipur**.

This Kathmandu station originally focused on entertainment programming, but it now has hourly news bulletins.

Radio Kantipur has become a nationwide broadcaster. In 2011 it had seven relay stations in the interior that covered 65 of Nepal's 75 administrative districts.

Radio Kantipur claims to be the most listened to station in the Kathmandu valley. It also commands a large audience in eastern Nepal.

Kantipur Television was launched in 2003. It is now the most watched TV station in the country.

Image Group owns the popular Kathmandu FM station **Image FM**, which also broadcasts to central and eastern Nepal, and **Image Channel TV**.

However, it does not own any print media outlets.

4. Radio

Overview

The majority of Nepalis still rely mainly on radio for information, news and entertainment

Radio is particularly strong in the rural areas, where 83% of Nepalis live.

Television is now the preferred source of news and entertainment in urban households, although many people still listen regularly to the radio in towns and cities.

Kathmandu alone has 34 FM stations.

There are also 18 FM stations in the twin cities of Bhairahawa and Butwal, 14 in Nepalgunj, 11 in Pokhara and seven in Janakpur.

However, the listening habits of city dwellers are different to those of the rural population.

Most people in urban areas listen to radio during the day in their shops, work shops, cars and on their mobile phones. At night, they watch television at home.

In rural areas, people have fewer options.

The cable TV networks do not reach far into the countryside and many remote areas do not have electricity.

A survey conducted in 2006-2007 by the US-based media development organization Equal Access found that 82% of households owned radios, 95% had radios in their neighbourhood and about 44% of radio owners had radios that cost less than Rs. 500 (US\$7).

A separate survey conducted by the BBC among 4,500 people in 2008 showed that 90% of the Nepali population listened to the radio regularly.

Most tuned in for two hours every day during the week, but they spent up to three hours per day listening to the radio at weekends and on public holidays.

But the same survey also showed that more than 80% of respondents watched television.

Another key finding was that 92% of respondents trusted the media more than any other institution in Nepal.

The availability of cheap Chinese radios costing less than US\$1.50 has helped to make radio popular amongst the rural poor.

Increasingly, Nepalese are using their mobile phones to listen to the radio – particularly young people.

However, station loyalty for those tuning in by mobile phone is low. Urban listeners who have a choice of FM stations often switch frequencies several times in an hour. If a tune or programme comes on that a listener does not like, the usual reaction is to change station.

Radio stations broadcast mainly in **Nepali**, but some also carry news bulletins and programmes in other local languages.

State-owned Radio Nepal broadcasts nationwide on Short Wave, Medium Wave and FM. In addition, it runs 17 local FM stations across the country.

Radio Nepal broadcasts mainly in **Nepali**, but it also airs news bulletins in the following local and international languages: **Avadhi, Bhojpuri, Doteli, English, Gurung, Hindi, Magar, Limbu, Magar, Kham Magar, Maithili, Newari, Rai Bantawa, Sherpa, Sanskrit, Tamang, Tharu East, Tharu West** and **Urdu**.

The national audience of Radio Nepal has fallen sharply in recent years as listeners have switched to private radio stations.

The state broadcaster has been challenged at the national level by the Kathmandu-based private radio stations **Kantipur FM** and **Image FM**.

Both have built up networks of FM relay stations in the interior which give them a broad national reach.

Other Kathmandu-based broadcasters have achieved nationwide audiences by networking their programmes to local partner stations.

They distribute news and current affairs programming to partner stations in the interior and incorporate contributions from these partners into their own output.

The largest of these content sharing networks are the **Ujyalo 90 Network (UNN)**, **Nepal FM**, **ABC Network** and the **Community Information Network (CIN)** of the Association of Community Broadcasters (ACORAB).

The **Ujyalo 90 Network** broadcasts news bulletins and other programmes by satellite to 45 partner radio stations across Nepal.

The network developed from a popular news radio station in Kathmandu of the same name.

The Ujyalo 90 Network network claims that its partner stations reach 18 million listeners and cover 85% of Nepal's land area.

The **BBC Nepali Service** produces 30 minutes of programmes daily from Sunday to Friday and 60 minutes of programmes on Saturdays.

These are fed by satellite to more than 150 relay partners across Nepal.

State-run Radio Nepal was founded in 1951 and had a monopoly of radio broadcasting for the next 46 years

In 1995, as the movement for greater democracy was gaining strength in Nepal, the government issued new National Broadcasting Regulations.

For the first time these allowed the establishment of private FM radio stations.

In 1997, Radio Sagarmatha, a Kathmandu community station, became the first independent FM radio station go on air.

Many others soon followed.

The number of FM stations on air increased dramatically from 2006 onwards following the end of the Maoist insurgency.

According to the Information Ministry, 398 radio stations had been licenced by mid-2011. However, the ministry said only 319 of these were operating regularly.

A detailed map of FM radio coverage of Nepal was produced by the US-based media development organization Equal Access in 2011.

An electronic version of the map is available on the Equal Access Nepal website: <http://www.equalaccess.org/country-nepal.php> The FM coverage map can also be ordered in poster form direct from Equal Access.

The Equal Access map shows an absence of FM radio coverage in large areas of Western and Northwestern Nepal, but these areas are characterised by high mountains and sparse population

The FM radio sector is still poorly planned and organized.

A report prepared by Ian Pringle and Brikram Subba for UNESCO in 2007 states *“There is technical congestion in the capital region and high redundancy of licensed services, even in some rural areas; there are major policy gaps and limited means to ensure accountability of broadcasters. The current system of regulation does little to promote a diversity of services or to ensure that broadcasters meet public needs or address national development priorities.”*

FM stations are generally classified, unofficially, as either commercial or community radios.

The government does not categorise them in this way when granting licences, but the radio stations generally brand themselves as one or the other.

Stations that are owned by individuals or profit-seeking companies are deemed to be commercial.

Those that are owned and operated by non-profit making groups – such as professional associations and NGOs – describe themselves as community radios.

However, in terms of staffing and programming there is very little difference between them.

Most radio stations outside Kathmandu, both commercial and community, provide the same kind of service.

For example, Radio Kanchanjanga FM, a commercial station in Jhapa in eastern Nepal, airs a daily programme called *Samabedana* ('Condolences'). This broadcasts news of people who have just died and plays songs to go with the mood.

The programme helps its listeners by giving family members rapid news of a relatives' demise.

This information might otherwise take several days to reach them, delaying the performance of traditional funeral rites.

Most FM radio stations claim to be independent, but generally they subscribe to one political view or another.

Recently some FM stations have been started by religious groups.

Kathmandu now has a Hindu station, FM Adhyatma Jyoti (which describes its content as 'spiritual'), and a Christian station, Good News FM.

There is another Christian station, Grace FM, in Dhulikhel.

Many FM stations provide hourly news bulletins.

However, the quality of radio news is generally inferior to that of newspapers. Much of it is derived from what the newspapers have already reported.

Young people in cities and towns listen avidly to musical entertainment and phone-in programmes.

Young people in rural areas are also into radio dramas.

Housewives in rural areas are keen on soap operas and magazine shows, especially those broadcast in local languages.

Working class rural men, the educated elite and community leaders in both rural and urban areas, listen intensively to news and current affairs programming.

Most urban FM stations focus on entertainment programming. They play Nepali and Hindi songs and the presenters chat with telephone callers, interview celebrities and indulge in gossip.

However, some Kathmandu stations, such as **Ujyalo 90 Network** and **Nepal FM**, specialise in news and current affairs.

Nepal has a large number of 'listeners groups.'

Their members gather regularly to listen to particular radio programmes and discuss them afterwards. Most of the listeners' groups are in rural areas

Nepal has a huge number of radio listeners' groups, mostly in rural areas. Their members gather regularly to listen to a specific programme and discuss it among themselves afterwards. Often they provide feedback to the broadcaster.

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Until recently FM stations outside Kathmandu relied heavily on programmes produced by radio stations and production houses in the capital.

They included a lot of 'social message programming' funded by international donors.

However, radios outside the capital now produce much more of their own broadcast content themselves.

Most have their own local news and current affairs programmes. However, they still rely heavily on national and international news inputs from network partners in Kathmandu.

More and more issue-based social message programmes, such as talk-shows and dramas are being produced in the interior in local languages.

In the southeastern city of **Janakpur** and surrounding parts of the eastern and central Terai lowlands region, local language dramas in **Maitheli**, **Tharu** and **Bojhpuri** are very popular.

Some programmes produced in Kathmandu and syndicated to FM stations in the interior have become very popular at the national level.

These include:

- **Sajha Sawal** (*Common Question*) a talk show produced by the BBC
- **Katha Mitho Sarangi Ko** (*Sweet Stories of Sarangi*) a drama series produced by the BBC
- **Naya Bato Naya Paila** (*New Path New Steps*) a drama) produced by the Antenna Foundation Nepal
- **Mero Jindagi** (*My Life*) a radio documentary series produced by the Antenna Foundation Nepal
- **Saathi Sanga Manka Kura** (*Chatting With My Best Friend*) a magazine and chat show programme for youth produced by Equal Access
- **Hamro Nepal Ramro Nepal** (*Our Nepal, Good Nepal*) a discussion and magazine programme produced by Ujyalo 90 Network.
- **Nepal Chautari**, a phone-in show produced by Antenna Foundation Nepal and distributed by the Ujyalo 90 Network.

In most districts, where several FM stations can be heard, it appears that all are equally listened to – there would not be one clear winner in terms of popularity.

However, no surveys have been done to definitively prove this.

In the **Kathmandu** valley, **Kantipur FM** is generally rated to be the most popular station. It attracts high advertising revenue.

Most FM stations depend on advertising for a large slice of their income.

Community radios also attract a lot of development and peace initiative funding from NGOs and aid agencies.

Some stations in rural areas are partly funded by local government.

Most local FM radio stations have 500 to 1,000 watt transmitters. Depending on the height of the mast and the nature of the surrounding terrain, these can cover an area of up to 40 km radius in normal conditions.

However, many smaller stations only have low-power transmitters of only 100 watts. These are only able to reach a few km from the transmission mast.

A few radio stations have larger and more powerful 2,000 watt transmitters.

The biggest of all is Kantipur FM's 10,000 watt transmitter in Bhedetar near the eastern city of Dharan.

Whatever the transmitter strength, Nepal's mountainous terrain means that few local FM radio stations can be easily received outside their home district. Audiences therefore tend to be highly localised.

There are a number of associations and organisations which support local radio stations in Nepal.

These include:

- The **Community Radio Support Center (CRSC)** within the Nepal Federation of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)
- The **Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB)**
- The **Broadcasters Association of Nepal (BAN)**
- The **Far Western FM Broadcasters' Forum**
- The **Kathmandu Valley FM Broadcasters' Forum**
- The **World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)**

International NGOs such as **Equal Access**, **Search for Common Ground**, **Internews**, the **BBC World Service Trust** and the **Radio Netherlands Training Centre**, also provide specialist programming, training, content development and technical support.

Leading radio networks and stations

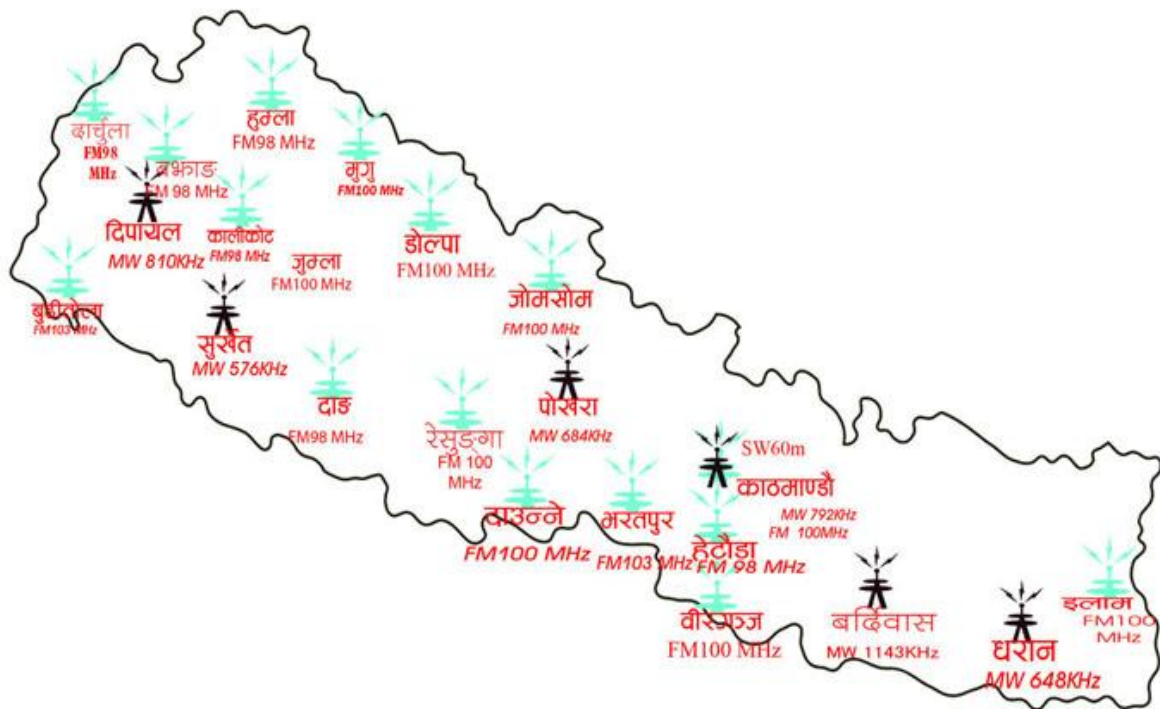
Radio Nepal www.radionepal.org

Radio Nepal is the state-owned radio network. It broadcasts nationwide from Kathmandu on medium wave, short wave and FM.

