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Shaping Climate Narratives: A Comparative Analysis of COP 29 Coverage in Nepali Media

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Abstract

This study seeks to examines at how Nepali media outlets covered COP 29(Nov 2024). Paying particular attention to the amount, scope, and focus of coverage prior to, during, and following the conference. The Agenda Setting Theory, which says that the media has the ability to affect public opinion. The weight given by the media to particular subjects serves as the theoretical preamble for the study. Based on findings, there was little, irregular, and fragmented coverage of climate change in Nepali media. The prominent publications like Kantipur Daily, Gorkhapatra, Nagarik Dainik, Onlinekhabar, Himalkhabar, and Setopati provide little interaction with the summit's activities. The reporting was periodic during and after the meeting. The reporting was mainly concentrating on Nepali issues with no global outlook. As well as, there was very little pre-conference scope and the findings show how the media organizations may give short-term, politically assigned subjects like politics and the economy-related news more weight than prolonged environmental crises. When the agenda-setting framework is used to analyze, it becomes apparent that Nepali media's biased coverage of climate change signifies a loss to give climate issues the attention they need to promote policy change and wide public participation. For the purpose of improving the stature and consistency of climate reporting in Nepal, the study makes some valuable suggestions based on these results. One of the key suggestions of the findings is to empower media-government cooperation, while creating specialized climate change beats, and improving journalist training.

Keywords: Climate change, media coverage, COP 29, Nepali media, environmental journalism

Introduction

The 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29) was Organized in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting focused on fostering Paris Agreement commitments, advancing climate finance, and addressing the global stocktake, and the public view and policy advocacy on climate change are highly affected by media coverage. The conference played a crucial role in shaping the response to climate change globally. The conference was significant for addressing the disasters that result from climate change, as it offered funding for developing countries. It was also important for facilitating cooperation on a global aspect for meeting the target of reducing emissions because disasters brought by climate change continue to worsen if urgent actions are not taken. Media is an important direct link between the people, decision-makers, and intellectual discourse because it is used for agenda setting, emphasizing major issues, and framing challenges that come with climate change.

The media brings attention to the key issues of climate change, such as harsher storms, loss, rise in cost, and also global meetings such as COP 27 (Schafer & Painter, 2021), which might inspire individuals in favor of stricter climate policies. The paper describes how global warming has been spread among the community. Whether it's today or in the next day, full of information and also financially, it arouses public concern, and also the push for change in policies (Boykoff, 2011). Misleading information, prejudiced titles, and ineffective reporting may prevent change due to community unrest among those stakeholders involved (Farrell et al., 2019). Therefore, climate change reporters are reporters – in fact, they refute misleading information, beg for questions, accelerate change speed, and hold officials responsible for the rise in global warming levels. The media attention on harsher storms, warmer summers, and also global meetings such as COP 29 convinces individuals in favor of stricter climate policies (Schäfer & Painter, 2021). Reporting on global warming in terms of a crisis, a distant threat, and an expense-intensive topic influences community engagement and push for policy (Boykoff, 2011).

However, “false news, one-sided reporting, or incomplete information could raise doubts, or even indifference, rather than prompting actions” (Farrell et al., 2019). Media not only spreads information, but news also facilitates conversation, improves understanding, identifies threats, and urges the leader. Although the emission of Nepal is close to zero in the world, it is severely affected by climate change. Consequently, “the rising temperature is rapidly causing the melting of the glaciers in the mountains of Nepal, and there are also threats of landslides, drought, or flash flood due to the melting of the glaciers, which form frozen lakes” (ICIMOD, 2022). In addition, the agricultural economy of Nepal faces the unpredictability of rainfall, drought, or season change,

causing the “country’s employment in the agricultural sector and the sustainability of the country’s food security in the rural area” to be affected by climate change (Government of Nepal, 2021). However, due to recurrent events of bad weather, the people affected face the lack of employment, displacement, especially in the mountainous and low-lying regions of Nepal. Discourses about climate change are no longer deemed discretionary but an urgent necessity in adapting, mitigating, and minimizing the negative impacts of climate change in the world by gaining public knowledge, foreign investments, and inspiring leadership and policies in the country. In Nepal, the role of the media not only presses the leadership to be accountable but inspires them by giving utmost importance to the role of acting against climate change, facilitating conversation, widespread reporting, and dialogue with experts.

Coverage of global issues such as COP 29 could address the same concern in the sense that a gap might exist in what is being covered internationally and what might be significant at the domestic level in terms of a struggle concerning funding and the impacts of disasters not being sidestepped. Aside from such consideration, the use of narrative strategies could empower community action, assist in bringing public groups to take an active part, and could bring about the adoption of a green policy by the policymakers themselves (Aryal and Dhungana, 2020). Enhancements in the way climate issues are covered could be even more urgent at the current situation due to the continued rise in the threats to the planet. Climate policies would be brought into conformity with the need for durable safety while at the same time promoting the use of intelligent and politically motivated personal choice. This research aimed to investigate the news in Nepal covering the period of November 4 to 29, 2024, specifically looking into the news after COP 29, through key informants interviewed in the initial part of 2025, zeroing in on strategies to prioritize, build, and fully cultivate themes in the reported news concerning issues on the topic of climate. There is a combination of media organizations being supported by the government and media running independently in the Nepalese setting. However, Kantipur Daily is at the top of the list as the most prominent private publication, and Kantipur Daily, through comprehensive reporting, presents an in-depth report on politics, economy, and ecological matters. Gorkhapatra, being the longest-running publication in the Nepalese media era, provides remarks from the government and activities on climate change. However, though there are different challenges of publications on the web that bring out innovative journalism practices, as seen in publications such as Setopati, their reporting focuses on developments on governance and climate change. Conversely, Online Khabar connects citizens to the world through live broadcasting of news both beyond and within the borders of their nation. Further, being ranked as one of the most prominent magazines, the report from the Himalkhabar

