

foreign countries.

The clincher for the legitimacy of cross-border broadcasting came a week ago, when the Times of India reported that politicians from the Mithilanchal area of Bihar are using half a dozen FM radio stations for their poll campaign. It so happens that these radio stations - like Radio Janakpur, Radio Mithila and Mithilanchal FM - are all in Nepal. They broadcast in Maithili, the language of the region, and the

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channels are heard loud and clear in Bihar, in the border districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sheohar and Sitamarhi.

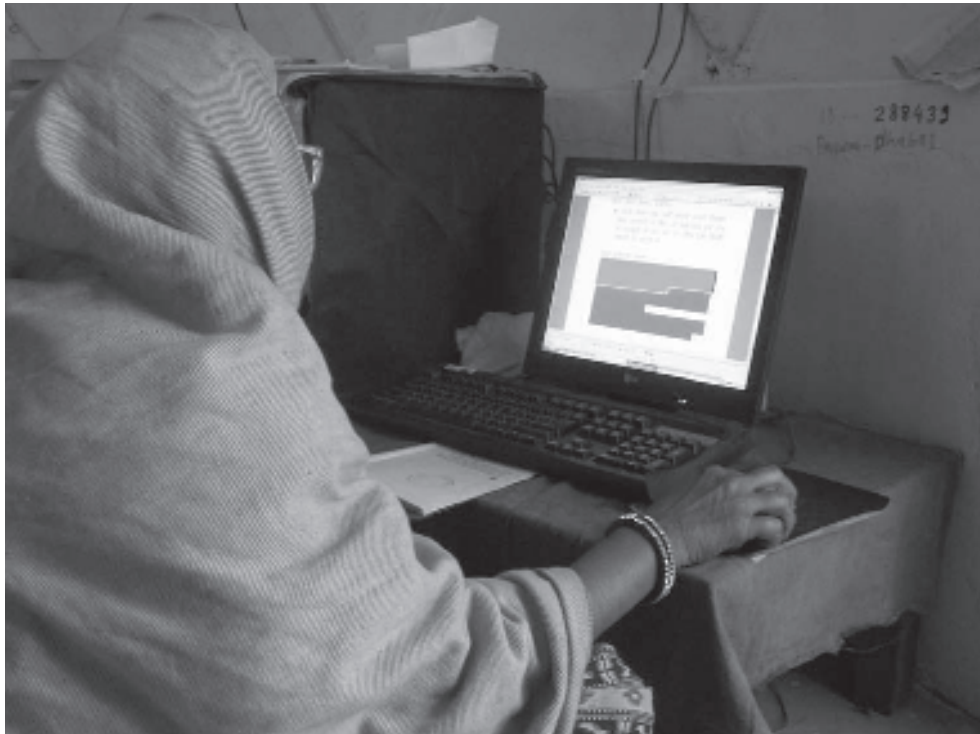
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I only hope when some of these innovative politicians come to power, they'll remember how they had to

skip across the border to a foreign country in order to talk to their own countrymen back home, and liberalise our radio laws a little. Otherwise, our only hope of giving the people a voice is to experiment with unregulated technologies like wifi radio and hope that the government wakes up too late to ban that as well.

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This 60-year-old lady, Smt. Nortti Bai, is no ordinary lady peeping through her spectacles into the computer screen in the picture. Barely 5 years ago, she wasn't aware of a thing called computers or the Internet. She learnt computers at the old age of 55 yrs, became proficient at it and now teaches computers to young kids and does online documentation too.