

Nepal

On top of the world



NATIONAL FLAG



NATIONAL EMBLEM



H.E. Dr. RAM BARAN YADAV
President



H.E. MADHAV KUMAR NEPAL
Prime Minister

In 1951, the Nepalese monarch ended the century-old system of rule by hereditary premiers and instituted a cabinet system of government. Reforms in 1990 established a multiparty democracy within the framework of a constitutional monarchy. An insurgency led by Maoist extremists broke out in 1996. The ensuing ten-year civil war between insurgents and government forces witnessed the dissolution of the cabinet and parliament and assumption of absolute power by the King. Several weeks of mass protests in April 2006 were followed by several months of peace negotiations between the Maoists and government officials, and culminated in a November 2006 peace accord and the promulgation of an interim constitution. Following a nationwide election in April 2008, the newly formed Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic and abolished the monarchy at its first meeting the following month. The Constituent Assembly elected the country's first President in July. The Maoists, who received a plurality of votes in the Constituent Assembly election, formed a coalition government in August 2008, but resigned in May 2009 after the president overruled a decision to fire the chief of the army staff.

Geography

- LOCATION:** Southern Asia, between China and India; Landlocked
- GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES:** 28 00 N, 84 00 E.
- Area:** Total: 147,181 sq km;
Country comparison to the world: 93
- LAND BOUNDARIES:** Total: 2,926 km
Border countries: China 1,236 km, India 1,690 km
- CLIMATE:** Varies from cool summers and severe winters in north to subtropical summers and mild winters in south
- ELEVATION EXTREMES:** Lowest point: Kanchan Kalan 70 m
Highest point: Mount Everest 8,848 m
- NATURAL RESOURCES:** Quartz, water, timber, hydropower, scenic beauty, small deposits of lignite, copper, cobalt, iron ore
- NATURAL HAZARDS:** Severe thunderstorms; flooding; landslides; drought and famine depending on the timing, intensity, and duration of the summer monsoons.
- ENVIRONMENT - CURRENT ISSUES:** Deforestation (overuse of wood for fuel and lack of alternatives); contaminated water (with human and animal wastes, agricultural runoff, and industrial effluents); wildlife conservation; vehicularemision
- ENVIRONMENT - INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS:** Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands
Signed but not ratified: Marine Life Conservation
- STANDARD TIME:** GMT +5.45 hours



People

NATIONALITY: Nepali

POPULATION: 28,951,852 (July 2010 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 43

POPULATION GROWTH RATE: 1.419% (2010 est.); Country comparison to the world: 88

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH: 65.81 years; Country comparison to the world: 163

HIV/AIDS - ADULT PREVALENCE RATE: 0.5% (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 79

HIV/AIDS - PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: 70,000 (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 56

HIV/AIDS - DEATHS: 5,000 (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 45

MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Degree of risk: High
Food or Waterborne diseases: Bacterial Diarrhea, Hepatitis A, and Typhoid fever
Vectorborne diseases: Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, and Dengue fever (2009)

ETHNIC GROUPS: Chhettri 15.5%, Brahman 12.5%, Magar 7%, Tharu 6.6%, Tamang 5.5%, Newar 5.4%, Muslim 4.2%, Kami 3.9%, Yadav 3.9%, Other 32.7%, Unspecified 2.8% (2001 census)

RELIGIONS: Hindu 80.6%, Buddhist 10.7%, Muslim 4.2%, Kirant 3.6%, other 0.9% (2001 census)

LANGUAGES: Nepali 47.8%, Maithali 12.1%, Bhojpuri 7.4%, Tharu (Dagaura/Rana) 5.8%, Tamang 5.1%, Newar 3.6%, Magar 3.3%, Awadhi 2.4%, other 10%, unspecified 2.5% (2001 census)

Note: Many in government and business also speak English (2001 est.)

