

# 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 Issue Brief IB93097, *India-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 03/31/06** — One policeman and three suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were killed, and 11 other people injured, in separatist-related violence in Kashmir.
- 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. On the same day, a University of Toronto-sponsored study found that the prevalence of HIV infection in four Indian states appeared to have fallen by 35% between 2000 and 2004, casting doubt on predictions of a major health catastrophe. Finally, Iran’s foreign minister said that proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation will not detract from friendly India-Iran 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. On the same day, an Indian doctor was convicted for revealing the gender of a fetus to its parents, the first-ever such conviction under a 12-year-old law.
- 03/27/06** — In a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, Under Secretary of State Burns said, “We see a possibility of creating with India one of the two or three or four most important strategic relationships that we have with any

**Acronyms:**  
**BJP:** Bharatiya Janata Party  
**IAEA:** International Atomic Energy Agency

- country in the world” and he claimed that civil nuclear cooperation with India “will cement the new [U.S.-India] strategic relationship.” On the same day, five suspected separatist militants were killed in Kashmir.
- 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 said “India sincerely believes that a strong, stable, prosperous, and moderate Pakistan is in the interest of India,”** claimed India “is not afraid” to find a resolution to the Kashmir dispute, and envisioned entering into a Treaty of Peace, Security, and Friendship with Islamabad. Pakistan cautiously welcomed the comments while insisting that Kashmir remained the “heart of [bilateral] conflict, mistrust, and hostility.” 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. Also Maoist militants raided a jail in the eastern Orissa state, freeing 35 of their compatriots. Two policemen and three militants were killed in the raid.
- 03/23/06** — U.S. officials in Vienna failed to obtain a Nuclear Suppliers Group agreement to consider proposals for nuclear cooperation with India at the body’s May 2006 plenary session. Opposition reportedly was led by Japan and Australia, with several other member states expressing reservations. On the same day, Congress Party leader Sonia Gandhi resigned her seat in Parliament in an effort to defuse a dispute over claims she had broken parliamentary rules.
- 03/22/06** — Top Indian law enforcement officials met with their Pakistani counterparts in New Delhi to discuss increased cooperation in areas of mutual concern.
- 03/21/06** — The benchmark Sensex index of the Bombay Stock Exchange rose above the 11,000 mark for the first time ever. On the same day, during a visit to New Delhi by Bangladeshi Prime Minister Zia, India and Bangladesh agreed to cooperate in counterterrorism efforts.
- 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, claiming such cooperation would “foster deeper strategic ties that will yield significant commercial opportunities for U.S. companies.” On the same day, a landmine planted by Maoist militants killed at least 2 policemen and injured 10 others in the central Chhattisgarh state. Also, four suspected separatist militants were killed in a gunbattle in Kashmir. Finally, Texas-based Dell Inc. announced plans to double the size of its workforce in India to 20,000.
- 03/17/06** — Russian Premier Fradkov visited New Delhi, where India and Russia signed seven agreements to cooperate on space and energy issues. On the same day, Pakistani President Musharraf said proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation would “upset the balance of power” in Asia.
- 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.” Also,

Under Secretary of State Burns said it will likely take “several months” to move forward with plans for civil nuclear cooperation with India and warned that to “reopen” the negotiated deal would probably risk its end. Finally, Pakistan’s foreign minister said the U.S.-India nuclear deal would “unravel” the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

