

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

India: Chronology of Recent Events

K. Alan Kronstadt
Analyst in Asian Affairs
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Summary

This report provides a reverse chronology of recent events involving India and India-U.S. relations. Sources include, but are not limited to, major newswires, the U.S. Department of State, and Indian news outlets. For a substantive review, see CRS Issue Brief IB93097, *India-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

05/24/06 — **Two days of India-Pakistan talks on the militarized Siachen Glacier dispute ended without progress.**

On the same day, Indian press reports claimed that New Delhi will not accept giving legal status to its

moratorium on nuclear testing in any civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States. Also, Prime Minister Singh opened a two-day roundtable with Kashmiri political figures in Srinagar, where multiple grenade attacks by suspected separatist militants injured at least 19 civilians and 9 policemen.

05/23/06 — **S. 1950**, to promote global energy security through increased cooperation between the United States and India on non-nuclear energy-related issues, was passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On the same day, Under Secretary of State Burns and U.S. Ambassador to India Mulford traveled to London to discuss proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation with Indian Foreign Secretary Saran. Also, London-based Amnesty International released its annual report which claimed that “perpetrators of human rights violations [in India] continued to enjoy impunity, especially in Gujarat” and that “socially and economically marginalized groups, including women, dalits, and tribals, continued to face systemic discrimination.” Finally, the Hurriyat Conference of Kashmiri separatist groups said it would not participate in a planned roundtable meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Singh.

05/22/06 — **The benchmark Sensex index of the Bombay Stock Exchange suffered its worst-ever daily decline**, losing 10.8% of its value at the end of a three-day losing streak. On the same day, two civilians were killed and at

Acronyms:

BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party

CBMs: Confidence-building measures

IAEA: International Atomic
Energy Agency

- least 38 injured in multiple grenade attacks by suspected separatist militants in Kashmir.
- 05/21/06** — Suspected separatist rebels killed a civilian and abducted six security personnel in the Assam state.
- 05/19/06** — **H.R. 5430**, to establish sound criteria for civilian nuclear cooperation with certain countries, was introduced in the House. The bill's sponsor described it as "an effort to strike a reasonable balance" between U.S. interests in cooperation with India and U.S. nonproliferation concerns.
- 05/18/06** — **The United States presented a draft global treaty to ban future production of fissile material** (a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty) that it hopes will be supported by India. Some analysts speculated that the move was meant to bolster U.S. congressional support for proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation. On the same day, election-related violence left 14 people dead in the Bihar state.
- 05/17/06** — In a **review of U.S. South Asia policy**, Assistant Secretary of State Boucher told a House panel that U.S.-India economic relations have "taken off" and that an initiative for civil nuclear cooperation with India was "an historic strategic achievement."
- 05/16/06** — Twelve civilians, including four women, were killed by a landmine believed planted by Maoist militants in the Chhattisgarh state.
- 05/15/06** — Suspected separatist militants slit the throats and killed four alleged government informants in Kashmir.
- 05/13/06** — Two civilians were killed and at least 35 injured in a grenade attack by suspected Islamic militants on a Hindu political rally in Kashmir.
- 05/12/06** — Defense Minister Mukherjee said "international commitments on nonproliferation" had kept India from testing its intermediate-range Agni-3 ballistic missile, spurring press reports that "U.S. pressure" had influenced New Delhi's decision. Mukherjee later denied the reports.
- 05/11/06** — **The House International Relations Committee held a hearing on the U.S.-India "global partnership,"** where seven witnesses focused on proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation and legislative options for consideration. On the same day, Indian Marxists increased their strength with convincing electoral victories in the West Bengal and Kerala states.
- 05/09/06** — NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization agreed to include two U.S. scientific instruments on India's Chandrayaan lunar mission planned for 2007. On the same day, Indian soldiers in Kashmir shot and killed a suspected Islamic militant reportedly linked to the 3/7 terrorist bombings in Varanasi.
- 05/08/06** — A Pakistani national and alleged member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group was shot and killed by New Delhi police.
- 05/05/06** — In **H.Rept. 109-452** accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2007, the House Armed Services Committee commended India's recent efforts to improve its export controls and would direct the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a report on the Department's cooperative activities to further enhance India's export controls.
- 05/04/06** — **Three days of communal rioting** following the demolition of a Muslim shrine in the Gujarat state left 6 people dead and dozens injured. More than 1,000 Indian army troops were deployed to quell the violence. On the same day, two civilians were killed and six injured in a grenade attack by suspected separatist militants in Kashmir.