In addition, Radio Nepal runs 17 local FM stations in the following locations:

- **Kathmandu**
- **Burgunj**
- **Hetauda**
- **Bharatpur**
- **Jomsom**
- **Daunne**
- **Resunga**
- **Humla**
- **Jumla**
- **Manma**
- **Mugu**
- **Dolpa**
- **Dang**
- **Buditola**
- **Darchula**
- **Baghinj**
- **Illam**

Radio Nepal estimates that its Medium Wave broadcasts reach 70% to 80% of the population.



Radio Nepal transmitter network

Source – Radio Nepal website www.radionepal.org

Radio Nepal broadcasts mainly in **Nepali**.

It also airs news bulletins in the following local and international languages: **Avadhi, Bhojpuri, Doteli, English, Gurung, Hindi, Magar, Limbu, Magar, Kham Magar, Maithili, Newari, Rai Bantawa, Sherpa, Sanskrit, Tamang, Tharu East, Tharu West and Urdu.**

Radio Nepal is on air for 15 hours per day from 05.00 to 23.00.

Its national service has break-out slots for regional programming from 09.45 to 11.00 in the morning and 16.00 to 18.00 in the afternoon.

Radio Nepal was the first radio station to be established in the country. It began broadcasting on Short Wave in 1951. It subsequently launched transmissions on Medium Wave. FM broadcasts started in 1995.

Radio Nepal enjoyed a monopoly until 1997 when the first private FM station went on air.

During that period it was the country's main provider of broadcast news and entertainment. Radio Nepal played a key role in promoting the development of Nepal's music industry. It employed the country's many of the country's top musicians and recorded and broadcast their music

Today most people prefer to listen to non-government FM radios when they have an option. These private stations give them more local and immediately relevant information.

The government still views Radio Nepal as its official voice. As a result, local and commercial radio news is more trusted.

Despite some changes since the abolition of the monarchy, Radio Nepal uses traditional programme formats and styles. Its programmes are often presented in an uninteresting way.

Radio Nepal's FM service for Kathmandu leases out much of its air time to private programme content providers.

Executive Director - Tapanath Shukla,
Tel: +977 – 1 – 4211910/ 4211769/ 4211951
Email: rne@wlink.com.np, ed_rne@radionepal.org,
Address: Radio Nepal, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

Radio Nepal's network of stations and transmitters

Region	Station	Service Type	Transmitter		Frequency	On-air time[GMT]
			Nos.	Cap.		
Eastern	Dharan Transmitting Station, Sunsari	MW	1	100 KW	648 KHz	23:15 -17:15
	Illam FM Station	FM	1	1 KW	100 MHz	"
Central	Khumaltar Transmitting Station	SW	3	100 KW	Summer: 5.005 MHz 6.100 MHz 7.165 MHz Winter: 3.230 MHz 5.005 MHz	"
	Kathmandu Transmitting Station, Bhainsepati	MW	1	100 KW	792 KHz	"
	Bardibas Transmitting Station Mahottari	MW	1	10 KW	1143 KHz	"
	Kathmandu FM Station	FM	1	1 KW	100 MHz	24 Hours
	Birgunj FM Station	FM	1	1 KW	100 MHz	23:15-17:15
	Hetauda FM Station	FM	1	100 W	98 MHz	"
	Bharatpur FM Station		1	1 KW	103 MHz	"
Western	Pokhara Transmitting Station Malepatan, Pokhara	MW	1	100 KW	684 KHz	"
	Jomsom FM Station	FM	1	10 W	100 MHz	"
	Daunne FM Station	FM	1	1 KW	100 MHz	"
	Resunga FM Station (Test Transmission)	FM	1	300 W	100 MHz	"
Mid - Western	Surkhet Transmitting Station, Surkhet	MW	1	100 KW	576 KHz	"
	Humla FM Station	FM	1	50 W	100 MHz	"
	Jumla FM Station	FM	1	100 W	100 MHz	"
	Manma FM Station, kalikot	FM	1	250 W	100 MHz	"
	Mugu FM Station, Murma Top	FM	1	250 W	100 MHz	"
	Dolpa FM Station	FM	1	250 W	100 MHz	"
Far - Western	Dang FM Station	FM	1	1 KW	98 MHz	"
	Dipayal Transmitting Station, Doti	MW	1	10 KW	810 KHz	"
	Buditola FM Station	FM	1	1 KW	103 MHz	"
	Darchula FM Station (Test Transmission)	FM	1	500 W	98 MHz	"
Bajhang FM Station (Test Transmission)	FM	1	500 W	98 MHz	"	

Radio Kantipur www.radiokantipur.com

Radio Kantipur is generally regarded as the most popular radio station in the Kathmandu valley.

It forms part of the privately owned Kantipur media group. This also owns Nepal's leading newspaper, Kantipur, and the country's most popular television station, Kantipur TV (KTV).

Radio Kantipur was launched in Kathmandu in 1998 as Kantipur FM, a local music and entertainment station.

It has since developed a news service and has extended its reach to the rest of Nepal through seven FM relay stations in the interior.

The station, which has been rebranded as Radio Kantipur, now claims to reach 65 of Nepal's 75 administrative districts.

It broadcasts on 96.1 and 101.8 FM in **Nepali**, with a few programmes in **Newari**, and **Maithili**).

The station carries a lively mix of hourly news bulletins, Nepali and Hindi music (mostly pop and movie songs), entertainment programmes about local film stars and musicians and call-in/request programmes.

There are also some religious programmes.

Radio Kantipur's programmes are fast-paced and professionally presented, in strong contrast to those of Radio Nepal and most local FM stations.

The station's is popular among young, urban and relatively well-off, or aspirational Nepalis. But its reputation for fearless and high quality news reporting also attracts a much wider audience.

Contact: Prabhat Rimal, Station Manager

Tel: +977-1-5541902

Email: ksm@kantipur.com.np

Address: Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal

Image FM www.imagechannels.com

Image FM is one of Nepal's most popular commercial radio stations.

It broadcasts nationwide on 97.9 FM and has a dedicated news channel on 103.6 FM.

The main focus of Image FM's output is entertainment, but it also broadcasts news bulletins and current affairs programmes.

Image Group, the company behind Image FM also owns Image Channel TV.

The media house grew out of a radio production company that made programmes for the Kathmandu FM service of state-run Radio Nepal in the 1990s.

Image Group acquired its own radio licence in 1999 and originally called its station KATH FM. It was subsequently rebranded as Image FM.

The radio station has extended its reach to most of central and eastern Nepal through seven FM relay stations in:

- **Bhedetar**
- **Pokhara**
- **Narayanghat**
- **Butwal**

- **Bhairahawa**
- **Birgunj**
- **Nepalgunj.**

Tel: +977-1-4006555

Email: info@imagechannels.com

Address: Post Box no 5566, Panipokhari, Kathmandu

Ujyaalo 90 Network (UNN) www.unn.com.np

Ujyaalo 90 Network (UNN) is one of the most popular news radio stations in Kathmandu. Its programmes are also distributed by satellite to 45 partner stations across Nepal.

UNN carries entertainment and phone-in programmes as well as news.

Outside the Kathmandu valley, it is best known as a supplier of national and international news content to FM stations across Nepal.

UNN is owned by the private media company Communication Corner (CC).

UNN uses to a V-SAT system to distribute its programming to partner stations in the interior.

The satellite uplink also allows UNN to broadcast by satellite to much of South Asia.

UNN incorporates material contributed by its partner stations into its own news programming. This collaboration gives it a capacity for fast news gathering throughout the country.

UNN claims to reach 18 million listeners across Nepal through its partner stations.

These stations cover 80% of the country's population and 85% of its land area.

Executive Chairman - Gopal Guragain

Address: Broadcast Office, Sanepa, Lalitpur

Tel: +977-1-5546277/ 5011178

Radio Sagarmatha www.rudiosagarmatha.org

Radio Sagarmatha was the first private radio station to go on air in Nepal. It began broadcasting from Kathmandu in 1997.

Its broadcast output focuses on news, current affairs and social message programming,

Radio Sagarmatha is run by the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ). Many of its programmes are distributed to other radio stations by satellite via third party content sharing networks

Sagamatha's stated objectives include:

- the promotion of open public discourse on issues of public interest in support of social justice
- setting standards in public-interest broadcasting
- producing a pool of journalists in community broadcasting
- the education of the masses on relevant issues

Radio Sagarmatha is one of the most influential radio stations among decision makers in the capital.

Contact: Ghama Raj Luitel, Station Manager

Tel: 977-1-5528091/ 5542245/ 5530227

Email: stationmanager@radiosagarmatha.org,
ghamarajl@gmail.com

Address: Bakhundole, Lalitpur

Nepal FM www.nfm.com.np

Nepal FM started life as a news radio station in Kathmandu in December 2004.

It now serves as the hub for a content sharing network of more than 70 radio stations across Nepal linked by satellite.

Nepal FM broadcasts on 98.1 FM and is recognized as an important source of radio news in the capital.

The station now brands itself as a 'socially inclusive radio of new Nepal'.

It distributes content for broadcasting to its network partners and incorporates contributions from them in its own output.

Email: radio@nfm.com.np

Tel: +977-1-4289121, 4289123

Address: Ishani Club, Kathmandu

Kalika FM www.kalikafm.com.np

Kaika FM is one of the most influential commercial radio stations in Nepal that is based outside the capital.

The station is based in **Chitawan**, a town in the Tarai Region 100 km west of Kathmandu. It was founded in 2002.

Kalika FM has a powerful 2,000 watt transmitter mounted on a 55 metre-high mast that enables it to reach 26 of Nepal's 75 administrative districts

The 2006 – 2007 radio audience survey carried out by Equal Access found that Kalika FM had the third highest audience of any radio station in the country. Kalika FM now broadcasts on two frequencies, 95.2 and 91.0 FM, thanks to the installation of a second 500 watt transmitter.

Tel: +977-56-527158/ 527159

Email: info@kalikafm.com.np

Kathmandu office :

Tel: +977-(0)1-4372344/ 4373436

Address: Bhadrapur 10, Chitawan

Email: kalika@wlink.com.np

Address : Maharajgunj, Kathmandu

Dinesh FM www.dineshfm.np

Dinesh FM, in the Far Western district of **Kailali**, is a leading radio station of the region.

It started in July 2007, and now claims to have coverage in almost all districts of Far West, some districts in the Mid-West, and even parts of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh, across the border in India.

The station is owned by the Dinesh Group, a powerful business conglomerate with investments in many business sectors in the region.

Dinesh FM caters to all strata of society with a variety of entertainment and news programming.

Tel: +977-91-26738/ 26838

Address: Main Road, Dhangadi, Kailali

Community Radio Madanpokhara (CRM) www.community-radio-madanpokhara.org

Community Radio Madanpokhara (CRM) is widely regarded as the closest thing to ‘real’ community radio” in Nepal. The local community was closely involved in setting up the radio station and continues to run it.

CRM was established by a consortium of community-based organizations in the village of Madanpokhar in Palpa district in West Central Nepal in 2000.

Over the years it has received strong support form international donors and both local and international media development organizations.

CRM only has a modestly powered 500-watt transmitter, but it claims to reach 800,000 listeners within a broadcast coverage area that encompasses eight administrative districts.

The station is run by a staff of 17 volunteers.

Members of the community participate in the radio through various forums to decide the content of broadcast ouput based on the needs of their community.

There is a strong emphasis on social programming about women’s issues and marginalised groups in society.

The station broadcasts for 12.5 hours per day in Nepali and several local languages.

CRM boasts a network of 95 listener’s clubs and centres. These attract strong participation from women, farmers and youth.