- 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” and represents “an opportunity that should not be missed.” Also, Defense Minister Mukherjee said that India would not compromise its relationship with Iran “at any cost.” Finally, three days of India-China talks on unresolved border disputes failed to make progress, but ended with agreement to meet again.
- 03/11/06** — Leftist parties and the main opposition BJP in Parliament criticized the New Delhi government’s approach to civil nuclear cooperation with the United States as a sacrifice of India’s foreign policy independence.
- 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.
- 03/09/06** — During a visit to Rangoon by Indian President Kalam, India and Burma agreed to move forward with efforts to bring Burmese natural gas to India. The house arrest of Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was not discussed. On the same day, five suspected Maoist militants were killed in gunbattles with police in the central Chhattisgarh state. London-based Amnesty International expressed concern over the safety of civilians in the region’s “escalating conflict.”
- 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. Investigators later implicated the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group. Security forces were deployed at holy sites across India in anticipation of communal violence, which did not occur.
- 03/06/06** — Under Secretary of State Burns told an interviewer that civil nuclear cooperation with India is very important “both politically and psychologically in terms of the larger framework” of U.S.-India relations, adding that the United States is “certainly not establishing a relationship with India meant to be some kind of counterbalance to our relationship with China.” On the same day, 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.
- 03/05/06** — Hundreds of Maoist militants attacked a village in the central Chhattisgarh state, killing 6 people and injuring 33 more.
- 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. On the same day, four people were killed in communal violence between Hindus and Muslims.
- 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. IAEA Secretary-General ElBaradei welcomed the deal as a “milestone” that would benefit global nonproliferation efforts. Congressional commentary on proposed U.S. civil nuclear cooperation with India included enthusiasm, criticism, and skepticism. 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.** Many **thousands of mostly Muslim and communist protestors**, including some 100,000 Muslim men in New Delhi, marched in several Indian cities in opposition the President’s visit.
- 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.** Also, the Indian government released its annual budget, which aims to reduce a deficit while raising spending increases on education by 32%, on health by 22%, and on defense by 7%. Finally, testifying on worldwide threats, Defense Intelligence Agency Director Maples told a Senate panel that India and Pakistan “continue modernizing their nuclear weapons stockpiles” and “maintain aggressive ballistic missile programs.”
- 02/27/06** — Prime Minister Singh assured Parliament that **no IAEA safeguards would be accepted on the country’s fast breeder reactors.** He also stated that nuclear facilities representing “roughly 65%” of India’s installed power-generating capacity would be placed under such safeguards. On the same day, a group of major parties allied with the Congress-led ruling coalition declared that President Bush “was certainly not welcome in India.” Also, a major opinion survey found 66% of Indians agreeing that President Bush is “a friend of India,” while 72% believed America is “a bully.”
- 02/26/06** — Three suspected separatist militants were killed in a gunbattle in Kashmir.
- 02/25/06** — Prime Minister Singh convened a roundtable to discuss the future of the Jammu and Kashmir state, but the meeting was boycotted by all factions of the Hurriyat Conference of Kashmiri separatist groups.
- 02/22/06** — **In a major speech, President Bush lauded close U.S. relations with both India and Pakistan.** He called India a “natural partner for the United States” and identified five broad areas of bilateral cooperation: counterterrorism, democracy promotion, trade promotion, health and environmental protections, and energy initiatives. On the same day, Under Secretary of State Burns arrived in New Delhi for further negotiations on a U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation deal. Also, 13

