

# CRS Report for Congress

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## India: Chronology of Events

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### Summary

This report provides a reverse chronology of major events involving India and India-U.S. relations from September 2001.<sup>1</sup> For a substantive review of India-U.S. relations, see CRS Issue Brief IB93097, *India-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 09/08/03** — **Israeli PM Sharon arrived in India** to discuss the strengthening of political and military ties between Israel and India. Indian Muslim groups and leftist political parties denounced the diplomacy. On the same day, a landmine explosion killed 12, including 10 policeman, in the northeastern Bihar state.
- 09/07/03** — A potentially decisive **split in the Kashmiri separatist Hurriyat Conference** came when thirteen constituent members expelled the group's new chairman, who two weeks earlier had suggested that Pakistan need not be included in talks between Kashmiri separatists and New Delhi.
- 09/06/03** — A car bomb killed 7 and wounded about 30 more at a fruit market in Srinagar. The separatist militant Hizbul Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the blast.
- 09/05/03** — US and Indian special forces soldiers began a two-week joint exercise in Ladakh near the India-China border.
- 09/04/03** — USAID awarded a \$4million grant for UN Development Program disaster planning in India. On the same day, Indian and British military experts reportedly warned that Israel's sale of the Phalcon airborne early warning system to India will create a "strategic imbalance" in the region.
- 09/03/03** — British company BAE Systems was awarded a \$1.7 billion contract to supply India with 66 Hawk fighter jets, the majority of which are to be

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<sup>1</sup> Entries are on a day-to-day basis going back 60-90 days, then include periodic high-profile events. Sources include, but are not limited to, USIS Washington File, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, Associated Press; BBC News, Reuters News, Agence France-Presse, *Hindu* (Madras); *Hindustan Times* (Delhi); *Indian Express* (Mumbai); *Dawn* (Karachi), and *Daily Times* (Lahore).

- built under license in Bangalore. On the same day, police in Calcutta seized more than 20,000 rounds of AK-47 rifle ammunition that they believe was intended for separatist militants in Kashmir.
- 09/02/03** — A leader of India's *swadeshi* (self-reliance) movement urged India to take the lead in banding together other developing countries to answer the "challenge" represented by the WTO, which he called "essentially an instrument of repression." On the same day, especially lethal separatist violence in Indian Kashmir left 17 people dead.
- 09/01/03** — The **first-ever session of Indian's National Command Authority** met to "consolidate India's nuclear deterrent" and review the readiness of its strategic forces. On the same day, a Pakistani official said that India is withdrawing the "hand of friendship" offered to Pakistan in April 2003.
- 08/31/03** — New Delhi police killed two suspected members of the Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group who reportedly were planning a "spectacular attack" in the Indian capital.
- 08/29/03** — Indian PM Vajpayee said that New Delhi will have no direct talks with Islamabad until violence ends in the disputed Kashmir region. On the same day, a former head of India's Atomic Energy Commission wrote that the U.S. proliferation policy has "jettisoned many of the basic premises of a fragile nuclear equilibrium existing for the past five decades."
- 08/28/03** — Talks between Pakistan and India on resuming bilateral air links ended with only an agreement to meet again at a later date.
- 08/27/03** — A press report indicated that India will purchase 12 Mirage 2000-5 fighter aircraft from Qatar. Pakistan had also sought the same aircraft.
- 08/26/03** — A report by the Archaeological Society of India suggested that the remains of a Hindu temple may exist beneath the demolished Babri mosque in Ayodhya, though Muslim groups have disputed the findings.
- 08/25/03** — **Two car bombs exploded in Mumbai, India**, killing 52 and spurring New Delhi to suggest a role of Pakistan-based terrorist groups in the attack. Islamabad condemned the "acts of terrorism ... in the strongest possible terms." On the same day, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Mayawati resigned, triggering political disarray in India's most populous state. Also, a public opinion survey indicated that 54% of Indians view Pakistan as an "enemy" and 47% believe that PM Vajpayee's recent peace initiative is a "gimmick." Finally, Indian and French naval forces began a joint exercise in the Arabian Sea.
- 08/23/03** — In a significant policy shift, Kashmiri separatist **Hurriyat Conference Chairman Ansari expressed a willingness to hold talks with the New Delhi government** without stressing the inclusion of Pakistan in the dialogue process.
- 08/21/03** — India's Health Minister stated that the Indian versions of Coca-Cola and Pepsi drinks were safe and did not contain high levels of pesticides as reported earlier in the month.
- 08/20/03** — Jamaat-e-Islami, a leading Kashmiri separatist group, relieved hardliner Syed Ali Geelani as head of the group's political wing after he threatened to launch a new party. On the same day, a State Department spokesman said that the United States is "still concerned" about the level of cross-border terrorist exfiltration from Pakistan. Also, India, China, and 12 other developing nations joined together in an effort to counter the U.S.-EU farm plan being tabled in WTO negotiations.