Magazine consists of an in-depth report on the most prominent ecological, social, and political issues. The study examined reporting of COP 29 issues, comprehension of their impact on climate reporting, the problems faced by the journalists during COP 29 reportage, and the impact of journalism on the Nepalese advocacy of solutions on climate.

Literature Review

McComas and Shanahan (1999) investigate the mechanisms via which the media formulates narratives on global warming and the influence of these narratives on the media's intermittent emphasis on environmental issues. They delineate periods in the media's representation of global warming via a content study of The New York Times and The Washington Post from 1980 to 1995. The study shows that the media talks about the risks and effects of climate change more during times when people are most interested, whereas scientific discourses become more important during times of long-term coverage. The maintenance and downswing stages of the attention cycle also see more focus on the economic effects of fighting global warming. The authors assert that the "master story" or dominant narrative of climate change may hinder sustained engagement with the issue and potentially obstruct ongoing media attention to global warming. Their research shows how story aspects affect how the media covers environmental issues and how attention cycles are formed.

In accordance to Carvalho and Burgess (2005), studies on public perceptions of climate change risk should use a cultural perspective, recognizing that the process of meaning-making between media producers and audiences is fluid and context-dependent. The authors try to analyze the discourse on climate change in three leading broadsheet newspapers in the United Kingdom from 1985 to 2003 through the eyes of the "circuit of culture" notion, and its discourse analysis finds three different periods of climate change coverage: 1985–1990, 1991–1996, and 1997–2003. In the study, the dangers associated with climate change are expressed differently for each generation. The study emphasizes social learning, demonstrating how individuals adjust their understanding in light of prior experiences with climate change science and policy. The effect of notable political figures and the dominant ideological perspectives in various newspapers are two significant factors shaping the definition of climate change as a "dangerous" issue in the U.K. media.

Moser and Dilling (2011) study the complexities and effectiveness of climate change communication by stating that, despite much effort, it has not reached the level of ideal success. In their research, they pointed out several factors that were responsible for this.

The first factor is the ambiguity associated with public attention and responses associated with climate change. The authors gave extensive information on this phenomenon and provided suggestions on better communication strategies. They also pointed out the significance of speaking with people about issues relating to climate change so that they can respond to it. In democratic nations, they feel that people must communicate about their issues and must also assist in finding solutions. Their work explores that we need better ways to talk to each other.

Prof. Sunday Olayinka Alawade and Maria Kisugu Obun-Andy's 2024 study, *The Role of Media in Shaping Public Perception of Climate Change*, looks at how different media, especially social media shape the way people understand climate change. Using framing theory, the researchers show how new platforms like blogs, social networks, and online news sites are changing how many Nigerians think and feel about climate issues

Because of Bangladesh's geographic fragility, dense population, poverty, and reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods, the effects of climate change are especially severe there, even though it has been a defining global issue since the middle of the 19th century (Islam, n.d.). The mass media, which have historically been charged with enlightening, teaching, and amusing the public, are in a position to be extremely important in disseminating information about climate dangers and solutions. Evidence, however, indicates that Bangladeshi print media cover adaptation or mitigation efforts in an episodic rather than systematic manner, and they lack a clear goal for doing so. Islam (n.d.) points out that coverage of climate change frequently ignores preventative actions in favor of concentrating only on sudden shocks. This demonstrates the media's capacity to influence public awareness of climate issues in Bangladesh as well as its limitations.

Although newspapers in Kenya play a big role in controlling how people view climate issues. One study, by Tallam in 2025, examined 224 articles in *The Standard* and *The Nation*, as well as interviews with journalists. Surprise, surprise, most articles reported on disasters caused by severe weather patterns. Articles about adjusting to changes and the financial aspects of climate change followed closely, however. Yet methods to reduce negative impacts received very little coverage and tended to be relegated to the back pages. There are many heart-wrenching accounts or scapegoating articles, though. The news media is doing a good job in some areas, perhaps not so well at encouraging public action on environmental issues, though.

Methodology

In relation to finding out how the news in Nepal covered COP 29, the researcher did a mix of number crunching as well as a quest for larger themes. The researcher did not focus on a single approach; they collected statistics and went on the hunt for more.

The research concentrated on the following six major media organizations: Kantipur Daily, Gorkhapatra, Nagarik Daily, Setopati, Onlinekhabar, and Himal Khabar. The analysis included three major phases: pre-COP-29, during the conference, and after the conference concluded (from November 4 to 29, 2024). The researcher did not choose the news randomly but used terms such as “climate change,” “COP-29,” “Climate Summit,” “Climate Policy in Nepal,” “Climate Finance,” and “International Climate Negotiations.” Every piece of information was retrieved from an online website. The researcher scanned the news but selected those that had a strong relation to the Nepalese response regarding the matter of climate change.