Station Manager - Gunakar Aryal

Email: crm_plp@hons.com.np

Address: Madanpokhara – 9, Palpa, Nepal

Tel: +977-75-521405/ 520655

Email: banepal@ntc.net.np

List of registered FM radio stations

The following list of FM radio stations in Nepal was compiled by infoasaid in August 2011 with the help of data provided by the Information Ministry and Equal Access and Infoasaid's own research.

	Radio Station Call Sign (or Name of the organisation)	District	Frequency MHz	Transmitter Power Watts	Contact Details
1	Radio Ramaroshan	Achhaam	92	500	977-97-620228, 690179
2	Radio Vaijnath FM	Achhaam	88.2	100	
3	Radio Argakhanchi	Arghakhanchi	105.8	100	977-77-420680, 420700
4	Samudayik Radio Deurali	Arghakhanchi	101	500	977-77-420281, 420381
5	Baglung FM	Baglung	96.4	500	
6	Dhawalagiri FM	Baglung	98.6	500	977-68-520045, 522172, 522200
7	Radio Dhorpatan	Baglung	104.1	100	
8	Sarathi FM	Baglung	107.4	100	
9	Sayapatri FM	Baglung	91.6	500	977-68-522252, 522253, 522448, 522253
10	Radio Sansher	Baitadi	106.6	100	
11	Saugat FM	Baitadi	103.6	100	977-95-520046, 520515
12	Radio Nepal	Bajhang	98	500	
13	Saipal Radio	Bajhang	100.6	250	977-92-690235
14	Seti Samudayik FM	Bajhang	93.6	250	977-92-421157
15	Radio Bajura	Bajura	104	500	
16	Bheri FM	Banke	105.4	100	977-81-525727, 521604

17	Image FM	Banke	97.9	500	
18	Kantipur FM	Banke	101.8	1000	
19	Naya Nepal Sanchar Sahakari Sanstha	Banke	104.2	100	
20	Nepalgunj Samudayik FM	Banke	104.8	100	977-81-524403, 527990
21	Radi Jana Awaj	Banke	97.3	1000	977-81-551300, 551301
22	Radio Bageshwari	Banke	94.6	1000	977-81-526391, 521369, 523482
23	Radio Bheri Aawaj	Banke	95.6	500	977-81-551017
24	Radio Kohalpur	Banke	101.2	500	977-81-541360
25	Radio Krishnasar	Banke	94	2000	977-81-527477, 527894, 527722
26	Radio Pratibodh	Banke	102.4	100	977-81-541696
27	Radio Rubaru	Banke	104.5	100	977-81-523310, 522479
28	Radio Xpress FM	Banke	88.4	100	
29	Youth FM	Banke	96.8	100	
30	Radio Simara	Bara	106	100	977-53-521106, 521306
31	Sanskar FM	Bara	88.8	100	977-53-551874, 551875
32	Fulbari FM	Bardiya	100.6	100	977-84-420428, 421219
33	Radio Babai	Bardiya	106	100	977-84-421169
34	Radio Gurubaba	Bardiya	106.4	100	977-81-620222, 620223
35	Bhaktapur FM	Bhaktapur	105.4	100	977-1-6619111, 6620111, 6613972
36	Nepali Ko Radio	Bhaktapur	88.8	500	977-1-4600200,

					4600600
37	Samudayik Radio Chomolungma	Bhojpur	98.6	100	977-29-420555, 420485
38	Hamro FM	Chitawan	94	2000	977-994530008, 977-48-540327
39	Image FM	Chitawan	97.9	500	
40	Kalika FM	Chitawan	95.2	2000	977-56-527158, 527159
41	Kalika FM	Chitawan	91	500	977-56-527158, 527159
42	Kantipur FM	Chitawan	96.1	1000	
43	Radio Arpan	Chitawan	104.5	100	977-56-563330, 563332
44	Radio Chitawan	Chitawan	94.6	1000	977-56-562567, 562606
45	Radio Madi	Chitawan	107.6	50	
46	Radio Nepal	Chitawan	103	1000	
47	Radio Triveni	Chitawan	100.6	2000	
48	Samudayik Radio Dhruvatara	Chitawan	89.8	50	977-56-533166, 523149
49	Sasaktikaran ka lagi Anusandhak	Chitawan	105.2	500	
50	Synergy FM	Chitawan	91.6	2000	977-56-526916, 526917
51	Youth FM	Chitawan	96.8	100	
52	Aafno FM	Dadeldhura	104.8	50	977-96-420720
53	Paschim Nepal Media Aviyan	Dadeldhura	96	250	
54	Radio Sudur Aawaj	Dadeldhura	95	500	977-6-420746, 420747
55	Samudayik Vikash Tatha Samajik Nyaya Manch	Dadeldhura	97.4	500	
56	Radio Dhurbatara Samudayik FM	Dailekh	89.8	1000	977-89-420420, 420421

57	Radio Panchakoshi Samudayik FM	Dailekh	104	100	977-89-420355
58	Dang FM	Dang	107	100	
59	Indreni FM (Pal Pal Ko Saathi)	Dang	92.4	2000	977-82-561538, 562195
60	Radio Ganatantra Rapti	Dang	95.1	100	977-82-563330
61	Radio Hamro Pahuch	Dang	89	500	977-82-521519, 521771
62	Radio Highway	Dang	103.5	100	977-82-540644, 540660
63	Radio Jharana	Dang	88	100	977-82-562294, 562193, 562293
64	Radio Madhyapaschim	Dang	91.4	1000	977-82-560854, 561590
65	Radio Naya Yug	Dang	107.3	100	
66	Radio Nepal	Dang	98	1000	
67	Radio Prakriti	Dang	93.4	500	977-82-521847, 521880
68	Radio Saryu Ganga	Dang	104	100	977-82-521954, 520871
69	Radio Swargadwari	Dang	102.8	500	977-82-560164, 561199
70	Radio Tulsipur	Dang	100.2	500	977-82-560164, 561199
71	Super FM	Dang	106.4	100	
72	Radio Kalapani	Darchula	102.2	100	977-93-690431, 463017,
73	Radio Naya Nepal	Darchula	104.5	100	
74	Radio Nepal	Darchula	98	500	
75	Krishi Radio	Dhading	105	50	977-16-214439
76	Radio Dhading	Dhading	106	500	977-10-520960, 520961

77	Radio Loktantra	Dhading	89.4	500	977-10-520271, 520944
78	Radio Trishuli	Dhading	105.6	30	977-10-520960, 520961
79	Rajmarga Samudayik Sanchar Kendra	Dhading	92.1	100	
80	Shree Sahid Smriti Sanchar Sahakari Sanstha Limited	Dhading	97.6	500	
81	Heart FM	Dhankuta	87.6	50	
82	Image FM	Dhankuta	97.9	500	
83	Radio Dhankuta	Dhankuta	106.2	100	977-26-521458
84	Radio Kantipur	Dhankuta	96.1	1000	
85	Radio Laliguransh	Dhankuta	105.2	100	977-26-540540, 540541
86	Radio Makalu	Dhankuta	92.2	500	977-26-521451, 521452, 521453
87	Youth FM	Dhankuta	96.8	100	
88	Janaki FM	Dhanusha	106	500	977-41-527430, 527431
89	Janakpur FM	Dhanusha	101.8	500	977-41-520377, 522437
90	Mithila Sanchar Samuha	Dhanusha	106.6	100	
91	Mithilanchal FM	Dhanusha	105	2000	977-41-527506, 527505
92	Mithilanchal FM Pvt. Ltd.	Dhanusha	99.4	2000	
93	Radio Janakpur	Dhanusha	97	500	977-41-524847, 527346
94	Radio Mithila	Dhanusha	100.8	1000	977-41-525108, 525109
95	Radio Today	Dhanusha	91	1000	977-41-527491, 521491
96	Chyomongmo Media Pvt. Ltd.	Dolakha	108.8	100	
97	Hamro Radio	Dolakha	103.4	250	977-49-421802, 421803
98	Kalinchowk FM Radio	Dolakha	106.4	100	977-49-421774,

					421775
99	Radio Sailung	Dolakha	104	250	977-49-421812, 421812
100	Radio Nepal	Dolpa	100	250	
101	Se Foksundo Samudayik Sanchar Sahakari Sanstha Limited	Dolpa	106.3	100	
102	Samudayik Radio Shaileshwari FM	Doti	105.9	100	977-94-420281, 420295
103	Triveni FM	Doti	94.4	500	977-94-420457, 420453
104	Gorakhkali FM	Gorkha	103.6	100	
105	Mero Saathi	Gorkha	107.2	100	977-65-540599, 540600
106	Radio Gorkha	Gorkha	92.8	500	977-64-420727, 421390
107	Radio Harmi	Gorkha	105.4	100	977-61-691650
108	Radio Manakamana	Gorkha	102.4	100	
109	Radio Manaslu	Gorkha	103.9	100	977-64-421477, 421484
110	Radio Gulmi	Gulmi	91.2	250	977-79-520736
111	Radio Nepal	Gulmi	100	2000	
112	Radio Resunga	Gulmi	106.2	500	977-79-520994, 521003, 521005
113	Ruru FM	Gulmi	94.8	500	9747028808
114	Samudayik Radio Sky FM	Gulmi	88.4	100	977-79-520740, 520741
115	Ekikrit Samudayik Vikash Tatha Anusandhan Kendra	Humla	94.2	250	
116	Radio Kailash	Humla	103.4	50	977-87-680166, 680207, 680208
117	Radio Nepal	Humla	100	50	
118	Ilam FM	Ilam	93	500	977-27-520769, 521482

119	Radio Fikkal	Ilam	90.6	500	977-27-540188
120	Radio Nepal	Ilam	100	1000	
121	Radio Nepalvani	Ilam	94.9	1000	977-27-521507, 520415
122	Sandakpur FM	Ilam	104	100	
123	Asal Sashan Jilla Samnwaya Samiti	Jajarkot	97.9	100	
124	Khalanga FM	Jajarkot	107.6	100	
125	Panchtara Yuwa Sanraksak Manch	Jajarkot		100	
126	Birta FM	Jhapa	105	100	977-23-540839, 544180
127	FM Mechi Tunes	Jhapa	96.8	500	977-23-562508, 563265, 563266
128	Hamro Sanchar Samuha	Jhapa	89.1	100	
129	Kanchanjungha FM	Jhapa	92.6	1000	977-23-542611, 543565
130	Nagarik FM	Jhapa	107.5	100	977-79-520168, 520277
131	Pathivara FM	Jhapa	93.6	1000	977-23-584604, 584605, 584606
132	Radio Sandesh	Jhapa	103.9	100	023-550648 023-550654
133	Radio Saragam	Jhapa	88.8	100	
134	Radio Sunrise	Jhapa	105.9	100	977-23-544003, 540422
135	Saptarangi FM	Jhapa	101.6	500	977-23-584626, 584926, 584927
136	Seemana FM	Jhapa	106.9	100	977-23-563602, 563620
137	Hamro Aawaj Hamro Sarokar	Jumla	100.6	100	
138	Radio Karnali	Jumla	105.2	100	977-87-520185, 01-5530279
139	Radio Nepal	Jumla	100	100	
140	Dinesh FM	Kailali	93.8	1000	977-91-

					526838, 526738
141	Fulbari FM	Kailali	93.2	500	977-91- 560351, 560496,
142	Ghodaghodi FM	Kailali	91.4	500	977-91- 550711
143	Godavari FM	Kailali	87.9	100	977-91- 551211
144	Hamro Fulbari FM	Kailali	107.3	100	
145	Hamra Malika FM	Kailali	107	100	977-91- 540012
146	Kantiur FM	Kailali	101.8	1000	
147	Khaptad FM	Kailali	98.2	500	977-93- 690431, 463017
148	Paschim Today FM	Kailali	88.8	100	
149	Radio Jana Aawaj	Kailali	89.4	500	977-91- 522136, 525194
150	Radio Kailali FM	Kailali	103.7	100	
151	Radio Nepal	Kailali	103	1000	
152	Sita Sanchar Samuha	Kailali	105.3	100	
153	Tikapur FM	Kailali	101	250	977-91- 560625
154	Ujyalo Sudur Paschim Ka Lagi Media Sanjal	Kailali	105.6	100	
155	Radio Bhek Aawaj	Kalikot	101.2	100	977-83- 523241
156	Radio Chulimalika	Kalikot	101.8	100	977-87- 440188, 440177
157	Radio Naya Karnali	Kalikot	102.8	100	977-87- 440180
158	Radio Nepal	Kalikot	100	250	
159	Angel FM	Kanchanpur	104.3	100	
160	Radio Mahakali	Kanchanpur	96.2	500	977-99- 522114
161	Shuklafanta FM	Kanchanpur	99.4	1000	977-99- 521615, 523755, 522899
162	Janakpur Sanchar Samuha	Kapilvastu	106.1	100	
163	Radio Kapilvastu	Kapilvastu	104.2	100	977-76- 690873, 560374
164	Radio Samanata	Kapilvastu	105.4	100	
165	Samudayik Radio Buddha	Kapilvastu	89.6	500	977-76-