LITERACY: 48.6%



Government

COUNTRY NAME:	Nepal; Official Name - Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
GOVERNMENT TYPE:	Federal Democratic Republic
CAPITAL:	Kathmandu
HEAD OF THE STATE:	H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:	H.E. Rt. Honourable Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister
INDEPENDENCE:	1768 (unified by Prithvi Narayan SHAH)
CONSTITUTION:	15 January 2007 (Interim Constitution); <i>Note: In April 2008, a Constituent Assembly was elected to draft and promulgate a new constitution by May 2010, which is not completed yet.</i>
LEGAL SYSTEM:	Based on Hindu legal concepts and English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.
SUFFRAGE:	18 years of age; Universal

Economy

ECONOMY - OVERVIEW:	Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with almost one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for three-fourths of the population and accounting for about one-third of GDP. Industrial activity mainly involves the processing of agricultural products, including pulses, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain. During the global recession of 2009, remittances from foreign workers abroad increased 47% to \$2.8 billion while tourist arrivals only decreased 1% compared to the previous year. Nepal has considerable scope for exploiting its potential in hydropower, with an estimated 42,000 MW of feasible capacity, but political instability hampers foreign investment. Additional challenges to Nepal's growth include its technological backwardness, landlocked geographic location, civil strife and labor unrest, and its susceptibility to natural disaster.
GDP (OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE):	\$12.47 billion (2009 est.)
GDP - REAL GROWTH RATE:	4.7% (2009 est.; Country comparison to the world: 29)
GDP - PER CAPITA (PPP):	\$1,200 (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 207
POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE:	24.7% (2008)
INFLATION RATE (CONSUMER PRICES):	13.2% (September 2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 210



AGRICULTURE - PRODUCTS: Pulses, rice, corn, wheat, sugarcane, jute, root crops, milk, water buffalo meat

INDUSTRIES: Tourism, carpets, textiles, small rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills; cigarettes, cement and brick production

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RATE: 1.8% (FY08); Country comparison to the world: 55

ELECTRICITY - PRODUCTION: 2.6 billion kWh (2009 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 128

ELECTRICITY - CONSUMPTION: 2.243 billion kWh (2007 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 132

ELECTRICITY - EXPORTS: 0 kWh (2009 est.)

ELECTRICITY - IMPORTS: 213 million kWh (2008 est.)

OIL - PRODUCTION: 0 bbl/day (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 156

OIL - CONSUMPTION: 18,000 bbl/day (2008 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 129

OIL - EXPORTS: 0 bbl/day (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 160

OIL - IMPORTS: 16,920 bbl/day (2007 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 120

OIL - PROVED RESERVES: 0 bbl (1 January 2009 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 152

NATURAL GAS - PRODUCTION: 0 cu m (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 159

NATURAL GAS - CONSUMPTION: 0 cu m (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 160

NATURAL GAS - EXPORTS: 0 cu m (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 87

NATURAL GAS - IMPORTS: 0 cu m (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 150

NATURAL GAS - PROVED RESERVES: 0 cu m (1 January 2009 est.);
Country comparison to the world: 153

EXPORTS: \$907 million (2008); Country comparison to the world: 153

EXPORTS - COMMODITIES: Clothing, pulses, carpets, textiles, juice, pashmina, jute goods

EXPORTS - PARTNERS: India 54.8%, US 9.7%, Bangladesh 9.2%, Germany 4.7% (2008)

IMPORTS: \$3.626 billion (2009); Country comparison to the world: 129

IMPORTS - COMMODITIES: Petroleum products, machinery and equipment, gold, electrical goods, medicine

IMPORTS - PARTNERS: India 55.2%, China 13.4%, Singapore 2% (2008)

EXCHANGE RATES: Nepalese rupees (NPR) per US dollar - 77.44 (2009), 65.21 (2008), 70.35 (2007), 72.446 (2006), 72.16 (2005)

Communication

- TELEPHONES - MAIN LINES IN USE: 805,100 (2008); Country comparison to the world: 87
- TELEPHONES - MOBILE CELLULAR: 4.2 million (2008); Country comparison to the world: 94
- BROADCAST/TELECAST STATIONS: Radios: AM 6, FM 80, Shortwave(SW) 4 (2008)
Televisions: 9 (plus 9 repeaters) (2008)
- PRINT MEDIA: 514
- INTERNET TLD: .np
- INTERNET HOSTS: 43,411 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 87
- INTERNET USERS: 499,000 (2008); Country comparison to the world: 108
- INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE: +977

Transportation

- AIRPORTS: 47 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 93
- ROADWAYS: Total: 17,282 km; Country comparison to the world: 119
Paved: 10,142 km
Unpaved: 7,140 km (2007)
- RAILWAYS: Total: 59 km; Country comparison to the world: 130
Narrow gauge: 59 km 0.762-m gauge (2008)

Issues

- INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: 50,000-70,000 (remaining from ten-year Maoist insurgency that officially ended in 2006; displacement spread across the country) (2007).

Source: wikipedia and various other sources