Researcher has analyze all types of stories, news articles, opinion articles, interviews, and editorial articles to identify trends in the number of times issues appeared, moods, perspectives, and thematic points. For a better understanding of how COP 29 was handled in Nepal, they categorized their data according to domestic and foreign publications, regular updates, interviews, and opinion articles.

All of the coding was done by the researcher alone. Even though the researcher started out coding on their own preset list of categories from previous studies, the researcher changed the categories during the analysis of the initial batch of stories to ensure a higher degree of clarity. However, insofar as no second coder was used to check how consistent the categories are, the research may be considered weak in regard to inter-rater reliability. Even if the step-by-step process she followed to code the text could be duplicated by other researchers in the future, the lack of a second rater could be considered a weakness regarding inter-rater reliability.

For conducting the interviews, eleven journalists and editors from the Nepali news media were chosen for extensive interviews that were held in March 2025. This is only one aspect of the greater effort that also involves content analysis. All the people being interviewed do not merely have expertise in COP 29 news but were chosen specifically for the insight they could really offer on what happens in the newsroom on the selection and presentation of climate news. The issues covered varied from what was reported on at COP 29, the challenges faced by news reporters, the role that news can play in influencing public attitudes, the role that pressure from broader international bodies can play, and what constraints news reporters face within the newsroom. The questionnaire was designed so that the interview was quite flexible.

Google Forms were used to collect data. And so, all data was put down and reviewed to identify common points. To confirm the central points, they matched answers several times. This research not only focused on data calculations but also recognized patterns in the selection of news coverage in newsrooms, challenges faced by journalists in their story selection, and factors influencing the presentation of COP 29 in the Nepali media.

Limitation of the Study

- **Scope of Media Selection:** Perhaps the study did not consider local or unknown publications media since it concentrated on the major dailies as well as internet publications within Nepal, thus some voices might have been excluded.
- **Vendor Limits:** This research only includes the time period from Nov. 4 to Nov. 29 in the year 2024. Extended durations of discussions related to the climate could be overlooked. It certainly has a short period but overlooks prolongations. It doesn't capture the whole pattern since the patterns change.
- **Some interviews have been analyzed.** However, a larger number might be able to present more distinct positions of the media, even though the current 11 seem to offer some useful indications.
- **Only one person was coding.** Interrater reliability was not tested. A systematic code scheme has not been established. Repeating the process may be difficult.

Theoretical Framework

The concept put forward by McCombs & Shaw in the year, 1972 is that the media frame dictates what people are concerned about by emphasizing certain topics repeatedly. The media emphasizes certain problems by bringing them to the center stage with regular coverage, and it also nudges how those topics are to be thought about by emphasizing certain aspects in certain ways.

It is where people get the signals about what is important through news coverage by voting, protesting, and talking about issues, from news media that pick stories which snowball. It has become more than just a bridge between the leaders and the people by amplifying some voices while relegating others to the background. It is where the reporting through the news informs the reaction of the communities when the nations converge for the future debates on the planet.

This research employs the agenda-setting theory approach to analyze the coverage of COP 29 in the context of the Nepali media and the impact of the agenda-setting on the

discourses. This research also deals with climate financing, climate change damages, and the role of the nation in the global debate.

Kantipur Daily Coverage of COP 29 (Pre-COP Phase)

The pre-COP 29 coverage of Kantipur Daily, dated 4-10 November 2024, showed very little concern for the issues related to Nepal, with only one article being written on those issues. No editorials or opinions were written on the matter, nor were any opinions of experts. The issues of environment-related problems of the nation were excluded.

Table 1
Media Coverage of COP 29 (Pre-COP Phase) in Kantipur Daily

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting	Interviews	Editorials
Nov 4–7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 9–10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

This sparse reporting shows how few dedicated climate journalists exist, and also hints at tight resources. Editors don’t put climate first, which drags coverage down even more. No prep chats before the summit likely blocked public engagement. Awareness had less room to grow because of it. These signs point to early-stage efforts - media attention on warming isn’t mature yet.

Kantipur Daily Coverage of COP 29 (Nov 11–22, 2024)

Media coverage of COP 29 contains very little discourse on issues of climate change in Nepal or the broader global arena, coming out in a very inconsistent manner. News articles made an appearance on only three occasions: the 11th, 13th, and 15th of November, with only the article of the 13th of November dealing with the global matter. Opinion articles made a few appearances, but in-depth contributions are very limited. Editorials have made a very limited contribution, with only one article on the 11th of November.

Table 2

Media Coverage of COP 29 in Kantipur Daily (Nov 11–22, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting	Interviews	Editorials
Nov 11	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nov 12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nov 13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 14–19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 20	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Nov 21–22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The reporting of COP 29 events in one of the major dailies in Nepal seems to be lacking after the event, with very little coverage after that. This would have meant that the general public did not get information about the crucial aspects of Nepal’s involvement in the negotiations, the conditions of the agreements that would be hammered out, and even the policy considerations that took place backstage. At the same time, the lack of interview articles meant that readers would get no insights into the thoughts of experts, activists, and Members of Parliament, and would continue to engage in a shallow public discourse.