	Aawaj				550180, 550181
166	Tilarakot Samudayik Radio FM	Kapilvastu	107.6	100	
167	Annapurna Music FM	Kaski	99.6	100	977-61- 532877, 533177, 539939
168	Big FM	Kaski	101.2	1000	977-61- 535063, 535065
169	Gorkhali Radio	Kaski	106	100	977-61- 527414, 527415
170	Himchuli FM	Kaski	92.2	500	977-61- 539251, 533383
171	Image FM	Kaski	97.9	500	
172	Kantipur FM	Kaski	101.8	1000	
173	Machhapuchhre FM	Kaski	91	500	977-61- 532883, 541044, 532853
174	Pokhara FM	Kaski	95.8	250	977-61- 532583, 535237
175	Radio Annapurna	Kaski	93.4	1000	977-61- 532877, 533177, 539939
176	Radio Barahi	Kaski	99.2	1000	977-61- 463222, 465155, 464755
177	Radio Chhunumunu	Kaski	87.9	50	977-61- 531411, 541411
178	Radio Gandaki	Kaski	90.2	1000	977-61- 527106, 527103, 527104
179	Radio Lekhnath	Kaski	106.6	100	977-61- 560613
180	Radio Safalta	Kaski	103.4	50	
181	Radio Sarangkot	Kaski	104.6	250	977-61- 521628, 524550
182	Sunaulo FM	Kaski	102.2	100	977-61- 532446, 523447, 532433

183	Tarang Pvt. Ltd	Kaski	107.6	100	977-61-527100
184	Youth FM	Kaski	96.8	100	
185	Capital FM	Kathmandu	92.4	500	977-1-4475345, 4475346
186	Citizen FM	Kathmandu	94	1000	977-1-4721452, 4721453
187	CJMC Community FM	Kathmandu	106	100	977-1-4650565, 4650566
188	FM Adhyatmajyoti	Kathmandu	104.8	100	977-1-4442253
189	Good News FM	Kathmandu	105.1	100	977-1-4770754, 01-2222481
190	Gopikrishna FM Radio Filmy	Kathmandu	101.8	500	977-1-4822852, 4822895
191	Gorkha FM	Kathmandu	93	500	977-1-4102548, 4102549, 4102546
192	Htis FM	Kathmandu	91.2	500	977-1-4780534, 4780349, 4781604
193	Image FM	Kathmandu	97.9	1000	977-1-4006555
194	Jana Sandesh	Kathmandu	88.2	100	
195	Keeps Media	Kathmandu	98.3	100	977-1-4673114
196	Maitri FM	Kathmandu	99.4	500	977-1-4672500
197	Mero FM	Kathmandu	93.5	100	977-1-4425958, 4412400, 4412500
198	Metro FM	Kathmandu	94.6	500	977-1-4441246, 4441247
199	Nepal FM	Kathmandu	91.8	500	977-1-4289123, 4289121
200	Radio Audio	Kathmandu	106.3	100	977-1-4781571, 4784414
201	Radio Bagmati	Kathmandu	103.6	500	
202	Radio City FM	Kathmandu	98.8	500	977-1-

					4433322
203	Radio Mirmire	Kathmandu	89.4	500	977-1-4771228, 4770136
204	Radio Upatyaka	Kathmandu	87.6	100	977-1-4223671, 4249446
205	Rajdhani FM	Kathmandu	100.6	500	977-1-4015803, 4015804
206	Star FM	Kathmandu	95.2	500	977-1-4465875, 4465873
207	Times FM	Kathmandu	90.6	500	977-1-4462465, 6209509
208	TU FM	Kathmandu	107	50	977-1-4223706
209	Youth FM	Kathmandu	96.8	500	01- 4469933, 4463134
210	Grace FM	Kavre	107.6	100	977-11-490985, 490986
211	Madhyapurva FM	Kavre	104	100	977-11-490770, 490650
212	Radio ABC	Kavre	89.8	500	977-11-663399, 662299
213	Radio Janasanchar	Kavre	107.3	100	977-1-6227773
214	Radio Masti	Kavre	87.9	100	977-11-660774
215	Radio Namobuddha	Kavre	106.7	100	977-11-490618
216	Radio Naya Sandesh	Kavre	104.5	100	
217	Radio Shepherd	Kavre	88.4	50	977-11-490884
218	Haleshi FM	Khotang	102.4	250	977-36-420486, 420583
219	Rupakot Radio	Khotang	105	100	977-36-420373, 690128, 420573
220	Newa FM	Kirtipur	106.6	100	977-1-4334222, 2297680
221	Antenna Foundation Nepal	Lalitpur		30	
222	BFBS	Lalitpur	105.7	50	

223	Classic FM	Lalitpur	101.2	500	977-1-5555139
224	Headlines and Music FM	Lalitpur	97.2	500	977-1-5527059, 5525144, 5528996
225	Paryawaran Chakra Radio (ECR)	Lalitpur	104.2	500	977-1-5560782
226	Radio Kantipur	Lalitpur	96.1	1000	977-1-5541902, 5541903,
227	Radio Lalipur	Lalitpur	100.9	50	
228	Radio Nepal	Lalitpur	100	3000	
229	Radio Sagarmatha	Lalitpur	102.4	1000	977-1-5528091, 5542245
230	Ujyalo 90 Network	Lalitpur	90	500	977-1-5551716, 5000138, 5000171
231	Radio Lamjung	Lamjung	88.4	100	977-66-520811, 520812, 520813
232	Radio Marsyangdi	Lamjung	95	500	977-66-520020, 520547
233	Jaleshwarnath FM	Mahottari	90.4	500	977-44-521098, 521096, 521097
234	Radio Appan Mithila	Mahottari	94.4	500	977-44-521063, 521062
235	Radio Darpan	Mahottari	88.4	250	977-44-550575
236	Radio Gunjan	Mahottari	103.7	100	
237	Radio Rudraksha	Mahottari	103.4	100	977-44-520521, 520520, 520524
238	Radio Sungava FM	Mahottari	107	100	977-44-550571, 550572
239	Hetauda FM	Makwanpur	96.6	500	977-57-524088
240	Hetauda Media Pvt. Ltd.	Makwanpur	88	100	
241	Radio Aakash Ganga	Makwanpur	88.5	100	977-57-530310
242	Radio Asmita	Makwanpur	106.6	100	

243	Radio Makwanpur	Makwanpur	101.3	500	977-57-526156, 526157
244	Radio Nepal	Makwanpur	98	100	
245	Radio Palung	Makwanpur	107.2	50	977-57-620161, 620155
246	Radio Pratidhwani	Makwanpur	97	1000	977-57-620466, 620477, 621488
247	Radio Thaha Sansar	Makwanpur	99.6	1000	977-57-524720, 524721
248	Samudayik Radio Shakti	Makwanpur	103.4	100	977-57-526138, 526139
249	B FM	Morang	91.2	500	977-21-533471, 534290, 534293
250	Jagriti FM	Morang	87.9	100	977-21-440937
251	Janasancha Kendra	Morang	95.1	500	
252	Koshi FM	Morang	94.3	500	977-21-440293, 440292, 536134
253	Radio Chamatkar	Morang	101	100	
254	Radio Makalu	Morang	102.1	500	977-21-523390
255	Radio Purbanchal	Morang	104.4	100	977-21-525105, 440193, 440192
256	Radio Sunakhari	Morang	102.6	100	
257	Radio Suseli FM	Morang	106.3	100	977-21-546408, 546409
258	Sajha Radio	Morang	104.8	100	
259	Saptakoshi FM	Morang	105.6	100	977-21-536645
260	Sky FM	Morang	106.6	100	977-21-536645, 536646
261	Mugali Chalchitra Vikash Sang	Mugu	106.6	100	
262	Radio Mugu	Mugu	107.4	100	977-87-460147
263	Radio Nepal	Mugu	100	250	

264	Radio Rara	Mugu	107	100	977-87-460187 9848308507
265	Gramin Suchana Tatha Pravidhi Vikash Kendra	Mustang	89	100	
266	Radio Nepal	Mustang	103	10	
267	Myagdikali FM	Myagdi	88.2	500	977-69-520996, 520794, 520684
268	Radio Myagdi	Myagdi	104.4	100	977-69-520886, 520986
269	Daunne FM	Nawalparasi	103.4	50	
270	Radio Madhyavindu FM	Nawalparasi	101	500	977-78-540730, 540614, 540613
271	Radio Nepal	Nawalparasi	100	2000	
272	Radio Parasi	Nawalparasi	90.2	500	977-78-520504, 521045, 521046
273	Vijaya FM	Nawalparasi	101.6	1000	977-56-501405, 501404, 501406
274	Nuwakot FM	Nuwakot	106.8	100	977-10-561645, 630120
275	Radio Aviyan	Nuwakot	103.4	500	
276	Radio Jalapa	Nuwakot	104.5	25	977-993101233
277	Afno FM	Okhaldhunga	104.8	50	977-37-520345
278	Radio Okhaldhunga	Okhaldhunga	105.6	100	977-37-520456, 690382
279	Ramailo Community Radio	Okhaldhunga	100.6	100	977-37-520474, 520475
280	Muktinath FM	Palpa	90.8	500	977-65-540599, 540600
281	Radio Paschimanchal	Palpa	99.4	500	977-75-521725, 522675
282	Samudayik Radio Madan Pokhara	Palpa	106.9	500	977-75-521405, 520655

283	Samudayik Radio Palpa	Palpa	103.9	100	
284	Samudayik Radio Rampur	Palpa	103.6	100	977-75-691517, 9747080123
285	Shrinagar FM	Palpa	93.2	1000	977-75-521660, 521732, 521048
286	Eagle FM	Panchthar	99.2	500	977-24-520557
287	Simhalila FM	Panchthar	97.3	500	
288	Sumhatlung FM	Panchthar	104.2	100	977-24-520262, 520263
289	Radio Didi Bahini	Parbat	95.2	500	977-67-421198, 421199
290	Radio Parbat	Parbat	103.6	100	977-67-690393
291	Radio Shaligram	Parbat	100.6	500	977-67-421207, 421208
292	Aakas FM	Parsa	101.9	100	977-51-590004, 590008
293	Bhojpuriya FM	Parsa	92.8	500	977-51-526400, 534113
294	Birgunj Musical FM	Parsa	105.8	100	977-51-525099, 528599
295	Gadimai FM	Parsa	91.4	2000	977-51-529191
296	Image FM	Parsa	97.9	500	
297	Indreni FM	Parsa	97.6	1000	977-51-529794, 529464
298	Kadambari FM	Parsa		100	
299	Narayani FM	Parsa	103.8	500	977-51-520288, 520588
300	Radio Birgunj	Parsa	99	1000	977-51-525099, 528599
301	Radio Kantipur	Parsa	96.1	1000	
302	Radio Nepal	Parsa	100	1000	
303	Radio Tarang	Parsa	107	100	977-9725142176
304	Youth FM	Parsa	96.8	100	
305	Radio Lishne Aawaj	Pyuthan	103.6	500	977-86-

					460440
306	Radio Mahila Aawaj	Pyuthan	90	100	
307	Radio Mandavi	Pyuthan	97	250	977-86-420212, 420213
308	Radio Pyuthan	Pyuthan	92	250	977-86-420211, 690283
309	Hajurko Radio	Ramechhap	102.1	100	977-994530008, 977-48-540327
310	Radio Tinal	Ramechhap	88.6	100	977-48-540125, 540086
311	Durgam FM	Rasuwa	100.9	100	
312	Rasuwa FM	Rasuwa	102.1	100	
313	Ekikrit Gramin Vikash Kendra Nepal	Rautahat	102.2	100	
314	Madhesh Jana Aawaj	Rautahat	98.6	500	977-55-565373, 565374
315	Radio Jivan Jyoti	Rautahat	90.4	100	977-55-521490, 521491
316	Radio Madhes	Rautahat	89.6	50	
317	Radio Nunthar FM	Rautahat	102.6	100	977-55-540540, 540512
318	Radio Sanskriti	Rautahat	98.2	500	
319	Rajdevi FM	Rautahat	93.2	1000	977-55-520377, 521129
320	Rautahat FM	Rautahat	90.8	500	977-55-5200015, 521395
321	Radio Jaljala	Rolpa	104.5	100	977-86-440154, 440271
322	Radio Rolpa	Rolpa	93.8	500	977-86-680146, 440102
323	Radio Sani Bheri	Rukum	89.2	500	
324	Radio Sanobheri	Rukum	100.8	100	977-88-530056, 530084, 530058
325	Radio Sisne	Rukum	92.8	1000	977-88-530171, 530153,