- 08/19/03 — The Indian government announced that a total of 1,673 people were killed in more than 2,500 incidents of religious violence across the country during the past three years.
- 08/18/03 — A no-confidence vote brought by opposition parties against the coalition government of PM Vajpayee failed by a vote of 312 to 186.
- 08/15/03 — On the occasion of India's national independence day, Indian PM Vajpayee said that in recent months "there has been some progress in normalizing relations with Pakistan," but that "terrorist activities are continuing." He invited Pakistan to "abjure its anti-India outlook" and "walk together with India on the road to peace."
- 08/14/03 — Apparent Independence Day-related **separatist violence left 34 civilians and 6 rebels dead** in India's northeastern Tripura state.
- 08/12/03 — An Indian official called "propagandist" Pakistani President Musharraf's call for a cease-fire along the LOC and he reiterated India's demand that Pakistan act "to dismantle the infrastructure of support for terrorism." On the same day, the Indian Navy received its first stealth frigate.
- 08/10/03 — In Lahore, Pakistan, some 100 politicians, activists, and journalists from both India and Pakistan began a two-day conference aimed at reducing bilateral tensions between the two South Asian neighbors.
- 08/09/03 — India claimed to have killed a top Lashkar-e-Taiba figure responsible for planning a March 2003 attack that left 24 Kashmiri Hindus dead.
- 08/07/03 — A two-day meeting of the **U.S.-India Defense Policy Group** ended in Washington. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Feith and Indian Defense Secretary Prasad led their respective delegations. A joint statement reviewed accomplishments since the previous such meeting in May 2002, including numerous joint military exercises and the sale to India of "Firefinder" counterbattery radars. The two sides agreed to hold a missile defense workshop in India, and planned for a U.S. team to travel to New Delhi to discuss the possible sales of P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft, among other activities.
- 08/06/03 — Reports about high levels of pesticides in Coca Cola and Pepsi drinks in India spurred members of the Indian Parliament to allege that these companies were endangering the health of the Indian people.
- 08/05/03 — A three-member delegation of top Hurriyat Party leaders from Indian Kashmir met with U.S. diplomats in New Delhi.
- 08/05/03 — During a visit to Islamabad, Chinese Vice Minister Cai assured Pakistan that Beijing's normalization of relations with India would not affect China's "time tested and close relationship with Pakistan."
- 08/04/03 — Pakistani PM Jamali said that Pakistan-based terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba had been "closed and sealed" and that Islamabad could "prove" that it did not support terrorism.
- 08/01/03 — A report of the International Monetary Fund stated that "India has yet to reap the full benefit of financial sector reforms undertaken during the past decade due to the continued preemption of private saving by the public sector.
- 07/30/03 — Indian Defense Minister Fernandes indicated that "The situation along the [Kashmiri Line of Control] remains unchanged," and he claimed that about 3,000 "terrorists" were being trained in camps on the Pakistani side. On the same day, India's Junior Home Minister accused the Pakistani intelligence agency of "making attempts to revive militancy in Punjab."