Kantipur Daily Coverage of Post- COP 29

A tale from Nepal on November 27. Though COP lasted until November 29, Kantipur Daily remained tight-lipped to the point that not one single write-up was published during this period. Not a jot of focus was visible within their pages, not an editorial statement, not an international update in sight. By the 25th, an opinion write-up was barely let slip in Nepali concerning what happened.

Table 3

Media Coverage of COP 29 in Kantipur Daily (Post-COP Phase, Nov 23–29, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting	Interviews	Editorials
Nov 23–24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nov 26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 28–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

Breaks in the news came piecemeal, and they didn’t even cover the important interviews or go in-depth. Maybe the news source just moved on to other news after the event finished. A lack of depth, rather than a quality follow-up, made the coverage fairly superficial. Readers left wondering about the position of Nepal, their arguments, or their policies. This is just one news source, of course. Honestly, any news source about climate issues has its work cut out for it. Newsrooms are short-staffed and lack access to the proper expertise. This all contributes, and one can see this clearly in the finished reporting.

Gorkhapatra Coverage of COP 29 (Pre-COP Phase)

During the pre-COP period of November 4-10, 2024, the coverage of COP 29 in Gorkhapatra was minimal, consisting of only one news piece from Nepal on the 8th of November and another opinion from around the world on the 10th of November. Also, editorials, interviews, and in-depth reporting did not make the headlines, showing the minimal coverage the topic got by then. The coverage may have resulted from the focused coverage of political and economic events, which informants state to be of prime interest in the media context of Nepal.

Table 4
Gorkhapatra Coverage of COP 29 (Pre-COP Phase, Nov 4–10, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting	Interviews	Editorials
Nov 04–08	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 09–10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

These reasons for not reporting pre-COP events are in line with other grievances raised by journalists in general, such as a lack of resources and a shortage of expertise to report on climate issues on a routine basis. Moreover, public demand for news related to climate change issues, in most instances, tends to be erratic, increasing substantially around events like conferences, while remaining low in their pre-event phases, as revealed in KIIs. Thus, Gorkhapatra, in its pre-COP reporting, failed to be as extensive as it should have been to provide a glimpse into what’s happening in climate change negotiations prior to such events.

Gorkhapatra Coverage of COP 29 (During COP Phase, Nov 11–22, 2024)

Going back to before COP even began—between Nov 4 and 10, 2024 Gorkhapatra barely wrote about Climate Change. There was just one domestic report that emerged on Nov

8, and an international opinion piece on the 10th. Nothing too in-depth or authoritative was to be heard. Just complete and utter silence. Not even an editorial made it to print. Perhaps this is an indication of the paper waiting until the event draws closer. Perhaps they'd prefer to focus on financial matters and politics. As some important individuals pointed out, that's what papers of this kind do first.

Table 5

Gorkhapatra Coverage of COP 29 (During COP Phase, Nov 11–22, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting	Interviews	Editorials
Nov 11–15	2	0	2	0	1	1	1
Nov 16–20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 21–22	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The lack of early conference reporting corresponds to what the journalists have said about the budget and lack of good writers being limiting factors in doing the climate reporting regularly. Apart from these factors, the public does not have any particular interest in climate news unless it is of great significance, such as when problems occur or when the conference is around the corner, as indicated by the main interviewees. Gorakhapatra did not cover the news of the preparation of the COP conference in depth. Despite being the oldest media house of Nepal, Gorakhapatra did not provide a broad picture of the conference.

Gorkhapatra Post-COP Coverage

Gorkhapatra's coverage post-COP, between Nov 23 and 29, 2024, looked inadequate and feeble. The media house published just one article in Nepali, which showed up on the 28th. There was no global update that came through that week, and there were no opinions, discussions, or analyses published around that time.

Table 6

Gorkhapatra Post-COP Coverage (Nov 23–29, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting	Interviews	Editorials
Nov 23–29	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

Gorkhapatra scarcely touched on COP 29 during the week after it ended, which shows how fast attention shifted elsewhere once the event was over. Rather than investigating what has happened since the summit and its impact on the region, the news cycle simply moved on because several interviewees cited that news organizations within Nepal simply cease reporting on climate issues immediately after summits take place. It has nothing to do with the budget since they must? Editors simply fail to recognize that these issues should be kept alive. With that being said, since there were no opinion pages, no conversation between specialists, and foreign perspectives on the matter, several chances were lost that could have generated local discussion on what was decided by the summit regarding the future of Nepal.

Nagarik Dainik Pre-COP Coverage

In the weeks before COP, Nagarik Dainik barely talked about COP 29 - just a single Nepali article popped up on November 8, followed by an international interview two days later. Instead of deep dives or commentaries, there was silence; no editorials showed up at all.

Table 7
Nagarik Dainik Pre-COP Coverage (Nov 04–10, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 04–07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 08	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 09–10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

(Survey 2025)

The Nagarik Dainik was not very proactive before COP – possibly waiting in the wings until the conversations got underway, or perhaps just not deeming it a high priority from the outset. There were not many in-depth analyses or articles, or even big-picture perspectives shared, which again points to the difficulty media organizations have in finding the balance between the interests of their public and the limitations of their resources.

Nagarik Coverage of COP 29 (Event Phase, Nov 11–22, 2024)

Nagarik Dainik covered COP 29 sporadically now and then between the dates of November 11 and November 22, 2024. Their articles were published in the Nepali

language on selected days. They did not focus on intricate global issues but concentrated on issues related to Nepal.