					530156
326	Uttarjanga Sanchar Kendra	Rukum	102	100	
327	Aasha ko Sandesh	Rupandehi	107.2	50	
328	Butwal FM	Rupandehi	94.4	1000	977-71-438573, 483574, 438575
329	Image FM	Rupandehi	97.6	500	
330	Radio Devdaha	Rupandehi	106.6	100	977-71-577735, 577738, 577736
331	Radio Jagaran	Rupandehi	93.6	500	977-71-437051, 438068
332	Radio Kantipur	Rupandehi	96.1	1000	
333	Radio Lumbini	Rupandehi	96.8	2000	977-71-561003, 562014, 562012
334	Radio Malmala	Rupandehi	88.6	100	
335	Radio Mukti	Rupandehi	95.5	100	977-71-551501, 551503, 551504
336	Radio Namaste	Rupandehi	92.8	1000	977-71-437955, 437957
337	Radio Republic	Rupandehi	88.2	500	977-71-438830, 438826, 438827
338	Radio Samabesi	Rupandehi	105	100	977-71-544128, 544129, 544130
339	Rupandehi FM	Rupandehi	102	1000	977-71-521002, 521003, 521004
340	Siddhartha FM	Rupandehi	98.8	1000	977-71-523991, 523992
341	Tinau FM	Rupandehi	98.2	1000	977-71-438355, 438371
342	Radio Kapurkot	Salyan	106.1	100	977-82-690259
343	Radio Salyan	Salyan	101	250	977-88-520275

344	Radio Sharada	Salyan	99.2	500	977-88-520136, 520320
345	Rapti FM	Salyan	104.8	100	977-86-520255
346	Gurans FM	Sankhuwasabha	107.5	100	977-29-560960, 560961
347	Khandbari FM	Sankhuwasabha	105.8	100	977-29-560520, 560521
348	Radio Arun Sandesh	Sankhuwasabha	100.8	100	
349	Appan FM	Saptari	104.6	100	
350	Bhorukawa	Saptari	92.8	250	977-31-523303, 5217167
351	Janak Sanchar Samuha	Saptari	102.1	100	
352	Radio Chhinnamasta	Saptari	101.4	250	977-31-521068, 521488
353	Mai FM	Sarlahi	107.4	100	977-41-527506, 527505
354	Radio Ekata	Sarlahi	94.6	250	977-46-501594, 5011595
355	Radio Madhes	Sarlahi	89.3	250	977-46-521391, 521392
356	Radio Sarlahi	Sarlahi	105.6	100	977-46-530617, 530515
357	Radio Sahara	Sindhuli	104.2	100	977-47-520961, 520962
358	Radio Sindhuligadi	Sindhuli	92	500	977-47-520617, 520618
359	Radio Avarv	Sindhupalchok	89.1	100	
360	Radio Sindhu	Sindhupalchok	105	100	977-11-620396, 620397
361	Sindhu FM	Sindhupalchok	102.8	100	
362	Youth FM	Sindhupalchok	96.8	100	
363	Fulbari Community Radio	Siraha	105.4	100	977-33-561015
364	Radio Salhesh	Siraha	88.8	100	977-33-520888

365	Radio Samagra	Siraha	107.8	100	977-33-561550, 560012
366	Samad FM	Siraha	102.6	100	977-33-561007, 693330
367	Samudayik Radio Saugat	Siraha	88.1	100	977-33-561640
368	Radio Dudhkoshi	Solukhumbu	94.6	500	977-38-520349, 520350, 520351
369	Radio Everest	Solukhumbu	105.3	100	
370	Solu FM	Solukhumbu	101.2	500	977-38-520016, 690177, 520212
371	Dantakali FM	Sunsari	88.5	100	977-25-525122, 533288
372	Ganatantra FM	Sunsari	95.1	500	977-25-532231
373	Jana Sanchar Kendra Nepal	Sunsari	103.6	100	
374	Namaste FM	Sunsari	107.2	1000	977-25-586941, 586942
375	Popular FM	Sunsari	99.5	500	977-25-561801, 561800, 560831
376	Radio Kantipur	Sunsari	96.1	10 kilo	
377	Radio Parivartan	Sunsari	89.4	100	977-25-582196, 582195
378	Saptakoshi FM	Sunsari	90	1000	977-25-580277, 580266, 583026
379	Star FM	Sunsari	95.6	500	
380	Vijaypur FM	Sunsari	98.8	1000	977-25-520944, 532732, 532733
381	Bulbule FM	Surkhet	103.4	500	977-83-523075
382	Himal FM	Surkhet	106.7	100	977-83-523240, 523241
383	Jagaran FM	Surkhet	90.8	500	977-83-524142,

					524342
384	Radio Bheri FM	Surkhet	102.7	100	977-83-522445, 523445
385	Radio Bheri FM	Surkhet	98.6	500	977-83-522445
386	Radio Himal	Surkhet	92.6	500	
387	Radio Surkhet	Surkhet	90.2	250	
388	Radio Aandhi Khola	Syangja	105.4	250	977-63-440285, 440038
389	Radio Syangja	Syangja	89.6	500	977-63-420065, 420797, 421086
390	Radio Waling	Syangja	89.2	100	977-63-440580
391	Damauli FM	Tanahu	94.2	500	977-65-561781, 561815
392	Dhorbarahi FM	Tanahu	88.2	50	
393	Madi Seti FM	Tanahu	105.8	1000	977-65-561295
394	Radio Bandipur	Tanahu	88.8	1000	977-65-580330, 580320, 580362, 560352
395	Radio Bhanubhakta	Tanahu	104.2	100	977-65-562345, 562666
396	Radio Devghat	Tanahu	102.6	100	977-56-621259, 523645
397	Radio Tanahun	Tanahu	97.2	1000	977-65-570897, 570922
398	Radio Tamor	Taplejung	102	250	977-24-460564, 460565
399	Radio Taplejung	Taplejung	94	500	977-24-460464, 460598
400	Radio Menchhyayam	Tehrathum	102.6	100	977-26-460694, 460689
401	Amurta FM	Udaypur	91.6	500	977-35-420801, 420802, 420803
402	Radio Triyuga	Udaypur	104	100	977-35-

					420767, 690675
403	Radio Udayapur	Udaypur	102.4	100	977-35- 421236, 421237
404	UK FM	Udaypur	106.8	100	977-35- 450324

International radio stations which are influential in Nepal

BBC Nepali Service www.bbc.co.uk/nepali

The BBC's Nepali language service produces 30 minutes of programming every day (and 60 minutes on Saturday) which is relayed by a network of about 50 partner FM stations across the county.

Its short wave broadcasts closed down in March 2011.

BBC World Service broadcasts in English 24 hours per day on 103.00 FM in Kathmandu.

Head of BBC Nepali service (Kathmandu) - Rabindra Mishra,

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Email: nepali.letters@bbc.co.uk

All India Radio (AIR) www.allindiaradio.org

All India Radio was popular when there were no private FM radio stations in Nepal. However very few people tune into the station these days.

The media audience survey conducted by Equal Access in 2006 and 2007 showed that only 6.4% of respondents listened to All India Radio.

With the number of FM radio stations increasing in every district of Nepal, the figure is undoubtedly even lower today.

However, in districts along the Indian border, people do tune into some of the popular FM stations from India, like Radio **Mirchi**, **Radio City** and **Red FM**.

5. Television

Overview

Television arrived late in Nepal, but it is now the main source of broadcast news and entertainment in urban areas.

State-run **Nepal Television** still commands the biggest audience nationwide because its free-to-air terrestrial broadcasts can be widely received across the country. In many rural areas, Nepal Television is the only TV station available.

Privately owned **Kantipur Television (KTV)** is widely regarded as having the largest audience share in urban areas.

Another private channel, **Avenues Television (ATV)**, is the next most popular station and is catching up fast on Kantipur..

The private news channels **ABC** and **News 24** are also very popular.

The reach of television in rural areas is limited by the availability of electricity. Where an electricity supply exists, most households own a TV set, even in relatively poor areas. But overall, radio still dominates broadcasting in the countryside.

In large cities, such as Kathmandu or Pokhara, on the other hand, there are often two TV sets per household and no radio.

State-run Nepal Television inaugurated TV broadcasting the country in 1985. It now transmits 24 hours per day on two channels; **NTV** and **NTV Plus**.

The state broadcaster is the only TV station which broadcasts free-to-air from terrestrial transmitters right across the country.

Some of the private TV channels also use terrestrial transmission, but they reach most of their viewers by satellite and cable.

Nepal's first private sector television station, Channel Nepal, was launched on what was then the country's only cable TV network in 2002.

But it was the setting up of **Kantipur Television** and the **Image Channel** a year later that started attracting mass audiences to private television.

Both these stations were offshoots of existing media organizations.

Kantipur TV was launched by the owners of Kantipur, Nepal's largest circulation daily newspaper and the national FM station Radio Kantipur.

The Image Channel was started by the owners of another successful Kathmandu radio station, Image FM.

By 2011, NTV was facing competition from about 15 private channels, broadcasting mainly on cable and satellite.

Almost all television stations have hourly news bulletins, except during prime viewing time in the evening.

Political talk shows are popular— almost all the TV channels have them. Some channels air more than one a day.

However, drama serials which contain a strong dose of social and political humour and satire attract the biggest audiences on Nepalese television.

Live music video programmes, where the VJ plays music videos and chats with callers are very popular among the young viewers.

Most television programmes, including the news bulletins, are in **Nepali** .

However with all private sector TV broadcasters trying to carve their own niche, some now carry programmes and news bulletins in other languages as well.

Nepal 1, which broadcasts from India, and **TTV** both carry programmes in local languages from the Terai lowlands in Southern Nepal, including **Bhojpuri, Maitheli** and **Abadi**.

Some channels that mainly target viewers in the Kathmandu valley broadcast news bulletins in **Newari**.

Image Channel even carries Newari language soap operas.

Several channels, including **Nepal Television** and **Kantipur Television**, feature news bulletins in **English**.

As news and current affairs based programmes and political talk shows have become popular, television has gained increasing influence among decision makers in Kathmandu.

Cable TV operators provide services in most urban and semi-urban areas, offering packages of up to 100 or more Nepalese and foreign TV channels.

These frequently include international news channels like BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera, sports channels like ESPN and Star Sports, special interest channels like National Geographic, Animal Planet and TLC, and Indian entertainment channels like Zee TV, Star TV, Colors and Sony.

Several cable television distributors in cities such as Kathmandu, Butawal, Pokhara, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj, also offer viewers their own local channel..

These unofficial cable channels are widely used to play songs-on-demand. Some also cover local events of special interest.

They are slowly becoming fully-fledged, independent television services.

Two companies began offering Direct To Home satellite TV services to Nepalese viewers in 2010. They merged to become **Dish Home TV**. It offers packages of local and international channels similar to those provided by the cable networks.

The most popular types of TV programme in Nepal are:

- **News** - News bulletins attract the highest audiences and the highest advertising revenue. Most channels have hourly news bulletins.
- **Comedy Serials** – These package humour and satire on social and political issues woven into episodic stories. Particular characters often represent different ethnic groups and political figures. These serials have universal appeal across all age groups and sectors of Nepalese society. Popular serials of this type include *Tito Satya*, *Meri Bassai* and *Jire Khursani*.
- **Call-in Music programmes** - These programmes play Nepali pop videos on demand. The presenter take calls from viewers and plays videos of the songs that they request. Most television channels (except the news channels) have their own versions of this type of programme. The format is particularly popular among urban youth. The most popular call-in programme is Kantipur TV's daily *Call Kantipur* show. It occupies a one-hour slot in the late afternoon.
- **Indian soap operas** – These are extremely popular amongst housewives and young women in urban areas who receive Indian entertainment channels such as Zee, Sony, Star and Colors on cable. Nepalese channels struggle to compete with the superior production quality and the sheer variety of serials

on Indian TV channels. In areas near the Indian border, many households subscribe directly to Indian satellite pay TV services which do not carry any Nepalese channels.

In August 2011, there were 28 Nepalese TV channels registered with the government.

However, fewer than 20 were actually broadcasting.