- 07/29/03 — During a visit to New Delhi, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Myers said that “India’s refusal to send troops [to Iraq] does not bother” the United States, and that “robust Indo-U.S. military exercises” will continue.
- 07/26/03 — A spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry accused India of “trying to disrupt relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan” through the organization and financing of terrorists acts in Afghanistan.
- 07/25/03 — Indian Foreign Minister Sinha said that “Pakistan’s links with terrorism have not ended” and that “there cannot be meaningful dialogue at any level” if “cross-border terrorism” continues. On the same day, at least 23 people were killed in separatist violence in Indian Kashmir.
- 07/23/03 — Secretary of State Powell reportedly conveyed a message to Indian Foreign Minister Sinha that the United States may be working on a new U.N. resolution that would provide a broader mandate on Iraq. On the same day, Indian Defense Minister Fernandes vowed that recent separatist attacks in the Kashmir region would not be allowed to derail the India-Pakistan peace initiative underway.
- 07/22/03 — Indian Deputy PM Advani denied any “lack of coordination” between New Delhi and the government of the Jammu and Kashmir state, saying that there was “absolutely no difference” between the central government and the state with regard to security and economic policies. On the same day, militants attacked an Indian army camp in Kashmir, killing 7 soldiers, including a general. New Delhi blamed the attack on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group, and India’s Junior Home Minister indicated that there had been no significant change in “terrorist activities” in Kashmir as compared to 2002.
- 07/21/03 — Two explosions in Indian Kashmir killed at least 7 Hindu pilgrims and injured 20 others. On the same day, a bus bombing in suburban Mumbai killed four and injured 42. India blamed the attack on an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group.
- 07/20/03 — **Indian PM Vajpayee met with leading Pakistani Islamist politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman** in New Delhi to discuss issues of mutual concern. On the same day, the head of research for the International Monetary Fund warned that India’s high and growing public debt ratio — between 80 and 90 percent — could reduce the country’s annual economic growth rate to below 5%.
- 07/19/03 — A report of the World Bank lauded India’s “impressive progress” in increasing incomes and living standards, but warned that the trend cannot be sustained unless there is “an acceleration of reforms.”
- 07/17/03 — A report of the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship indicated that more than 71,000 Indian immigrants were admitted to the United States in 2002, a number second only to those coming from Mexico.
- 07/15/03 — **Full diplomatic relations between New Delhi and Islamabad were restored** after an 18-month hiatus when the new Indian ambassador arrived in Pakistan.
- 07/14/03 — **India rejected an American request to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq**, saying it would only consider doing so under an “explicit” UN mandate.

- 07/12/03 — The United States and India concluded four-day joint naval exercises in the Bay of Bengal. On the same day, the Kashmiri separatist All Parties Hurriyat Conference named a moderate Islamic cleric as its new chairman.
- 07/11/03 — The first Indian public bus to Pakistan in 18 months crossed the border at Wagah.
- 07/10/03 — **The United States delivered two “Firefinder” counter-battery radars** to India as part of a \$190 million deal to supply a total of 12 such radars by 2006.
- 07/02/03 — Indian Foreign Secretary Sibal led a delegation to Washington for the first meeting of the **U.S.-India High-Technology Cooperation Group**. The U.S. delegation was led by Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Juster. Sibal also met with National Security Advisor Rice, Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz, and Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs Grossman.
- 07/01/03 — Approximately 150 government and business leaders from both India and the United States met in Washington for the Financing Innovation Forum.
- 06/03 — A major improvement in relations between the world’s two most populous countries came when **Indian PM Vajpayee traveled to China**, the first visit by an Indian leader in more than a decade.
- 05/03 — Deputy Secretary of State Armitage and Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Rocca visited South Asia in an effort to assist with further easing tensions and fostering bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. Also, Indian National Security Advisor Mishra met with senior U.S. officials in Washington to discuss regional security issues.
- 04/03 — **A significant thaw in India-Pakistan relations** came with the first direct contact between national leaders since the July 2001 summit in Agra, India. The two agreed to restore full diplomatic relations, reopen key transportation links, and pursue further confidence-building measures.
- 03/03 — **The Indian government called the U.S.-led war in Iraq “unjustified” and “avoidable.”** Also, apparent Muslim extremists shot and killed 24 Hindu villagers in Indian Kashmir. New Delhi accused Pakistan of “cold-blooded murder.”
- 02/03 — Indian Foreign Secretary Sibal led a delegation to Washington to meet with Under Secretary of Commerce Juster and other U.S. officials for the signing of a **Statement of Principles for U.S.-India High Technology Commerce**. A second meeting of the Global Issues Forum was held in Washington, as well. Also, the incumbent BJP suffered an upset loss to the Congress Party in state elections in the overwhelmingly Hindu northern state of Himachal Pradesh.
- 01/03 — **India and Iran launched a “strategic partnership”** with the signing of the New Delhi Declaration and seven other substantive agreements. India also signed a “landmark” defense cooperation protocol with Russia setting up several joint ventures for developing sophisticated weapons platforms. Finally, India announced that it has set up a nuclear weapons command system — the Nuclear Command Authority — headed by the prime minister.
- 12/02 — Elections in the state of Gujarat, the site of massive communal violence earlier in 2002, resulted in an unexpectedly decisive victory for the