Table 8

Nagarik Coverage of COP 29 (Event Phase, Nov 11–22, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali/ Global)	Opinions (Nepali/ Global)	Reporting (Nepali/Global)	Interviews	Editorial
Nov 11–15	2 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0	1
Nov 16–19	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0	0
Nov 20–22	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 1	0	0

(Survey 2025)

According to the report by Nagarik Dainik, the tendency is just to give updates on the most important parts of the COP 29 conference in relation to the region, instead of conducting in-depth investigations. The media institution did not cover the whole aspect of the conference. Instead, it focused on instances that happened around important event dates. That way, it stayed relevant to average readers and didn't get into more global issues.

Nagarik Post-COP Coverage

When COP finished on November 23–29, 2024, Nagarik didn't cover anything about the conference. The media house might have decided to move on quickly. In other words, Nagarik didn't think there was enough need to keep talking about what happened at COP 29.

Table 9

Nagarik Post-COP Coverage (Nov 23–29, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali/ Global)	Opinions (Nepali/ Global)	Reporting (Nepali/ Global)	Interviews (Nepali/ Global)	Editorial (Nepali/ Global)
Nov 23–29	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0

(Survey 2025)

There is a pattern of not following up after COP: people lose interest after the news media moves on from the topic. This may have occurred due to Nagarik Dainik, says this is partly because they are focused more on local topics and have restricted finances, so there isn't much capacity for in-depth reporting or helping people understand how COP 29 affects the world.

Onlinekhabar Pre-COP Coverage

Onlinekhabar’s pre-COP 29 coverage was minimal. It only focuses on Nepali issues. No coverage occurred from November 4 to 6, and news articles appeared only on three days. This paper does not cover any articles that covered global climate issues, suggesting COP 29 was primarily a national concern rather than an international negotiation.

Table 10
Onlinekhabar Pre-COP Coverage (Nov 04–10, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 04–06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 07–08	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

Despite their ability to interact with so many people, online news portals like Onlinekhabar barely discussed COP 29 and climate change. Due to budget limitations and limited staff, such portals usually avoid publishing news that links general worries with large environmental concerns. Keeping their audiences engaged is a struggle for the editors; consequently, such press releases rarely make it.

Onlinekhabar Coverage of COP 2

The reporting on COP 29 between Nov 11–22, 2024, by Onlinekhabar was varying, with little steady focus. There were no interviews or opinion pieces on that platform. Which meant the media house didn’t really help guiding public dialogue and discussion, or dig into how Nepal was involved during the conference.

Table 11

Onlinekhabar Coverage of COP 29 (Nov 11–22, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 12–14	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 15–17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 18	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 19–22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The reporting on the Cop 29 by Onlinekhabar during Nov 11-22, 2024, has been diverse, with limited consistent reporting. There were also no opinion articles or interviews conducted on this portal. This means that this particular media outlet did not play much of a role in shaping public opinion or discussion on the implications of Nepal during this conference. Only a few articles on world affairs suggest that major climate conferences were not their central theme. Taking limited notice of Cop 29, Nepal's climate news sites had very few opinion pieces, discussions, or interviews.

Onlinekhabar Post-COP 29 Coverage

After Cop 29, Onlinekhabar didn't go in-depth regarding climate issues, neither in Nepal nor globally. It didn't mention anything regarding what transpired in the event and how Nepal fared on those issues. Without going in-depth or allowing experts to share their opinions, it missed an opportunity to describe what Nepal wants to achieve in its climate policies, since negotiations have now come to an end.

Table 12

Onlinekhabar Post-COP 29 Coverage (Nov 23–29, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 23–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

Climate stories in Nepal do not look at the past because people lack understanding; therefore, meaningful talk is missed. The reporting was halted once the event was concluded. This certainly does not allow momentum for meaningful talk about solutions

between the stakeholders because continued reporting after such an important meeting keeps talk between leaders and people alive.

Himalkhabar Pre-COP 29 Coverage

Results from Himalkhabar’s pre-COP 29 news analysis show that the event has gone unattended by the media in terms of Nepalese and international climatic issues, indicating the absence of give-away or important considerations with respect to the climactic summit.

Table 13
Himalkhabar Pre-COP 29 Coverage (Nov 04–10, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 04–10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The absence of pre-event coverage during the COP 29 conference in Nepal impacts the awareness and climate dialogue. The role of the media in helping to provide a forum for international events related to climate change cannot be overstated. The reactive paradigm in Nepal hinders public engagement and therefore the discourse on climate action.

Himalkhabar Coverage of COP 29

In Himalkhabar’s early reporting on COP 29, there is little reporting on news about climate issues, either from Nepal or internationally perhaps the issue isn’t considered pressing enough, or maybe the media aren’t investigating just how prepared Nepal is on top of its diplomacy on climate change.

Table 14
Himalkhabar Coverage of COP 29 (Nov 11–22, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 11–20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 21–22	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The lack of previous news before COP 29 in Nepal affects the awareness the population has regarding matters of climate change. The media often conditions the public before major international meetings related to the environment; however, Nepal only wakes up when things begin, thus hampering engagement and discussions regarding climate change measures. The media needs an increased focus before such meetings.

