

CRS Report for Congress

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India: Chronology of Recent Events

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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 Report RL33529, *India-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 10/30/06** — Maharashtra police announced having detained a Muslim man in their first arrest related to the 9/8 bombings in Malegaon.
- 10/28/06** — Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik reportedly was “severely beaten” in an attack by Indian security forces in Srinagar.
- 10/27/06** — The Indian Cabinet approved a plan to restore direct cargo shipping links with Pakistan after a 35-year suspension. On the same day, more than 4,000 people fled their homes after gunbattles between two rival militant factions in the northeastern Nagaland state.
- 10/26/06** — A new law to protect Indian women from domestic abuse came into effect.
- 10/25/06** — **The sixth annual “Malabar” joint U.S.-India naval exercises** began in the Arabian Sea and included some 6,500 U.S. Navy personnel. On the same day, U.S. and Indian infantry engaged in joint counterterrorism drills in the Karnataka state.
- 10/24/06** — **Pranab Mukherjee was named as India’s new foreign minister**, a post that had been vacant for nearly one year. A.K. Antony, a three-time chief minister of the southern Kerala state, was named as the new defense minister. On the same day, **Prime Minister Singh said India had “credible evidence” of Pakistan’s involvement in the 7/11 Bombay train bombings**. Also, police in Srinagar, Kashmir, fired tear gas at hundreds of protesters angered by the deaths of a father and son who were killed by a police vehicle. Finally, two civilians and a policeman were killed in separatist-related violence in Kashmir.
- 10/23/06** — Defense Minister Mukherjee accused Pakistan of trying to “infiltrate and subvert” India’s military. On the same day, more than 800 tribal militants

Acronyms:

BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party
LOC: Line of Control (Kashmir)
ULFA: United Liberation Front of Assam

- reportedly surrendered to government authorities in the northeastern Mizoram state.
- 10/22/06** — National Security Advisor Narayanan said India had “very good” but not “clinching” evidence that Pakistan’s intelligence service colluded in the 7/11 Bombay train bombings. On the same day, suspected Maoist militants shot dead the second-highest ranking police official in the eastern Orissa state. Also, thousands of Kashmiris took to the streets of Srinagar to protest the death of a 19-year-old man while in the custody of the Indian army.
- 10/21/06** — **A new espionage row erupted between India and Pakistan** after police in New Delhi arrested an Indian army employee as he allegedly passed classified documents to a Pakistani diplomat. Islamabad formally protested, calling the detention “illegal.”
- 10/20/06** — Prime Minister Singh accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan at an unspecified date. On the same day, seven militants, a civilian, and a child were killed in separatist-related violence in Kashmir. Also, India’s Tata Steel agreed to an \$8 billion takeover bid for an Anglo-Dutch firm, creating the world’s fifth largest steelmaker in India’s largest-ever foreign takeover.
- 10/19/06** — India’s Left Front parties demanded extensive curbs on proposed Special Economic Zones favored by the ruling Congress party. On the same day, New Delhi announced a stay of execution for a Kashmiri man for his role in a 2001 militant attack on the Indian Parliament while his wife’s mercy petition is considered. Also, four Maoist militants were killed in an explosion in the southern Andhra Pradesh state.
- 10/17/06** — Indian Army Chief Gen. Singh said levels of violence in Kashmir had decreased by 20% due to more detentions and surrenders of separatist militants.
- 10/16/06** — Suspected separatist militants shot dead 2 policemen and injured 14 civilians in a series of attacks in Indian Kashmir.
- 10/14/06** — Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said India would “go up in flames” if the government executes a Kashmiri man for his role in a 2001 militant attack on the Indian Parliament.
- 10/13/06** — **The benchmark Sensex index of the Bombay Stock Exchange closed at its highest level ever**, topping a mark set in May. On the same day, a Defense Ministry statement said the indigenous Trishul naval anti-missile program would be scrapped after more than 20 years in development in favor of co-development of Israel’s Barak system. Defense Minister Mukherjee later said the program would be extended through 2007.
- 10/12/06** — Police in Calcutta seized some 543 anti-personnel mines and other ammunition believed to be for use by Maoist militants. On the same day, two suspected separatist militants were killed and several pounds of high explosive seized in a raid in Indian Kashmir.
- 10/10/06** — Seven Muslim men who confessed to involvement in the 7/11 Bombay train bombings retracted their confessions, saying they were made under duress after beatings by police. On the same day, a new national law went into effect banning children under 14 from domestic and restaurant work. Also, New Delhi proposed the sale of 10% stakes in four state-owned power companies, possibly signaling a resumption of industrial privatization efforts.

