

Nepal's king returns power to the people



75 km
47 miles

NEPAL CHINA

Pop: **26 million**
GNI per capita: **\$260**

INDIA

Dhangarhi

Pokhara

Kathmandu

Bhaktapur

Nepalgarh

Butwal

Hetauda

Patan

Janakpur

Biratnagar

Rebel activity
(Dec 2005-
Jan 2006)



Maoist rebels:

Up to 15,000 fighting to set up socialist republic. Over 13,000 people killed since 1996

King Gyanendra:

Took throne in June 2001 after his brother, **King Birendra** (below) and his family were shot dead by **Crown Prince Dipendra**, who then shot himself



● **Feb 1, 2005:** **King Gyanendra** sacks government of Prime Minister **Sher Bahadur Deuba**, declares state of emergency and assumes absolute power, vowing to defeat Maoist rebels

● **Apr 30:** King ends state of emergency

● **Jul:** Royal anti-graft commission sentences Deuba to two years in jail for corruption – freed Feb 2006 after commission is outlawed

● **Sep 3:** Maoist rebels announce unilateral ceasefire

● **Nov 22:** Main political parties and Maoists pledge to cooperate to restore democracy and remove king's powers

● **Jan 2, 2006:** Rebels end ceasefire

● **Feb 1:** Street protests erupt across Nepal on first anniversary of Gyanendra's seizure of power

● **Feb 8:** Low turnout and protests mark local elections called by king to show he is moving towards democracy

● **Mar 14:** Rebels begin six-day road blockade, choking supplies

● **Apr 6:** General strike launched – violent protests spread

● **Apr 21:** **King Gyanendra calls on opposition to select consensus candidate for prime minister after more than two weeks of protests**