Himalkhabar Post-COP 29 Coverage

After COP 29, Himalkhabar, known for being one of the best media sources, went silent. There were no updates released at all, not even short articles or radio segments. This clearly indicates they may have missed important developments following the meeting. This sort of silence may let Nepal's environmental policies be guided by stale information.

Table 15

Himalkhabar Post-COP 29 Coverage (Nov 23–29, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 23–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

Lack of updates after COP 29 in Himalkhabar reveals the effect of low media coverage on impeding climate talks to reach the audience. This might hamper the coverage at the global level, apart from raising new disputes about green activism. Himalkhabar is not leading the discussion, and rather, it waits in the background, publishes a brief update after the event takes place, and then falls silent.

Setopati Pre-COP 29 Coverage

Reporting for one of the most popular online news agencies of the country, Setopati, before COP 29, the news itself related to the climate change meeting is absent. This means that the people of Nepal are deprived of crucial knowledge about what the nation is doing on this issue, the debate on climate change in the country, and the discussions on the agreement being developed internationally.

Table 16
Setopati Pre-COP 29 Coverage (Nov 04–10, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 04–10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The lack of coverage in the early stages of climate news on Setopati suggests that stories are published only after they have happened. This results in climate issues receiving attention only after the political news and stuff. To improve the coverage, the news organizations in Nepal could emphasize previews and discussions prior to the actual occurrence. This will eventually help generate a discussion on environmental issues before the conference starts.

Setopati Coverage of COP 29

The coverage by Setopati on COP 29 between November 11th and 22nd, 2024, was minimal, with only one piece of news related to the climate situation in Nepal. The minimal coverage is an indication that more needs to be done by the publication outlet in this area.

Table 17
Setopati Coverage of COP 29 (Nov 11–22, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 12–22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

The lack of activity on Setopati after COP 29 represents a mere recognition but not a dedicated journalistic venture. A better editorial intervention with expertise and in-depth reporting is a requirement for improving awareness in climate governance in Nepal.

Setopati Post-COP

The coverage of COP 29 by Setopati from November 11 to 22, 2024, remains limited as there is only one news report published by the house related to Nepali issues on climate change. The minimal coverage of COP 29 restricts public awareness related to it. In fact, this affects the position of Nepal in COP 29 as well.

Table 18

Setopati Post-COP 29 Coverage (Nov 23–29, 2024)

Date Range	News (Nepali)	News (Global)	Opinions (Nepali)	Opinions (Global)	Reporting (Nepali)	Reporting (Global)	Interviews (Nepali)	Interviews (Global)	Editorials (Nepali)	Editorials (Global)
Nov 23–25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 26	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 27–29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Survey 2025)

Setopati's silence post-COP 29 hints at minimal attention, not serious follow-up. Instead of just reporting, Nepal's media could use deeper analysis, along with voices from specialists. Hence, people need to better grasp climate decisions.

Key Information Interviews

Distribution of Respondents by Media Position

The research studied the perception and thinking of 11 media reporters. This paper examines how COP 29 has been portrayed in the Nepalese media through its press. These 11 reporters were handling varied editorial positions within the media institution. We thus obtain a broad scenario from varied media houses: three of them are Chief Editors, one each from handling positions such as Editor, Editor-in-Chief, Founding Editor, Special Assignment Editor, Special Editor, Co-Editor, and Reporter, respectively. High-level and mid-level editors, in this study, have participated, allowing for an in-depth observation of climate reporting in media houses in Nepal.

Table 19

Representation of Data

Position in Media Organization	Number of Respondents
Chief Editor	3
Editor	1
Editor-in-Chief	1
Founding Editor	1
Special Assignment Editor	1
Special Editor	1
Co-Editor	1
Reporter	1

(Survey 2025)

Frequency and Emphasis of Climate Change Coverage in Nepali Media

The responses indicate an engagement in Nepali media in discussing issues related to climate change, but not in the same fashion or frequency. It’s based on what’s being discussed in editorial meetings or the major happenings in the industry on any given day, which is being raised as a major issue by some media organizations. A couple of journalists reported that they produce climate-related articles daily, including up to four to five articles per day. Others, however, reported it was rather limited – possibly one to two articles per week – on topics related to farming, food, or planting seasons. The media industry indicates they give climate articles center stage coverage – almost an area of its own “mission” – when major events occur. Results show these reports don’t run steady - they shif based on what editors want, plus whatever’s trending at the time.

Table 20
Frequency and Emphasis of Climate Change Coverage

Frequency of Climate Change Coverage	Summary of Responses
Regular and frequent coverage	Climate change is a primary topic; reported daily in some media houses.
Context-dependent	Coverage varies based on staff meetings, editorial decisions, and current events.
Specific reporting priority	4–5 stories per day in some cases, with notable attention in special circumstances.
Limited coverage	Some media houses report 1–2 stories per week.
Thematic focus	Topics like agriculture, food security, and crop cycles influence coverage.
Special campaign approach	Some media outlets provide extensive focus as part of awareness initiatives.