- 10/09/06 — New Delhi criticized **a reported nuclear test by North Korea**, saying it “jeopardizes” regional peace and stability.
- 10/08/06 — Two people were killed and 86 others injured over several days of communal violence between Hindus and Muslims in the southern Kerala state. On the same day, Indian troops shot dead eight suspected separatist militants as they tried to cross the LOC into Indian Kashmir. Two Indian soldiers died in the fighting.
- 10/06/06 — A press report said India would purchase advanced SpyDer air defense missiles from Israel to address Pakistan’s planned purchase of U.S.-built F-16 combat aircraft. On the same day, an attack by tribal militants left 11 people dead in the northeastern Assam state.
- 10/04/06 — **A “bribery index” by Berlin-based Transparency International found India to be the worst offender** among the world’s top 30 exporting countries. On the same day, separatist militants attacked a security camp in Srinagar, Kashmir, leaving 3 policemen dead and 12 more injured. Also, the chief minister of Pakistan’s Baluchistan province accused Indian intelligence services of fueling an armed insurgency there.
- 10/02/06 — Prime Minister Singh visited Pretoria, where India and South Africa reaffirmed their “strategic partnership.”
- 09/30/06 — **Bombay’s top police official said the 7/11 train bombings were “planned by Pakistan’s [intelligence services] and carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba and their operatives in India.”** Islamabad swiftly rejected the allegation as propaganda. India’s main opposition BJP later called for severing diplomatic ties with Pakistan.
- 09/29/06 — New Delhi announced that the Indian economy had expanded by 8.9% during the second quarter of 2006.
- 09/27/06 — **Violent street protests erupted in Srinagar, Kashmir**, over the planned execution of a Kashmiri man for his role in a 2001 militant attack on the Indian Parliament. Attacks by suspected separatist militants left one policeman dead and six wounded. On the same day, representatives of the separatist ULFA withdrew from negotiations with the New Delhi government, ending a year-long peace process.
- 09/26/06 — An Indian army officer and two suspected separatist militants were killed in a gunbattle in Kashmir.
- 09/25/06 — Defense Minister Mukherjee told an American audience that Pakistan “remains a nursery of global terrorism.” On the same day, seven people, including a policewoman, were killed in separatist-related violence in Kashmir.
- 09/24/06 — **New Delhi ended a six-week-long truce with the separatist ULFA** after militants shot dead a policeman and a civilian in the northeastern Assam state. ULFA is designated as a terrorist organization under U.S. law. On the same day, Indian troops shot dead four suspected separatist militants in Kashmir.
- 09/18/06 — **A joint U.S.-India army exercise** in Hawaii included a contingent of 140 Indian troops.
- 09/17/06 — Police in the central Chhattisgarh state shot dead at least five suspected Maoist militants in a lengthy gunbattle.
- 09/16/06 — Meeting on the sidelines of a Nonaligned Movement summit in Cuba, **Prime Minister Singh and Pakistani President Musharraf announced**

a resumption of formal peace negotiations that had been suspended following the 7/11 Bombay bombings and also decided to implement a joint anti-terrorism mechanism.