- incumbent Hindu-nationalist BJP party, which ran a divisive communal campaign.
- 11/02** — Under Secretary of Commerce Juster led a U.S. delegation to India for a high technology commerce dialogue with top Indian officials.
  - 10/02** — India announced a major redeployment of troops away from border areas, signaling **an end to a tense 10-month-long military face-off** with Pakistan. Also, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Dobriansky met in New Delhi with Indian officials for the inaugural session of a new India-U.S. Global Issues Forum.
  - 09-10/02** — **State elections in India’s Jammu and Kashmir state**, widely recognized as being free and fair, resulted in the ousting of the long-ruling National Conference and the seating of a new coalition government that vowed to “soften” policy toward separatist militants.
  - 09/02** — Gunmen stormed a Hindu temple in Gujarat and killed 23 worshipers. The attackers were suspected to be Islamic militants seeking revenge for February 2002 anti-Muslim rioting in the state.
  - 06/02** — Intense international diplomatic pressure — including multiple visits to the region by senior U.S. government officials — apparently was sufficient to persuade New Delhi to refrain from taking military action against Pakistan. Key to the effort were explicit **promises by Pakistani President Musharraf to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Armitage** that all infiltration of militants across the Line of Control and into Indian-held Kashmir would be halted.
  - 05/02** — A terrorist attack on an Indian army base in Jammu and Kashmir killed 34, mostly women and children. New Delhi blamed the attack on the “cross-border terrorism” of Pakistan-sponsored Islamic militants and vowed to fight a “decisive war.”
  - 02/02** — After Muslims reportedly set fire to a train carrying Hindu activists, killing 58, **India’s worst communal rioting in more than a decade** spread across the Gujarat state and resulted in the deaths of more than 2,000, mostly Muslims, at the hands of vengeful Hindu mobs. Human rights groups accused top state governmental leaders of abetting the violence.
  - 12/01** — **A terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament complex in New Delhi killed 14.** India blamed the attack on Pakistan-backed Kashmiri militants and began a massive military mobilization along the Pakistan-India frontier. By the spring of 2002 some one million heavily-armed troops faced-off at the shared border. Also in December, the United States designated two Pakistan-based militant groups — Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed — as Foreign Terrorist Organizations under U.S. law.
  - 10/01** — **A terrorist attack on the assembly building in India’s Jammu and Kashmir state killed 34.** New Delhi blamed the attack on Pakistan-backed separatist militants and the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister called for an Indian military assault on training camps in Pakistan-held Kashmir.
  - 09/01** — After major terrorist attacks on the United States, **India offered its full support for U.S. counterterrorism efforts** in the region. Within two months, all remaining proliferation-related restrictions on U.S. aid to India were lifted.