TV channels registered with the government in August 2011

SN	Television Channel/ Company	Transmission
1	Nepal Television	Satellite, terrestrial
2	NTV 2 (NTV Plus)	Satellite, terrestrial
3	Kantipur Television Network	Satellite, terrestrial
4	Image Channel	Satellite, terrestrial
5	Space Time Network (Channel Nepal)	Satellite
6	Shangri-la Television Pvt. Ltd.	Satellite
7	Avenue Television	Satellite
8	Sagarmatha Television	Satellite
9	National Television	Satellite
10	Terai TV	Satellite
11	ABC Television	Satellite
12	Lumbini Community Television	Satellite
13	Mountain Television	Satellite
14	Filmy TV	Satellite

15	Buddha Community Television	Satellite
16	News 24	Satellite
17	Himalayan Television	Satellite
18	Madhes Television	Satellite
19	GNN (Global Nepal Network) Television	Satellite
20	Sunrise Television	Satellite
21	Nepal Broadcasting Channel Pvt. Ltd.	Satellite
22	Makalu Media Pvt. Ltd.	Satellite
23	Paryawaraniya Television	Satellite
24	Cristal Television	Satellite
25	Kalas Television	Satellite
26	Himshikar Television	Satellite
27	Bhumi Television Network Pvt. Ltd.	Satellite
28	Voice of Youth Television Network Pvt. Ltd.	Satellite

Foreign TV Channels permitted for downlink by the Nepalese government in April 2011

SN	Channel Name
1	Discovery Channel
2	Discovery Turbo
3	Discovery Science
4	Discovery Travel & Living

5	Animal Planet
6	GOD TV
7	Disney
8	Disney XD
9	Nat Geo Wild
10	Nat Geo Adventure
11	Nat Geo Music
12	National Geographic HD
13	FX
14	Fox Crime
15	Baby TV
16	Star World
17	Channel (V)
18	Star Gold
19	Star Movies
20	Star One
21	Star Plus
22	Star Utsav
23	National Geography Channel
24	Fox History & Entertainment Channel
25	NHK
26	MGM
27	CRI (Audio)
28	Aajtak
29	Headlines Today
30	BBC World News
31	HBO
32	Cine Max
33	NDTV 24X7
34	NDTV Profit

35	Sahara One
36	Sahara Filmy
37	TOTAL TV, INDIA
38	Ten Sport
39	Monoranjan TV
40	ESPN
41	Star Sports
42	Star Cricket
43	Neo Cricket
44	Neo Sports
45	BBC Nepali Service
46	Nick
47	Colors
48	MTV
49	VH1
50	Divya
51	Imagine Showbiz
52	Muhuaa TVBhopuri
53	Muhuaa (Bangla)
54	Pragya
55	Zoom
56	Care world
57	Zee News
58	Lumiere movies
59	Imagine TV
60	UTV Movies
61	UTV Bindass
62	UTV World News
63	Sony
64	Set Max

65	SAB
66	BBC Entertainment
67	C Beebies
68	Warner Brothers (WB)
69	Cartoon Network
70	CNN
71	POGO
72	Zee TV
73	Zee Cinema
74	Channel News Asia
75	Zee Cafe
76	Zee Studio
77	Zee Trendz
78	Satsang
79	Sanskaar
80	Star News
81	Aastha Bhajan
82	Aastha
83	Star Ananda
84	Star Majha
85	Ten Action
86	Ten Cricket
87	Day Star

Main TV networks

Nepal Television www.ntv.org.np

State-run Nepal Television has the best nationwide transmission coverage of all the TV stations in Nepal.

Nepal Television is the only station that can be received free-to-air on a conventional aerial in most rural areas, since the private channels rely on cable and satellite for distribution.

The government started Nepal Television (NTV) in 1985, with the slogan 'Communication for Development'.

It broadcasts around the clock in **Nepali** on two channels.

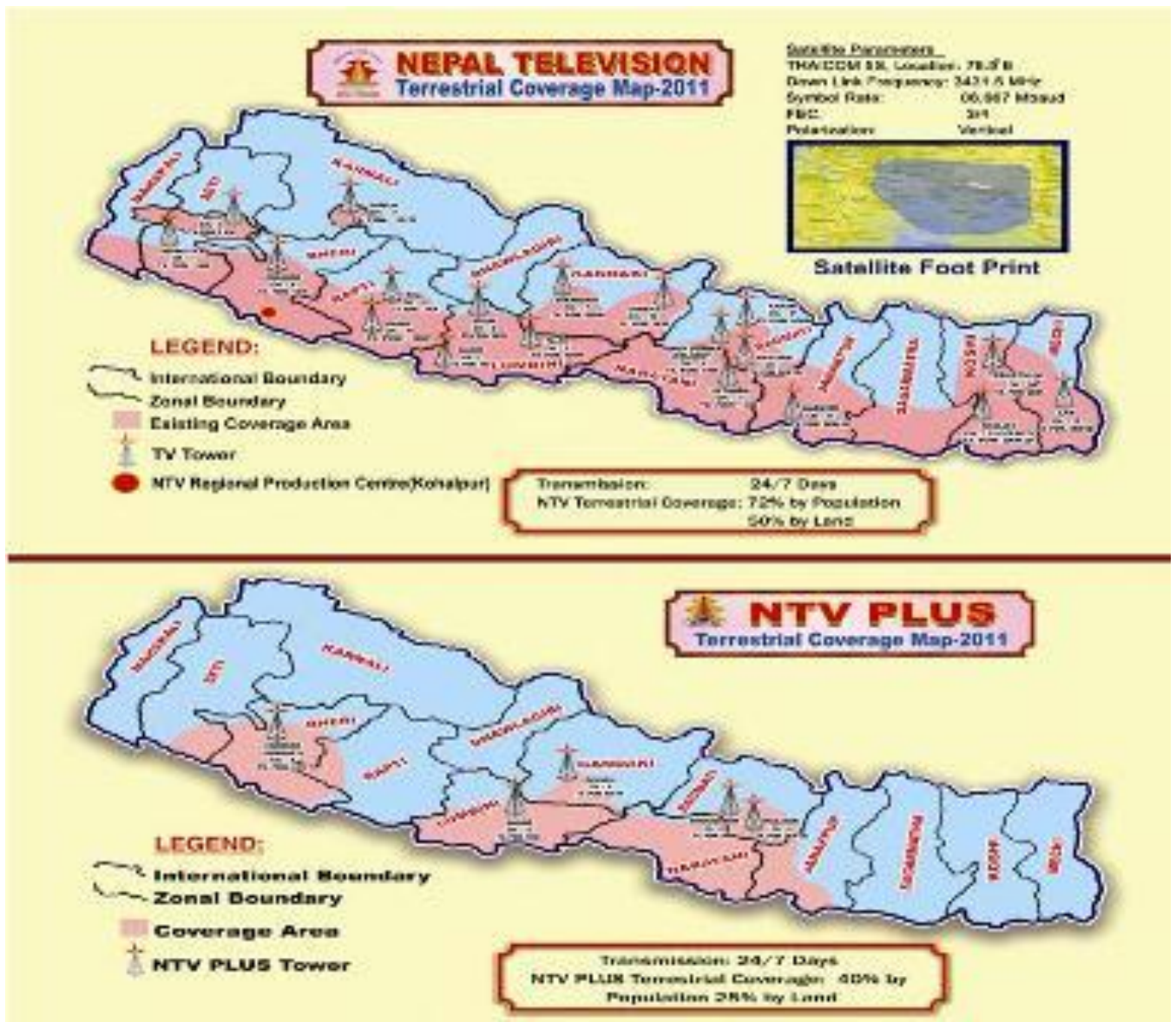
NTV's main channel covers 72% of the country's population and 50% of its land area from 19 terrestrial transmitters.

Coverage tends to be poor in the mountainous north and northwest of the country (see coverage map below).

NTV's main channel also broadcasts by satellite, enabling its programmes to reach Nepalese migrants in more than 50 countries around the world.

The state broadcaster's second channel – **NTV Plus** – only carries entertainment programmes.

NTV Plus has more limited coverage. It can only be received in south-central and southwestern parts of Nepal (see coverage map). NTV claims that the channel reaches 40% of the population and 25% of the country's land area



NTV terrestrial coverage

Source: NTV website

NTV's news bulletins used to be a must for adult male viewers until its monopoly was broken by the arrival of private channels in 2002.

Nowadays, most viewers now prefer the news and current affairs programmes of its competitors. The most popular programmes on NTV are its comedy serials.

Chairman - Balaram Timilsina
Managing Director: Deepak Mani Dhital
Nepal Television
Singha Durbar, Post Box: 3826, Kathmandu
Tel: +977-1-420 0348
Fax: +977-1-420 0212

Kantipur Television Network (KTV) www.kantipur.tv

Kantipur Television (KTV) is Nepal's most popular private TV station in towns and cities and those rural areas where it can be received easily. It carries a mix of news and entertainment programmes.

Most of KTV's programmes are in **Nepali**, but some news bulletins are in English.

The channel is mostly distributed by cable and satellite, so it reaches a mainly urban audience. Nepal's cable networks do not extend far outside the main towns and cities

KTV's satellite broadcasts can be received throughout the Indian sub-continent and in North America.

The television station was launched in 2003 by the Kantipur media group, which also owns two leading newspapers and a national FM radio station.

KTV has been acclaimed from the start for its high quality of its TV production.

Its news bulletin, current affairs programmes and talk shows are particularly popular. The station also airs soap operas, music and magazine programmes.

Managing Director – Kailash Sirohiya

Tel: +977-1-4466300/400/500

Fax: 977-1-4466321

Email: info@kantipur.tv

Address : Kantipur Complex, P.O.Box 7368, Subidhanagar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Avenues Television www.avenues.tv

Avenues Television (ATV) is a news channel. It is widely considered to be the second most popular private TV station in Nepal after Kantipur.

The station was set up in 2007 by Advertising Avenues, which at the time was one of Nepal's leading advertising agencies.

ATV is mainly distributed by cable networks. It can also be received by satellite in 56 countries.

All of its programmes are in **Nepali**.

Executive Chairman - Bhaskar Raj Rajkarnikar

Tel: +977 1 4227 222 /4230 294

Email atv@avenues.tv,

avenues@mos.com.np

Address: Avenues Plaza-11, Tirpureshwor, GPO 2806 City, Kathmandu

Image Channel www.imagechannels.com

Image Channel broadcasts a mixture of news and entertainment programmes from Kathmandu on cable and satellite.

Most of its output is in **Nepali**, but some of programmes are in **Newari**, a language that is widely spoken in the Kathmandu valley.

The channel was launched in 2003 by Image Group, a media company which already owned the popular Kathmandu radio station Image FM.

Image Channel broadcasts round the clock. It reaches over 70 countries by satellite.

Chairman - Ram Krishna Manandhar

Email: rkman@imagechannels.com

Executive Director - Raj Manandhar

Email: rajmanandhar@imagechannels.com

Tel: +977 1 4006555

Email: info@imagechannels.com

Tel: +977 1 4006555

Email: info@imagechannels.com

Address: Image Complex, P.O.Box: 5566, Panipokhari, Kathmandu

ABC Television www.abctvnepal.com

ABC is a news channel that began broadcasting in 2008.

It has rapidly become one of Nepal's most popular private TV stations.

It is on air 24 hours per day.

Chairman - Pushpa Man Shrestha

Tel: +977 1 4261545

Terai Television (TTV) www.teraitlevision.com

Terai TV, now rebranded as TTV, is an entertainment channel based in **Birgunj** in south-central Nepal.

It broadcasts 24 hours per day by satellite and cable in **Nepali, Hindi, Bhojpuri** and **Maithili**.

TTV is one of the few television stations in Nepal to carry a substantial quantity of programming in languages other than Nepali. It is Nepal's first nationally broadcast television station to be based outside Kathmandu.

Managing Director - Dinesh Shrestha
Corporate Office
Kathmandu
Tel: +977 1 4106240

Head Office,
Birgunj,
Tel: +977-51-530776
Fax: +977-51-534480
E-Mail: corpt@teraitlevision.com

6. Print media

Overview

Nepal has a vibrant newspaper industry.

According to the Press Council Nepal annual report for 2010, there were more than 100 daily titles and nearly 500 weeklies.

Circulation figures continue to grow despite the recent boom in independent radio and TV coverage and the rapid expansion of the internet.

Although newspapers do not reach as many Nepalis as radio and television, they have a great deal of influence on decision makers in government and business.

Newspapers are popular amongst office workers and the educated elite in Nepal's towns and cities and in nearby rural areas. All the main dailies have online editions

However, newspapers are not widely read in the countryside, where more than 80% of Nepal's population lives.

The country's largest newspaper is **Kantipur**, which claims a daily sale of 250,000. It prints in multiple locations and has got a good national distribution network.

Kantipur claims that at least nine people read every copy of the newspaper sold. If true, this would give it a total nationwide readership of nearly 2.5 million.

Kantipur and its English language sister paper, **The Kathmandu Post**, were the first privately owned daily newspapers to be published in Nepal in modern times. Both titles were launched in 1993.

The Kantipur media group also owns Radio Kantipur, Nepal's largest private radio station, and Kantipur TV, the country's most popular private TV channel.

Other widely read Kathmandu dailies with good national distribution are the **Annapurna Post, Nagarik** and **Nepal Samacharpatra**.

Like Kantipur, The Annapurna Post and Nagarik also publish sister papers in English.