- 05/03/06 — **India agreed to launch a second cross-LOC bus service and to allow cross-LOC truck service** to facilitate trade in Kashmir. On the same day, Assistant Secretary of State Boucher met with senior leaders in New Delhi to discuss democracy in Nepal. Also, the Indian military launched an exercise to test a new doctrine to “dismember a not-so-friendly nation effectively and in the shortest possible time.” Finally, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom’s annual report found that positive developments in India affecting freedom of religion that began with the 2004 election of a Congress-led coalition government continued in 2005, but that “serious concerns remain,” especially as related to violent acts perpetrated by extremist Hindu nationalist groups.
- 05/02/06 — Indian Oil Minister Deora said the United States cannot pressure India to withdraw from a proposed pipeline project that would deliver Iranian gas to India through Pakistan.
- 05/01/06 — **Suspected Islamic militants shot and killed at least 35 Hindu villagers in Kashmir.**
- 04/29/06 — Maoist militants reportedly killed 15 of the 48 civilian hostages they had taken in the Chhattisgarh state.
- 04/28/06 — **The State Department’s *Country Reports on Terrorism 2005*** said New Delhi had “improved its tactics against terrorists” and it found that civilian deaths from terrorists attacks in Jammu and Kashmir continued a five-year decline, but also warned that attacks by Maoist terrorists are “growing in sophistication and lethality and may pose a long-term threat.” On the same day, 11 suspected Maoist militants, including 6 women, were shot and killed by police in the Andhra Pradesh state.
- 04/27/06 — A third round of **India-Pakistan expert-level talks on conventional CBMs** resulted in several agreements aimed at avoidance of conflict. On the same day, **India rejected a Pakistani proposal to remove all heavy weapons from Kashmir.** Also, former External Affairs Minister and ousted senior Congress Party figure Natwar Singh criticized New Delhi’s approach to proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation. Finally, 14 people, including 8 tourists, were injured in a grenade attack by suspected separatist militants in Kashmir.
- 04/26/06 — **A Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S.-India nuclear energy cooperation** saw eight nongovernmental witnesses weigh in on the potential benefits of and problems with the Bush Administration initiative. On the same day, a fourth round of **India-Pakistan expert-level talks on nuclear CBMs** produced no new agreements. Also, India and Uzbekistan signed agreements to cooperate in a number of areas, including counterterrorism and energy.
- 04/25/06 — Seven people, including four militants and two policemen, were killed in separatist-related violence in Kashmir.
- 04/24/06 — Energy Secretary Bodman reiterated U.S. opposition to a proposed pipeline that would deliver Iranian gas to India through Pakistan. On the same day, Power Minister Shinde visited Washington for meetings with top U.S. officials. Also, a leading Pakistan senator accused India of pursuing a malevolent policy in Afghanistan, including providing military training to 600 Pakistani Baloch rebels.