- 09/15/06 — The U.S. Department of State's *International Religious Freedom Report 2006* found that, "While the national government took positive steps in key areas to improve religious freedom, the status of religious freedom generally remained the same" and included instances of slow government action to counter societal attacks on religious minorities and attempts by some state and local governments to limit religious freedom.
- 09/12/06 — **An open letter to Congress signed by 16 nonproliferation experts and former U.S. government officials** urged redress of "serious flaws that still plague the U.S.-India nuclear trade legislation." On the same day, Prime Minister Singh expressed concern that "the Pakistan government has not done enough to control" terrorist elements on its soil. Also, New York-based Human Rights Watch released a report documenting human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir, finding that Indian security forces as well as separatist militants are culpable, and suggesting that the Kashmir insurgency is partly fueled by human rights violations against the citizenry by Indian security forces who remain able to act with impunity.
- 09/08/06 — **Three bombs exploded in and near a mosque in the western, Muslim-majority city of Malegaon, leaving 32 people dead** and more than 100 injured. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.
- 09/07/06 — Police in the southern Andhra Pradesh state seized some 600 rockets and 12 launchers after a raid on an arms depot used by Maoist militants. On the same day, Maoist militants kidnaped two policemen in the central Chhattisgarh state.
- 08/31/06 — New Delhi announced that Foreign Secretary Saran would become special envoy for negotiations on U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation following scheduled 9/30 retirement. The current Indian Ambassador to Pakistan, Shiv Shankar Menon, will take over as the new foreign secretary. On the same day, the Defense Ministry announced it would begin allowing private companies to develop high-technology military systems.
- 08/29/06 — Indian and Bangladeshi border officials met to discuss improved coordination, with New Delhi requesting that Dhaka take action to close some 172 anti-Indian insurgent camps claimed to be in Bangladesh near the shared border.
- 08/28/06 — Prime Minister Singh said the peace process with Pakistan "cannot go forward if Pakistan does not deal with terrorism firmly."
- 08/24/06 — New Delhi approved a \$44 million plan to purchase the USS Trenton, a decommissioned American amphibious transport dock. On the same day, a senior External Affairs Ministry official told Parliament there were 52 "terrorist training camps" in Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir, and 172 "Indian insurgent camps" in Bangladesh.
- 08/23/06 — **A meeting of the U.S.-India Financial and Economic Forum** was held in Washington, where officials discussed Indian efforts to liberalize its financial sector, among other issues. On the same day, Home Affairs Minister Patil told Parliament there was no evidence Pakistan was acting to dismantle the "infrastructure of terrorism" on its territory.

- 08/22/06** — A delegation of U.S. officials, including President Bush’s top energy and environment advisor, visited New Delhi to meet with top Indian officials and business leaders to discuss energy security and the environment.
- 08/17/06** — Prime Minister Singh again assured Parliament that proposed civil nuclear cooperation with the United States would be in India’s national interest, and he reviewed a number of his government’s “concerns” about sections of enabling legislation in the U.S. Congress, including restrictions on reprocessing spent fuel, certification requirements that would “diminish a permanent waiver authority into an annual one,” and language pertaining to Iran, among others. Singh indicated that **India would have “grave difficulties” accepting the provisions of relevant U.S. legislation** in its current form.
- 08/15/06** — India celebrated its 59th independence day.
- 08/11/06** — The U.S. State Department issued terror alerts for U.S. citizens in India and Pakistan, warning that foreign terrorists and possibly Al Qaeda members were planning attacks on public facilities in the run-up to those countries’ independence day celebrations. On the same day, Assistant Secretary of State Boucher told an Indian television interviewer that the Bush Administration understands and shares some of the “concerns” about certain provisions of U.S. congressional legislation that would enable U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation, including a legal restriction reprocessing technologies and imposition of end-use certification.
- 08/07/06** — Assistant Secretary of State Boucher met with top Indian officials in New Delhi.
- 08/04/06** — **The United States formally sanctioned two Indian chemical firms under the Iran Nonproliferation Act** for sensitive material transactions with Iran. The firms denied any WMD-related transfers and New Delhi later said the sanctions were “not justified.”
- 08/02/06** — A senior Indian official said that India will bypass Bangladesh in building a proposed pipeline that will bring gas from Burma to India’s northeastern states.
- 07/28/06** — Bombay police said that six suspects detained in connection with the 7/11 Bombay bombings confessed to having received weapons and explosives training in Pakistan.
- 07/27/06** — Press reports said that the Bush Administration would sanction two Indian firms under the Iran Nonproliferation Act for missile-related transactions with Iran. Some in Congress later criticized the Administration for “deliberately concealing the information” until after the House vote on **H.R. 5682**. On the same day, Prime Minister Singh told the Parliament that India could withdraw from planned civil nuclear cooperation with the United States if the U.S. legislative process creates a plan inconsistent with the original July 2005 agreement. A State Department official later said the Bush Administration will seek to ensure that nothing is done to “distort, change, and renegotiate” the July 2005 agreement.
- 07/26/06** — **H.R. 5682, the United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006, was passed by the House** on a vote of 359-68.
- 07/25/06** — Indian troops shot dead three suspected separatist militants as they tried to cross the LOC into Indian Kashmir. The fighting injured five civilians.