Almost all government offices subscribe to the government dailies, but their popularity amongst the general public is declining.

Until recently it was mandatory for legal notices by government offices to individuals and organisations be printed in the government newspaper **Gorkhapatra**.

Nowadays they are also published in **Kantipur**.

That is one reason why individuals and organisations regularly subscribe to these publications.

Gorkhapatra is Nepal's oldest newspaper. It started as a weekly newspaper in 1901 and did not become daily until 1960.

Private weekly newspapers began to appear in the 1960s. Some of them, such as **Nepal, Ghatana Ra Bichar, Saptahik Bimarsha, Deshantar** and **Jana Aastha** still have a large readership.

But generally speaking, the readership of weekly newspapers is declining as more people turn to dailies instead.

Most daily newspapers are strongly focused mostly on politics and their editorial line tends to consistently support a defined political view.

Their pages are filled with political news and commentaries. However, they also cover social events and entertainment news.

Weekend editions tend to have broader and more varied coverage.

Most newspapers gather their own domestic news from a network of reporters around the country.

Nepal has only one domestic news agency, **RSS**, which is mainly used by the government media.

The majority of newspapers and magazines are written in **Nepali**. However some regional daily and weekly titles are published in local languages.

For example, the daily newspaper **Simanchal** in the southeastern city of Janakpur, is published in **Maitheli**. This is Nepal's largest minority language and it is widely spoken in the Jankpur area.

In **Kathmandu**, there are two weeklies published in **Newari**, a language widely spoken in the Kathmandu valley: **Jhigu Swaniga** and **Deshay Maru Jhya**.

In the eastern city of **Dharan**, a weekly newspaper called **Numafund** is published in the local language **Limbu**.

Many of the political weeklies are more directly linked to political parties than the daily newspapers.

For example, **Chhalphal** and **Drishty** reflect the views of the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (CPN UML), while **Ghatna Ra Bichar** and **Bimarsha** are connected to Nepali Congress.

There are no published independently audited circulation figures for Nepal's newspapers.

However, periodic readership surveys used by advertisers consistently show that **Kantipur** is the top seller, followed by the **Annapurna Post** and **Nagarik**.

The Himalayan Times, which is published by the same company as the Annapurna Post, is the largest circulation English language daily.

The other main English language titles are **Republica**, a sister paper of Nagarik, and **The Kathmandu Post**, which forms part of the Kantipur group.

Leading newspapers

Kantipur <http://www.ekantipur.com>

Kantipur is Nepal's most widely read daily newspaper.

It claims a daily circulation of 250,000 throughout the country.

The **Nepali** language broadsheet is printed simultaneously in **Kathmandu**, **Biratnagar** and **Chitawan**.

Kantipur has consistently supported multi-party democracy and press freedom.

In the past, it faced government scrutiny and repression for its independent line and investigative reporting.

In 2010, the newspaper accused the Indian government of trying to interfere in its editorial content.

Kantipur's core readership is concentrated in the Kathmandu Valley. This densely populated area accounts for 59% of its total sales.

The newspaper's own market research claims that it is widely read by all socio-economic groups and people of all ages.

Kantipur says that at least nine people read every copy of the paper sold. If true, this would give it a total readership of nearly 2.5 million.

Kantipur was Nepal's first privately owned daily newspaper when it was launched in 1993, along with an **English** language sister paper, **The Kathmandu Post**.

Both immediately became very popular.

The Kathmandu Post, which claims to sell 50,000 copies per day, has since been eclipsed by two other English language dailies, The Himalayan Times and Republica.

Kantipur is owned by Kantipur Publications, Nepal's largest private media group.

It also owns the Radio Kantipur, the most popular FM station in the Kathmandu valley, and Kantipur Television, the country's most watched private TV station.

The print division of Kantipur also publishes three weekly newspapers in Nepali:

- **Saptahik** – a family entertainment weekly which claims to sell 100,00 copies
- **Nepal** – a weekly news magazine (37,000)
- **Naari** – a monthly women's magazine (36,000)

Kantipur Publications Chairman - Kailash Sirohiya

Editor Kantipur - Sudhir Sharma

Editor The Kathmandu Post -Akhilesh Upadhyay

Phone : +977-1-4480100

Fax : +977-1-4466320

Email: corporate@kantipur.com.np

Address : Kantipur Complex, Subidhanagar, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Annapurna Post www.thehimalayantimes.com

The Annapurna Post is a popular **Nepali** language newspaper that has become one of Kantipur's main competitors since its launch in 2002.

It is particularly popular with young readers for the high quality of its reporting and its entertainment content.

The Annapurna Post's English language sister paper, **The Himalayan Times**, was launched a year earlier in 2001. It is now believed to be the top-selling English language daily in Nepal.

Both titles are published by International Media Network Nepal.

Editor – Jiwendra Simkhada

Tel: +977-1-4771489/ 4770274

Address: APCA House, Baidya Khana Road, Anam Nagar, Kathmandu

Nagarik www.nagariknews.com

Nagarik and its English language sister daily **Republica** www.myrepublica.com have both made a big impression since they were launched in 2008.

They rapidly became popular for their quality content and user-friendly layout.

Nagarik now vies with the Annapurna Post for the number two spot in daily sales behind Kantipur.

The company which publishes both newspapers is called Nepal Republic Media. It was set up by some former investors in the Kantipur media group.

Editor Nagarik - Narayan Wagle

Editor Republica - Amit Dhaka,

Tel: 977-1-4265100/ 4261808

Fax: 977-1-4255257

Email: republica@myrepublica.com

Nepal Republic Media, JDA Complex, Bag Durbar, Kathmandu

Gorkhapatra www.gorkhapatra.org.np

The government newspaper Gorkhapatra was Nepal's only daily newspaper until the launch of Kantipur in 1993.

Its readership has diminished greatly as a result of competition from the private media, but most government offices still subscribe to it.

Some people mainly buy it to read the official government notices which are published there.

Gorkhapatra is Nepal's oldest newspaper. It was founded in 1901 and became a daily in 1960.

Its managers and senior editorial staff are appointed by the government and are usually political appointees.

Like Nepal's other leading dailies, Gorkhapatra has an English language sister paper. It is called **The Rising Nepal**.

The Gorkhapatra Sansthan publishing group also produces the following magazines:

- **Yuva Manch** – a monthly youth magazine
- **Muna** – a monthly children's magazine
- **Madhupark** – a monthly literary magazine

Executive Chairman Gorkhapatra Sansthan - Hari Govinda Luitel

Tel: +977 1 4223902

E-mail: gopa@gorkhapatra.org.np

Acting General Manager Gorkhapatra Sansthan - Kapil Ghimire

Tel: +977 1 4222527

E-mail: kghimire1960@yahoo.com

Acting Chief Editor Gorkhapatra - Sitaram Agrahari

Tel: +977 1 4222921

E-mail: gopa@gorkhapatra.org.np

Managing Editor Gorkhapatra - Lakshmi Dhar Guragain

Tel: 4222921 [Off.]

E-mail: lpsharma_9@yahoo.com

Nepal Samacharpatra www.newsofnepal.com

Nepal Samacharpatra is a popular daily newspaper that was founded in 1996. It has survived a series of financial crises to become one of Nepal's most influential dailies.

It is published by the Kamana Prakashan publishing group, whose first publications was Kamana, a monthly film magazine.

Publisher and Editor - Pushkar Lal Shrestha

Tel: +977-1-4287777

Address: Soaltee Mod, Kathmandu

Himal Khabarpatrika www.himalmedia.com

Himal Khabarpatrika is a fortnightly news magazine with a strong reputation for investigative reporting.

The magazine, which was founded in 1999, is highly respected for the quality of its social and political reporting. It is very influential amongst decision makers.

The Himal Media publishing group also publishes the **Nepali Times** www.nepalitimes.com a weekly newspaper in **English**, which is popular in the expatriate community.

Its third title is **Wave**, an **English** language entertainment and lifestyle magazine for youth.

Publisher -Kunda Dixit

Editor Himal Khabarpatrika - Kiran Nepal

Tel: +977 1 5250333/ 5250845

Fax: +977 1 5251013

Address: Hatiban, Godawari Road, Lalitpur

Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) www.rss.com.np

RSS is Nepal's government-owned domestic news agency. It is run by the Ministry of Information.

RSS is mainly used by the government media, but claims to have more than 100 subscribers.

The news agency has 14 reporting bureaux in the interior. In addition, it has correspondents in most districts of the country. It distributes news in **Nepali** and **English** through its website and by email.

The news agency also distributes photos and has an audio service for radio stations.

RSS distributes international news in Nepal in partnership with the Associated Press, Agence France Presse, Press Trust of India, Xinhua, Kyodo and Associated Press of Pakistan.

Its news archive, which goes back to the agency's foundation in 1961, is a useful resource.

Chief Editor – Rames Toofan

Tel: (Editorial desk). +977-1-4262550

Tel (Administration): +977-1-4262912

email : rssadm@rss.com.np

7. Online media

The Internet is increasingly popular, but is still largely limited to urban areas.

According to the National Telecommunications Authority (NTA), there were nearly 2.3 million internet subscribers in Nepal in March 2011, giving a penetration rate of 7.9%

A disproportionate number of these are likely to be members of the foreign and aid community working in Nepal.

News websites are popular, in particular the websites of leading newspapers.

www.ekantipur.com, the news website of the Kantipur media group, claims 100,000 unique visitors and nearly five million page views every day.

The social networking site **Facebook** is popular amongst urban youth. In March 2011, Facebook reported 850,000 users in Nepal, 69% of whom were male and 31% female.

www.alexa.com – a website that analyses internet traffic listed the most visited websites in Nepal as follows in descending order of popularity:

- Facebook
- Google
- Yahoo
- YouTube
- Windows Live
- Blogger.com
- Ekantipur.com
- Twitter
- Wikipedia
- Nagarik.news.com

There are thousands of bloggers in Nepal.

Many of them are grouped by the aggregator site, news.planetnepal.org, This carries several hundred individual blogs, mostly in **Nepali**.

Another aggregator site Bloggers.com.np went live in 2007. Two years later it listed over 1,000 blogs.

Twitter exists but in 2011 it had yet to take off in the way it has done in some other Asian countries.

The most popular tweeter is Paramendra Bhagat, a New York-based IT entrepreneur. In August 2011, he had 45,000 followers.

The next most popular tweeter was News from Nepal, which puts on headline news from Nepal's leading media. This had only 4,000 followers.

Broadband tariffs have fallen rapidly and home internet connections are now affordable for many people.

In 2011, NTC was offering domestic subscribers a basic 'home surfing' package 1,000 Nepalese rupees (US\$14) per month.

Internet access is also available via the mobile phone network

8. Traditional Channels of Communication

Traditional healers and midwives still carry a lot of weight in remote villages, as do priests, paramedics, teachers and doctors.

In urban areas, graffiti is still widely used by political parties, unions and student groups to promote ideas, attack their enemies, make demands and inform the population of up-coming events such as strikes.

In the late 1990s a successful public awareness campaign to promote eye surgery to prevent blindness attributed its impact to the mix of a social marketing through the media the traditional communication channels that it used.

The campaign used loudspeaker announcements at weekly markets, religious fairs and festivals, street banners, flyers, posters, stickers and advertisements in local cinema halls.

Its radio spots used the voices of respected community leaders such as priests, doctors, and traditional healers on the prevention and treatment of eye diseases.

For further details see: www.comminit.com/en/node/122805/3499

Traditional sources of information are giving way to the electronic media, particularly radio and mobile phones.

However, traditional channels of communication are still important in Nepal's most remote and isolated villages.

9. Media Resources

Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB)

www.acorab.org.np

The Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB) is an umbrella grouping for local radio stations across the country.

It provides news bulletins, special programming, training, and other support to its members.

ACORAB also works with development agencies to produce programme content that is broadcast by its member stations.

ACORAB was formed in 2002. In mid-2011, it had 171 member stations.

ACORAB's Community Information Network (CIN) connects 105 community radios through a satellite network that provides a platform for information sharing.

CIN produces daily news bulletins in its Kathmandu studios for distribution to its member stations.

It also produces and distributes social message programmes and public service announcements.

Executive Director – Pramod Tandukar

Tel: +977 1555 1161/555 1171

Email: info@acorab.org.np

Address: Chakupat, Lalitpur

Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN) www.afn.org.np

Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN) is a local NGO that undertakes radio and TV production and training at its studios in Kathmandu.

It was founded in 2002 to promote socially inclusive public service broadcasting.

AFN has three core production teams specializing in Drama Production, Programme Production and Mobile Media outreach.

The radio programmes it produces are distributed through satellite to more than 50 partner stations.

AFN provides technical support for its partner FM stations and trains their staff in production, reporting, journalism and management.

Most of its work is in radio, but AFN also undertakes some television productions.