(Survey 2025)

Comparative Priority of Climate Change Coverage in Nepali Media

The findings from the study indicate that climate change reporting in Nepali media is comparatively infrequent relative to other areas: politics, economy, and sports. Some respondents observed that climate reporting has recently gained importance inside the newsroom, while others suggested it remained subordinate. Still, many media houses focus on political and economic issues, leaving environmental issues unnoticed. The political and economic news attracts much attention because of the transitional period that the Nepalese are going through. This connects closely to economic matters, making them of wider interest. However, news regarding climate change matters, such as

changes in weather and lack of water, attracts much attention only when such situations arise. Although climate change news attracts much attention, compared to political reporting, news about climate change ranks low. This happens since the reporting finds itself blocked by the political and economic matters that take precedence. It attracts attention only when such conditions prevail in the country.

Table 21

Comparative Priority of Climate Change Coverage

Climate Change Coverage vs. Other Topics	Summary of Responses
Less frequent overall	Climate reporting is less prominent than political and economic news.
Increasing priority lately	Climate issues are gaining more attention over time.
Context-based coverage	Coverage increases during significant climate-related events.
Political and economic dominance	Politics and the economy receive priority due to national concerns.
Economic relevance	Economic news is prioritized as it directly affects daily life.
Climate issues gain priority when severe	Weather changes, droughts, and crises increase media attention.

(Survey 2025)

Significance of COP 29 for Nepal: Insights from Participants

The UN's climate meet (COP 28) matters a lot to Nepal - mainly due to how badly climate shifts hit here. Since it's a hilly country, sudden rains, melting glaciers, and slope collapses are common problems, making world-level talks actually relevant. People said talking about warming shouldn't just happen at summits - it should go on all year round. Some of the respondents are a little apprehensive about the fact that such COP events are becoming events for conducting business. Of course, such an event is always helpful, but now it seems to be no less than a market. Additionally, some participants have stated that proper coverage of such issues by the media might lead to the generation of mass awareness, which in turn propels the leaders in the right manner. Discussion among the participants in COP 29 may generate helpful strategies to combat the challenges of climate change. It will also be helpful for a country such as Nepal to improve its environment and employment in the entire country.

Obstacles Encountered by Media Organizations in Reporting on Global Climate Conferences Such as COP 29

Small news organizations in Nepal face challenges while reporting global climate discussions such as COP 29. Among the large challenges is that few news persons possess the appropriate skills for reporting climate news. Most news organizations lack money; therefore, sending news personnel abroad seems impossible. Due to the limitation posed by financial resources, live news is less preferred. Costs of travel pose an even greater challenge for news organizations wanting to send news personnel abroad. Therefore, instead, they rely on news from wire services. Lack of adequate information within news organizations limits the proper dissemination of news about climate change. Within the Nepalese news environment, organizations like Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) assist in disseminating global climatic news. The challenge posed by limited economic resources is that it seems difficult for news organizations to link large news with local news. A major challenge is that news personnel lack adequate understanding about climatic change; therefore, news ends up lacking vital information. Despite the fact that news cannot be impeded by technology, a news person’s understanding might pose limitations.

Table 22
Key Challenges in Reporting on COP 29

Challenges	Description
Lack of Specialized Journalists	Few reporters have expertise in climate science and policy.
Financial Constraints	Limited funding restricts travel for on-site reporting at international summits.
Dependence on News Agencies	Media houses rely on agency reports instead of direct coverage.
Shortage of Resources	Insufficient staff and funding for comprehensive reporting.
Translation & Dissemination Issues	Difficulty in translating and distributing international climate news.
Limited Subject-Matter Expertise	Reporters lack in-depth knowledge of climate change impacts and solutions.

(Survey 2025)

Strategies to Enhance Media Coverage of Climate Change and COP 29

To achieve more media coverage and attention related to climate change and COP 29, the media must be equipped with extensive training and techniques and, more obviously, enough resources. On a different note, and related to the negative effect that the overall

increase in the global temperature has on the planet, as well as the important role that carbon markets play in the matter, and the overall effect on the media and the attention that should be focused there, more attention may be diverted to where it's needed. The media may cover important conferences related to the environment and not boycott them.

Table 23

Strategies to Enhance Media Coverage of Climate Change

Strategy	Description
Training and Orientation	Provide specialized training for journalists to improve their ability to report on climate issues.
Resource Allocation	Media houses need adequate financial and material support to cover climate-related stories.
Capacity Building	Invest in developing the skills of media personnel to ensure high-quality reporting.
Regular Coverage of Climate Issues	Make climate change a regular topic in the media to raise awareness about its impacts and solutions.
Investment in Coverage of Major Events	Send journalists to cover key climate conferences like COP to present outcomes effectively.
Collaboration and Networking	Foster collaboration between media, government, and international organizations for effective reporting.

(Survey 2025)

Reader Interest in Climate Change News in Nepal

In countries like Nepal, where nations are being affected because of their location in relation to climate change, readers in Nepal are particularly interested in reading news related to matters affecting their country because of climate change, such as news related to shrinking glaciers in the Himalayas. Some people would be extremely enthusiastic about reading information regarding such matters. However, in reality, news related to the effect thereof, otherwise, nobody would be bothered to know such information. But in any case, such news must be relayed more persuasively by news agencies. Also, their government must stop procrastinating to take action.

Table 24

Reader Interest in Climate Change News

Response	Description
Growing Interest	Interest in climate change news has been increasing in recent years.
Moderate Interest	Readers show some interest, but media needs to provide more in-depth and investigative content.
Low Interest	There is very little interest in climate change news among readers.
Growing Awareness	Interest is growing due to increased awareness of climate change impacts, like the melting of snow on the Himalayas.
Minimal Interest	Readers do not show much interest in the topic.
Increased Interest	People’s curiosity has increased as media reports on visible impacts like melting snow and its broader effects.
Varied Interest	The level of interest varies, with some expressing concern and others showing indifference.