- 07/24/06** — **The Doha round of global trade negotiations was suspended indefinitely** following a failed meeting of the six major participants, including the United States and India. Commerce Minister Nath later blamed the United States for the failure, saying it “brought nothing new to the table.” On the same day, senior political figures from four major Indian political parties urged Parliament to pass a resolution rejecting the U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation deal.
- 07/23/06** — Iran’s foreign minister said “some specific difficulties” must be worked out before India and Iran can move forward with a \$22 billion natural gas deal. On the same day, police in the southern Andhra Pradesh state shot dead eight Maoist militants, including a top rebel leader.
- 07/22/06** — Kenyan police announced the arrest of Abdul Karim “Tunda,” said to be a founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group’s Indian operation. On the same day, police in Kashmir claimed to have arrested a senior member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group. Also, police arrested four more persons in connection with the 7/11 Bombay bombings.
- 07/21/06** — New Delhi rejected Pakistan’s offer to assist in investigating the 7/11 Bombay bombings, saying Islamabad had not taken action in the past when presented with evidence of terrorist networks on its soil. Pakistan denied the allegations. On the same day, Indian troops shot dead five suspected separatist militants in Kashmir.
- 07/20/06** — Police made their first arrests in connection with the 7/11 Bombay bombings, detaining three Indian Muslims.
- 07/19/06** — **H.Res. 911**, condemning “in the strongest possible terms” the 7/11 terrorist attacks in Bombay and expressing condolences to the families of the victims and sympathy to the people of India, was passed by the House. On the same day, the president of the opposition BJP said the stipulations of proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation would “cap” India’s nuclear program and “keep India in perpetual bondage to Washington.” Also, Pakistani and Indian security officials met in Lahore for regular talks on cooperative efforts on border security and counternarcotics.
- 07/18/06** — **The Senate Energy Committee held a hearing on U.S.-India Energy Cooperation.** On the same day, Pakistani President Musharraf said delaying the India-Pakistan peace process because of the 7/11 Bombay bombings was “playing into the hands of the terrorists.”
- 07/17/06** — **President Bush met with Prime Minister Singh** on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, to discuss the 7/11 Bombay bombings and planned U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation. On the same day, at least 26 villagers were killed, and another 21 injured, in a raid by some 500 Maoist militants in the central Chhattisgarh state.
- 07/16/06** — **India postponed planned foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan**, saying “the environment is not conducive.” A Pakistani official called the decision a “negative development” and denied that Pakistani territory was used for terrorism against India. On the same day, Defense Minister Mukherjee said terrorists were entering India from Pakistan. Also, the Dhaka government accused Indian border troops of killing more than 50 innocent Bangladeshis in the past six months. Indian officials said those shot were smugglers or illegal migrants.
- 07/15/06** — Foreign Secretary Saran said the 7/11 Bombay bombings made it “very difficult to take forward the peace process” with Pakistan.