- people, including 4 youths, were killed in gunbattles between security forces and militants in Kashmir.
- 02/21/06** — Indian air carrier Spicejet took a pre-order for ten Boeing jets in a deal worth \$1.4 billion.
- 02/20/06** — **Major parties allied with the Congress-led ruling coalition walked out of both houses of Parliament in protest**, saying the government had “compromised the national interest” by not demanding the recall of the U.S. Ambassador after his 1/25 and 1/29 comments. On the same day, French President Chirac visited New Delhi, where **India and France agreed to further strengthen their “strategic partnership”** and affirmed their intention to cooperate in the field of civil nuclear power.
- 02/18/06** — The U.S. embassy in New Delhi said that visas for certain Indian scientists had not been denied but were under review, and it expressed regret for any upset caused by confusion. On the same day, **the “Thar Express” railroad linking Rajasthan with Pakistan’s Sindh province was resumed** after more than four decades in suspension. Also, **Indian officials confirmed the country’s first N5N1 avian flu infections.**
- 02/17/06** — Prime Minister Singh assured Parliament that India’s 2/4 IAEA vote did not detract from India’s “traditionally close and friendly relations” with Iran and that his government remains committed to the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.
- 02/16/06** — Indian press reported that **two noted Indian scientists were separately and arbitrarily denied U.S. visas.**
- 02/15/06** — **H.Con.Res. 344**, expressing the sense of Congress that New Delhi and the state of Jammu and Kashmir should take immediate steps to remedy the situation of the Kashmiri Pandits, was introduced in the House.
- 02/14/06** — **A group of six nonproliferation experts wrote a letter to Members of Congress** reiterating their belief that India’s commitments under the current terms of the proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation deal “do not justify making far-reaching exceptions to U.S. law and international nonproliferation norms.” On the same day, three suspected separatist militants were killed in a gunbattle in Kashmir. Also, suspected Maoist militants killed three villagers in the central Chhattisgarh state.
- 02/11/06** — Eight people, including three soldiers, three militants, and two civilians, were killed in separatist-related violence in Kashmir. On the same day, two policemen and five demonstrators were killed during rioting in the northeastern Assam state.
- 02/10/06** — **The State Department’s Bureau of South Asian Affairs was reorganized** to include official responsibility for U.S. diplomatic relations with Afghanistan and the five Central Asian states, and will now be called the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs. On the same day, **suspected Maoist militants killed eight Indian security personnel** and injured nine others in an attack on a government facility in the central Chhattisgarh state. Also, unidentified gunmen shot and killed a Hindu religious leader and seven of his followers in the Uttar Pradesh state.
- 02/09/06** — India condemned Nepali elections, calling them a “hollow attempt to legitimize power” by King Gyanendra.
- 02/08/06** — Senior Indian nuclear scientist and Atomic Energy Commission Chair Anil Kakodkar told an interviewer that India’s nuclear energy and nuclear

deterrent requirements preclude placing the country's fast breeder reactors under IAEA safeguards and he claimed that any U.S. requests in this vein amounted to a "moving of the goal posts." On the same day, India announced that it was deploying about 300 paramilitary police to Afghanistan to protect Indian civilians working there.

- 02/07/06 — The benchmark Sensex index of the Bombay Stock Exchange rose above the 10,000 mark for the first time ever.
- 02/04/06 — **India voted with the majority on an IAEA resolution to "report" Iran's controversial nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council.** Leftist parties and the regional Samajwadi Party criticized New Delhi's 2/4 IAEA vote on Iran, calling it "unacceptable" and a capitulation to U.S. pressure. Some major newspaper editorials echoed the sentiments.
- 02/03/06 — **The Indian Navy declined an offer to lease two U.S. P-3C maritime reconnaissance aircraft,** calling the arrangements "expensive and time-consuming." On the same day, the opposition BJP took power in the southern Karnataka state and its capital, Bangalore, the first time the BJP has led a government in southern India.
- 02/01/06 — Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Dobriansky led the U.S. delegation for **a fourth meeting of the U.S.-India Global Issues Forum** held in New Delhi.
- 01/31/06 — Former Indian National Security Advisor Mishra said the July 2005 agreement on U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation could end up compromising India's strategic interests and "should be thrown in the waste paper basket."
- 01/29/06 — U.S. Ambassador to India Mulford reportedly criticized Indian leftist parties for their opposition to opening India's retail market to foreign investment. On the same day, Prime Minister Singh replaced Oil Minister Aiyar with Murli Deora, who is considered to be pro-reform and pro-U.S.
- 01/27/06 — Saudi King Abdullah visited New Delhi, where **India and Saudi Arabia signed a pact** to expand bilateral counterterrorism cooperation, trade and investment opportunities, and to develop a "strategic energy partnership."
- 01/25/06 — **U.S. Ambassador to India Mulford explicitly linked progress on a proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation agreement with India's upcoming IAEA vote on Iran's nuclear program,** saying if India chose not to vote with the United States, he believed the U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation initiative "will die in the Congress."
- 01/19/06 — Career Foreign Service officer **Richard Boucher was nominated to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.**
- 01/10/06 — **Foreign Secretary Saran concluded a visit to Beijing** where he discussed the India-China "strategic partnership." **India and China later agreed to cooperate in securing overseas oil resources.**
- 01/08/06 — **Pakistani President Musharraf accused India of arming and financing militants fighting in Baluchistan.** New Delhi categorically rejected the allegations as being "utterly baseless and false."