Its radio programmes include *Nepal Chautari*, a phone-in show about peace and democracy issues which has a toll-free phone line. *Naya Bato Naya Paila*, a radio drama produced in partnership with the US-base media development organization Search For Common Ground. It addresses the root causes of conflict in Nepalese society.

In 2007, AFN received a government licence to operate a mobile radio station which can be loaded onto a backpack and carried to remote communities to set up a FM temporary radio service. Usually it is deployed in each location for a week at a time.

This station, called Radio Doko, could potentially be deployed rapidly to provide a provisional channel of communication in emergencies.

Radio Doko has a 30 watt mobile transmitter and is powered by a mobile generator.

Executive Director – Rajendra Prasad Sharma

Tel: +977-1-5528059/ 5543957

Broadcasting Association of Nepal (BAN)

The Broadcasting Association of Nepal (BAN) is the umbrella body for commercial FM stations.

Its stated objectives are to advocate for appropriate rules, regulations and laws related to radio media; to increase the business skills of radio station and to increase their access to financial resources.

BAN had more than 50 member radio stations in mid-2011.

President – Bishnuhari Dhakal

General Secretary – Dipendra Chhouhan

Mob: +977 985 502 2546

Tel: +977 1 428 9121/428 923

Press Council Nepal www.presscouncilnepal.org

The Press Council Nepal is an autonomous and independent body set up by the government to monitor the print media and promote freedom and ethical standards of behaviour.

It advises the government on media development policy and deals with complaints made against newspapers and magazines.

The council maintains an Audit Bureau of Circulation, but its figures are not published.

Chairman - Narayan Prasad Sharma

Tel: +977-1-4112678/ 4112799/ 4112683

Email: prescoun_mdf@wlink.com.np

Address: Sanchargram, Tilganga, Kathmandu

Nepal Press Institute (NPI) www.npiktm.org

Nepal Press Institute (NPI) is a non-governmental training and research institution that organizes training courses for journalists.

Its stated mission is to promote the "development of independent media, free access to information, human rights and pluralism of thoughts and ideas' and of 'upholding the ideals of press freedom, human rights and democracy".

The NPI is a membership based organisation whose main sources of funding are international donors and NGOs

Its headquarters are in **Kathmandu**, but the institute also runs regional media resource centres in **Nepalgunj, Biratnagar** and **Butwal**.

Chairman - Parsuram Kharel

Director - Chiranjivi Khanal

Tel: +977-1-4264155/ 4266418

E-mail: npiktm@wlink.com.np

Freedom Forum www.freedomforum.org.np/content/index.php

Freedom Forum Nepal is an NGO that promotes human rights, democracy and press freedom.

The organization was founded in 2005, shortly after King Gyanendra's coup d'etat, when a group of like-minded professionals from media, law and academia set up the Forum to help protect the media and democratic rights in the country.

The Royal regime, backed by the military, imposed widespread censorship, so the Freedom Forum launched a website to disseminate factual information about the situation in the country,

Chairperson – Taranath Dahal

Tel: +977-01-4102030/4102022

Email: info@freedomforum.org.np

The Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) www.fnjnepal.org

The FNJ is the main journalists' trade union in Nepal. It has nearly 8,000 members.

It was established in 1956 by Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, who went on to become prime minister of Nepal after the restoration of democracy in 1990.

The organization changed its name from the Nepal Journalists Association (NJA) to the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) in 2009.

Tel.: +977-1-4112763/4112673

Fax: +977-1-4112785

Email: fnjnepal@mail.com.np

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) www.nefej.org/en/crsc

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) represents professional journalists from print and electronic media who have a special interest in the environment and development issues.

Since its formation in 1986, the NGO has emerged as a leading environmental group which undertakes lobbying and awareness raising.

NEFEJ has played a key role in encouraging community forestry in Nepal, one of the country's more spectacular environmental success stories.

It also backed the introduction of electric vehicles to replace diesel-run three-wheel vehicles known as tempos in Kathmandu.

The organisation runs the independent FM radio station **Radio Sagarmatha**, and regularly contributes audio-visual programmes to the national TV network.

It established the Community Radio Support Centre in 2000 to promote the development of community radio in Nepal. This works closely with the Dutch media development organization **Free Voice** www.freevoice.nl/news/?language=en

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Equal Access Nepal www.equalaccess.org/country-nepal.php

The US-based media development organization Equal Access set up a Nepalese subsidiary in 2004.

It implements communications for development projects in Nepal and produces radio programming in a range of thematic areas.

These include education, healthcare, microfinance, sustainable agriculture, human rights and conflict management, HIV/AIDS and women's empowerment.

Equal Access uses local content sharing networks to broadcast its programmes by satellite to 23 radio stations across the country.

Its magazine programme for youth *Saathi Sanga Manka Kura* (Chatting With My Best Friend) is one of the most popular radio programmes in the country, with a regular audience of 6.5 million.

More than 1,000 listeners' groups have been formed across Nepal to listen to this weekly programme and discuss it.

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BBC World Service Trust

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust/whatwedo/where/asia/nepal/index.shtml>

The BBC World Service Trust promotes good governance and human rights in Nepal, through the development of local TV and radio programming.

The Trust produces drama and discussion programmes in Nepali that are broadcast by more than 100 partner radio stations.

In 2008, the Trust carried out a 'baseline' media audience survey of 4,500 people in 60 districts of Nepal.

This showed that 90% of the adult population (aged 15-49) listened to radio regularly.

It also showed that more than 80% watch TV.

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Internews Nepal www.internews.org/prs/2011/20110406_nepal.shtm

Internews is a US-based media development organization.

In 2011 it was running a USAID-funded project to build the capacity of Nepali media by improving journalists' investigative skills, and facilitating a more conducive environment for journalists to report on electoral and legislative issues.

The project includes the development of a simple Nepali blog site for local journalists, media lawyers, policy advocates and academics, with connections to regional and international support networks and organisations.

The site will include alerts on intimidation, violence or other threats to quality reporting of electoral and legislative issues, and support discussions and industry input on media law and protection issues.

Internews does not have an office in Nepal, but it works with local organizations including the Antenna Foundation, the Federation of Nepali Journalists and Freedom Forum.

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Search for Common Ground <http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/nepal/index.html>

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is a Washington DC based conflict transformation and peace building NGO, that works extensively with the media.

SFCG supports the peace process, with a focus on youth and other key stakeholder groups, such as media, civil society, and political organizations. Its local partners include radio production organizations, and FM stations and other NGOs.

SFCG's radio projects in Nepal include a long-running radio soap opera, a youth programme and a franchised talk show – all broadcast nationally.

It has also produced a TV drama called *Hamro Team* (Our Team), a story about people coming together to achieve a common goal.

SFCG works primarily in the Mid-Western, Far-Western, and Eastern regions of Nepal, with a focus on rural communities.

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10. Telecommunications

Overview

Mobile communications are growing fast in Nepal following a government move to liberalise telecommunications services in 2003.

According to the **Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA)** www.nta.gov.np , the government regulator, there were 10 million mobile phones in the country in 2011.

That represents roughly one mobile phone line for every three inhabitants.

However, mobile phone use is still mainly concentrated in urban areas, where many handset owners have SIM cards for two or more different networks.

There were nearly 842,000 fixed location telephone subscribers in 2010, according to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) – 2.8 per 100 inhabitants.

The number of landlines has continued to increase slowly in recent years. This is in marked contrast to the trend in many other developing countries, where the number of landlines is decreasing as people switch to mobile phones instead.

Phones are widely used to keep families in touch with distant relatives and friends.

The Nepal Migration Survey carried out by the World Bank in 2009 found there were 2.1 million Nepalis working in India, the Gulf, Europe and North America.

Young people increasingly use their mobile phones to listen to the radio.

Until 2003, the state-owned **Nepal Telecommunications Corporation (NTC)**, also known as Nepal Telecom (NT) or Nepal Doorsanchar Company Limited (NDCL) had a monopoly on telephone services.

NTC remains the dominant player in fixed line telecoms. However, it now faces competition from two private sector challengers in the mobile telephone market.

Ncell, which is majority owned by the Scandinavian telecoms group, TeliaSonera, launched a rival mobile network in 2005.

By mid-2011 Ncell had overtaken MTC to become Nepal's largest mobile phone company in terms of subscribers.

In June 2011, The news website of the Kantipur media group quoted the NTA as saying that Ncell had just over five million subscribers, whereas NTC had 4.8 million.

United Telecom Limited (UTL), which is majority owned by Indian interests, began operations in 2003, but has remained a relatively small player in the market

Increasing competition has slashed mobile phone tariffs.

In August 2011 it cost between one and two rupees (1.5 to 3.0 US cents) per minute to make voice calls to subscribers on the same network. Calls to other networks cost up to three rupees (4 US cents) per minute.

Kantipur reported in June 2011 that 37 percent of Nepal's population used mobile phones.

It also reported that Ncell was planning to extend network coverage to 90 percent of the population by the end of 2011.

Coverage is good in the flat and densely populated areas of the Kathmandu Valley and the Terai lowlands along the Indian border. However, the network is often overloaded.

Mobile coverage becomes very patchy as you go north into the Himalayas.

Most new phones have an English keypad and script.

There is still no Nepali script on mobile phones. In order to send messages in Nepali users transcribe Nepali words into the Roman alphabet.

Nevertheless, SMS messaging is cheap and widely used. Each message costs between 50 paisa and two rupees (0.5 to 2.0 US cents).

Nearly all radio stations in Nepal, including small community radio stations in the interior, receive SMS messages from their listeners.

In 2010 **UNICEF** teamed up with a popular radio show, *Saathi Sanga Man Ka Kura* (Chatting With My Best Friend) to use SMS as a way of generating a response from listeners on key issues.

Each week, the radio team frames a question and invites listeners to respond via a free text message to an established short code, 4400.

These responses are then posted on a forum on the UNICEF Voices of Youth website unicef.org.np/voy/freedom-express

Within the first three months of launch the programme received nearly 140,000 SMS messages from approximately 25,000 unique numbers.

However, by August 2011, the response rate to these UNICEF questions had dropped to less than 200 per week.

The Internet is increasingly popular, but is still largely limited to urban areas.

According to the NTA, there were 3.1 million internet subscribers in Nepal in July 2011, giving a penetration rate of 10.9%

A disproportionate number of these are likely to be members of the foreign and aid community working in Nepal.

Broadband tariffs have fallen rapidly and home internet connections are now affordable for many people.

In 2011, NTC was offering domestic subscribers a basic 'home surfing' package 1,000 Nepalese rupees (US\$14) per month.

There are many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Nepal, but traffic is increasingly dominated by the three big telephone companies, NTC, Ncell and UTL.

There is still a big gap in internet access and usage between urban and rural areas.

According to the 2008 tele-center mapping report from the High Level Commission for Information Technology, 91 tele-centres have been established by different organisations all over Nepal to provide internet access in rural areas. Most have dial-up connections.

However, In August 2011, many of them were reported to be inoperational.

Where villages do have internet connectivity they have mostly done it themselves through the Village Development Committees, using VSAT technology.

The Nepal Wireless Network Project (NWNP) www.nepalwireless.net is an attempt to surmount some of the physical and other difficulties of providing access to the Internet in rural areas. It aims to enable remote villages to take advantage of commerce, tele-medicine, distance education and training.

NWNP connected 31 villages, before the project was put on hold in 2007, while further research was carried out.

Leading telecoms companies

Nepal Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) www.ntc.net.np

State-run NTC is the main fixed line telephone operator in Nepal.

It dominates both the wire connection and wireless loop sectors of the market.

NTC is also a major player in mobile telecoms, although it has been overtaken in terms of subscriber numbers by privately owned Ncell.

NTC launched Nepal's first mobile telephone network in 1999

By June 2011, it had 4.8 million subscribers, according to NTA figures reported on the news website of the Kantipur media group

NTC is also the biggest provider of broadband internet connections in Nepal.

Also known as Nepal Doorsanchar Company Limited (NDCL). It was the only provider of basic telephony services in Nepal until 2003.

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Ncell www.ncell.com.np

Ncell is Nepal's largest mobile phone company.

In June 2011, Kantipur quoted the NTA as saying that Ncell had just over five million subscribers.

The company was launched as Mero Mobile in 2005. It was rebranded Ncell in 2010 after the Scandinavian telecoms group TeliaSonera acquired a controlling stake in the business.

Ncell launched 3G services in 2010.

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United Telecom Limited (UTL) www.utlnepal.com

United Telecom Limited (UTL) is the smallest of Nepal's three mobile telecoms operators, but it offers the cheapest pre-paid tariffs.

The company is owned by a consortium of mainly Indian investors. These include the Tata Group and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, an Indian government controlled telecoms company.

UTL launched its mobile telephone service in 2003



UTL mobile coverage map 2011

Source: UTL website

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