(Survey 2025)

Emphasis on Climate Change in Editorial Policies

Currently, there are many media organizations in Nepal focusing on climate change in their editorial agendas, such as Rastriya Samachar Samiti, which continues to come back to it because it’s important. However, experts agree on one thing: although there is attention, there is still some leeway for further attention and focus on it. Nonetheless, what is evident is media is heavily leaning on reporting on changes in nature.

Table 25

Editorial Policy Prioritization of Climate Change Issues

Response	Description
High Priority	The media house has given high priority to climate change issues in its editorial policy.
Consistent Priority	Media outlets like Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) consistently prioritize climate change issues.
Prioritized but Room for Improvement	Climate change is a priority, but there is room for improvement in coverage and attention.
Strong Focus	Climate change is placed as a top priority in the editorial policy.
Regular Priority	Climate change consistently receives significant priority in the editorial approach.

(Survey 2025)

How Nepalese Media Covers Climate Change: The Presence of Dedicated Beats

Key informant interviews involving 11 media personnel revealed that 8 respondents claimed to have a beat for climate change reporting. While one believes that the media organization has no beat for climate change, another indicated that the institution requests help from different departments for climate change reporting.

Media Coverage of COP19-Related News: An Analytical Perspective

Drawing from the survey, the media employed a way of passing along information on COP19; in the survey, 54.5% of the respondents indicated the use of on-site reporting, collaboration by agencies, and government and non-governmental approaches. Additionally, none of the respondents indicated the use of “Option 4,” while 9.1% of the respondents relied on the use of international channels of communication.

Table 26

Media Coverage of COP19-Related News

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage
Based on on-site reporting)	6	54.5%
With the help of agencies)	6	54.5%
Through the use of governmental and non-governmental mechanisms)	6	54.5%
Option 4	0	0%
Other information related to COP19 conference)	1	9.1%
Also through international communication channels)	1	9.1%

(Survey 2025)

Such an affinity for simple, in-built approaches keeps matters credible, not to mention on track. The data indicate we have to find more approaches to talk about issues related to the climate in a manner that could connect regional perspectives to global perspectives.

Summary

COP 29 held in Nepal received little media coverage. The coverages were also scattered and thin. This created a situation where less attention was paid to its main discussions and results. Major publications like Gorkhapatra, Kantipu Dainik have paid little attention to global issues like climate change. In other words, the coverage of this incident in these national-level newspapers was very low. Only a very small number of editorials were written on these issues of climate change. This meant that climate change was a low priority for them. Press coverage influences what the audience’s attention is focused on or diverted to, which is the basis of agenda-setting theory. As there was little global

attention paid to events such as COP 29, there were fewer participants and people who grasped the importance of such events. Weather stories made appearances when the time of the editorial focus arrived, and breaking global news was taking place. The KIIs indicated that the media struggled to dive in, lacked personnel, lacked funding, which was unexpected, and training was an afterthought.

The frequency of reporting was again limited by the use of news sources. Furthermore, KIIs highlighted matters concerning readership, in which individuals would prefer to be exposed to either information concerning things that happen at a localized geographic area, for example, through landslides or glacier melts, or matters concerning things that happen on a global dimension, but in a crisis. However, these sources frequently overlook matters concerning reader engagement on issues such as climate change, thus foregoing any possibility of engaging wider public participation on issues concerning climate change. Overall, reporting on issues concerning climate change in news sources in Nepal is not substantial in providing regular information on this topic through the media. Nonetheless, improving reporting through increased emphasis on news sources may aid in enhancing awareness of such issues.

Conclusion

This Study reveals that the Nepalese news has received very little coverage of COP 29. It was not completely consistent. The coverage was shallow and sporadic. Each of them specifically relates to larger problems associated with climate change news. Lack of funding and professional journalists does not form the most advantageous way of coverage. The space within training adds up to such problems. It suggests that instead of exploring the threats associated with warming, the news must address the politically laden process named money news. The reason is that this sets the climate change themes in the back. The agenda-building theories assert that weak news yields weak publics. The reason is that if the news appears prominently on the news platform, it is considered insignificant. Investment must therefore be extended not only in money but in the training of the journalists of the news. The newsroom must therefore experience some structural change. This can include their own structures within the global verified models. It is therefore that they may be able to deliver greater mutual understanding. This will enable the newsroom to pioneer the development of the law on such an important matter. It will further assist in understanding of publics, producing even legitimate worry about what, at present, comprises global treatments. Secondly, the enhancement of their capabilities within the context of the Nepali news organizations will enable the Nepalese citizens to be related to the global discourse on climate.

Recommendations

- Offer targeted workshops along with fixed climate roles help reporters create sharper, steadier coverage that's better informed.
- Research global climate events such as COP conferences and relate this to the situation in Nepal so that people can better understand the situation and realize where we are vulnerable.
- Promote the spirit of teaming up between the media, the government, and experts so that the press has better access to facts, expertise, and resources. Encourage the movement of info via trusted channels while working on greater transparency.
- Organized community-led climate talks with real examples, expert input, and local discussions, especially during major global climate events.

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