- 04/23/06 — German Chancellor Merkel indicated that Berlin may support proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation.
- 04/22/06 — **Senior opposition BJP leader Pramod Mahajan was shot by his brother in a family dispute and died 11 days later.** On the same day, West Bengal and Kerala, traditional strongholds for Indian Marxists, held state-level elections.
- 04/21/06 — Four suspected Maoist militants were shot and killed by police in the Andhra Pradesh state.
- 04/20/06 — Counterterrorism Coordinator Crumpton led the U.S. delegation for a **two-day meeting of the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism** in Washington. On the same day, former External Affairs Minister and senior opposition BJP figure Jaswant Singh formally presented a number of questions on the wisdom of proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation. Also, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin made a formal bid to sell about \$1 billion worth of maritime surveillance aircraft and military helicopters to India. Finally, an Indian press report claimed that India would soon “deploy a fleet” of MiG-29 fighter aircraft at its “first overseas military facility in Tajikistan.” The Indian Air Force later denied the report.
- 04/19/06 — The benchmark Sensex index of the Bombay Stock Exchange rose above the 11,000 mark for the first time ever.
- 04/18/06 — The inaugural South Asia Renewable Energy Summit was held in New Delhi. On the same day, India decided to alter the design of the controversial Kishanganga dam project in Indian Kashmir in ways that New Delhi hopes will end a long-standing dispute with Islamabad. Also, Home Secretary Duggal claimed that camps for training Islamic militants to fight in Kashmir are “flourishing” in Pakistan. Finally, a landmine attack by Maoist militants killed two policemen in the Maharashtra state and a 2,500-man force of Maoists besieged a village in the neighboring Chhattisgarh state.
- 04/17/06 — **An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said India will not accept any U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation agreement provision that would limit its freedom to test nuclear weapons in the future.** On the same day, polls opened in the first round of voting for a new state legislature in West Bengal, where the long-ruling Marxists hope to widen their advantage over the Congress Party.
- 04/14/06 — **Two bombs exploded at New Delhi’s main mosque**, injuring at least 13 people. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. On the same day, a series of grenade attacks by suspected separatist militants killed at least 5 people and wounded another 18 in Srinagar, Kashmir. Also, a senior Indian Air Force officer said India will reduce the number of joint air exercises with foreign militaries to two per year and will hold such exercises with the United States once every three years.
- 04/13/06 — **Prime Minister Singh identified a worsening Maoist insurgency as “the single biggest internal security challenge” ever faced by India**, saying it threatened “our democracy, our way of life.”
- 04/12/06 — The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation agreed in principle to grant the United States (and South Korea) observer status. On the same day, an Indian intelligence official and five suspected separatist militants were killed in a gunbattle in Kashmir.

- 04/11/06 — India’s Air Force chief announced that India had begun work on creating an inter-services military Aerospace Command.
- 04/10/06 — **Afghan President Karzai met with top Indian leaders in New Delhi**, where Prime Minister Singh pledged another \$50 million in assistance to Afghanistan (bringing total assistance to \$650 million since 2001).
- 04/09/06 — House Speaker Representative Dennis Hastert led a bipartisan House delegation on a four-day visit to India to meet with top Indian leaders.
- 04/08/06 — The Ministry of External Affairs rejected a U.S. prompt that India better define its “minimum credible [nuclear] deterrent” requirements, saying the “self-explanatory term” is a “response to a dynamic and changing security environment.”
- 04/06/06 — **H.Con.Res. 388**, condemning human rights violations against the Kashmiri Pandits, was introduced in the House.
- 04/05/06 — **Key House and Senate committees hosted Secretary of State Rice for hearings on proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation.** Secretary Rice argued forcefully in favor of the Administration’s initiative.
- 04/03/06 — **The State Department confirmed that two Iranian naval vessels had visited Indian ports in March**, but called it a “limited type of event” that did not suggest Indian involvement in training or contributing to Iranian military capabilities. Some in Congress expressed concern about India-Iran military ties. On the same day, the United States and India signed an agreement on India’s participation in the FutureGen project to build an emissions-free coal-fired power plant.
- 03/30/06 — During a visit to Washington, Foreign Secretary Saran defended proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation, rejecting fears that India would quickly bolster its nuclear weapons arsenal and calling the proposal a “critical component” of broader U.S.-India relations.
- 03/29/06 — In a *Washington Post* opinion article, former President Jimmy Carter criticized proposed civil nuclear cooperation with India as “just one more step in opening Pandora’s box of nuclear proliferation.” On the same day, the Indian and Pakistan commerce secretaries held Composite Dialogue talks on bilateral economic and commercial cooperation.
- 03/28/06 — Secretary of State Rice told a Senate panel that the United States would like to see India (and China) be more active pressuring the oppressive regime in Burma.
- 03/26/06 — India and Israel reportedly agreed to hold their first-ever joint military exercises that would involve top-line Indian and Israeli fighter aircraft.
- 03/24/06 — In a speech marking the **launch of a new bus service** linking Amritsar, India with Nankana Sahib, Pakistan, Prime Minister Singh envisioned someday entering into a Treaty of Peace, Security, and Friendship with Islamabad. On the same day, a landmine attack by Maoist militants killed 13 civilians in the central Chhattisgarh state. The militants later issued a rare apology for the deaths, saying they had been targeting police.
- 03/23/06 — Congress Party leader Sonia Gandhi resigned her seat in Parliament in an effort to defuse a dispute over claims she had broken parliamentary rules.
- 03/20/06 — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent letters to Congress in support of legislation to allow for civil nuclear cooperation with India. On the same day, Texas-based Dell Inc. announced plans to double the size of its workforce in India to 20,000.

- 03/16/06** — **H.R. 4974 and S. 2429, to waive the application of certain requirements under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 with respect to India** were, at the President's request, introduced in the House and Senate, respectively. On the same day, President Bush's 2006 National Security Strategy of the United States stated, "We have set aside decades of mistrust and put relations with India ... on a new and fruitful path."
- 03/15/06** — The Energy Diplomacy and Security Act of 2006 (**S. 2435**), which includes India-related initiatives, was introduced in the Senate.
- 03/13/06** — A press statement from Chairman of the House International Relations Committee Representative Henry Hyde suggested that **Congress may seek conditions for approval of legislation to allow for civil nuclear cooperation with India**. On the same day, in a *Washington Post* opinion article, Secretary of State Rice argued that proposed civil nuclear cooperation with India "is an essential step toward our goal of transforming America's partnership with India."
- 03/10/06** — **An open letter to Congress signed by 27 South Asia experts** urged approval of legislation to allow for civil nuclear cooperation with India.
- 03/08/06** — The White House issued a press release responding to critics of proposed U.S. civil nuclear cooperation with India.
- 03/07/06** — Apparent **terrorist bombings in the Hindu holy city of Varanasi (or Benares) killed at least 15 people** and injured more than 100 others.
- 03/06/06** — Prime Minister Singh told Parliament that India's 2/4 IAEA vote on Iran's nuclear program was made in India's national interest and that his government remains committed to "widening, deepening, and expanding" its ties with Iran.
- 03/03/06** — **A report of the U.S.-India CEO Forum** identified India's poor infrastructure and dense bureaucracy as key impediments to increased bilateral trade and investment relations.
- 03/02/06** — **President and Prime Minister Singh issued a Joint Statement** expressing mutual satisfaction with "great progress" made in advancing the U.S.-India "strategic partnership." The statement, which reviewed bilateral efforts to expand ties in numerous areas, notably announced "**successful completion of India's [nuclear facility] separation plan,**" a reference to ongoing and complex negotiations related to President Bush's July 2005 vow to achieve "full civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India." **President Bush called the agreement "historic" and "necessary"** for helping the American and Indian people. On the same day, the Pentagon issued a statement lauding bilateral military relations with India and anticipating possibly major arms sales to that country.
- 03/01/06** — **President Bush arrived in New Delhi**. Thousands of mostly Muslim and communist protestors, including some 100,000 Muslim men in New Delhi, marched in protest in several Indian cities.
- 02/28/06** — **President Bush began a four-day visit to South Asia**. On the same day, **Maoist rebels exploded a landmine under a truck in the central Chhattisgarh state, killing at least 55 people**.