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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 2001.¹ For a substantive review of India-U.S. relations, see CRS Issue Brief IB93097, *India-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 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.

¹ 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*, BBC News, Reuters News, Agence France-Presse, *Hindu* (Madras), and *Hindustan Times* (Delhi); *Indian Express* (Mumbai); *Dawn* (Karachi), and *Daily Times* (Lahore).

- 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.
- 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. Also, the U.S. Export-Import Bank extended a \$75 million loan guarantee to the Indian Oil Corporation to support the export of U.S. technology, equipment, and services to build a petrochemical refinery in India.
- 07/20/03 — **Indian PM Vajpayee met with leading Pakistani Islamist politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman** in New Delhi to discuss issues of mutual concern. Rehman reportedly accepted the idea of converting the Kashmiri Line of Control into an international border. 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. On the same day, India accused Pakistan of sheltering and supporting "terrorists" in violation of its previous promises.
- 07/16/03** — Pakistan agreed to hold talks with India in late August to discuss the resumption of air links between the two countries.
- 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. On the same day, a leader of the Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist group threatened more "large-scale" suicide attacks in Indian Kashmir if the United States "does not take steps" to resolve the dispute.
- 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. On the same day, at least 21 people were killed in separatist violence in the Jammu and Kashmir state.
- 07/12/03** — The United States and India concluded 4-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. On the same day, and under the auspices of the bilateral Global Issues Forum, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Turner stated that a coming agreement on science and technology cooperation will allow private sector participation in joint projects between the United States and India.
- 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. On the same day, India reached an agreement to assist in the maritime patrolling of the Mauritian exclusive economic zone.
- 07/01/03** — Approximately 150 government and business leaders from both India and the United States met in Washington for the Financing Innovation Forum. On the same day, the pro-Pakistan Kashmiri separatist Hizbul Mujahideen said they were "ready to extend cooperation" to the nascent Pakistan-India peace process.
- 06/30/03** — Pakistan's new High Commissioner arrived in New Delhi, restoring diplomatic links that were severed in December 2001.
- 06/28/03** — Two suspected separatist militants attacked an army camp in Indian Kashmir, killing 12 soldiers and wounding another 7. The Indian

government called the attack “part of the Pakistan-sponsored proxy war in Kashmir.”

- 06/27/03** — In the first judgment on a case relating to communal violence in Gujarat in early 2002, a court acquitted 21 Hindus accused of burning alive 12 Muslims. On the same day, Indian government officials stated that tourism rates in the Kashmir Valley were up six-fold over 2002.
- 06/26/03** — Indian Deputy PM Advani made what appeared to be a statement criticizing the United States for providing military and economic aid to Pakistan while that country sponsors and abets terrorism.
- 06/25/03** — A senior Indian defense official said that a major counterinsurgency operation in Indian Kashmir had “eliminated 350 terrorists” since mid-May.
- 06/24/03** — An Indian government spokesman indicated that India is prepared to hold talks with Pakistan on the resumption of air links between the two countries.
- 06/23/03** — Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Taylor joined Ambassador Blackwill in New Delhi to present India with a rapid response trailer as part of ongoing efforts to bolster India’s abilities to counter terrorist attacks involving chemical, biological, or radiological weapons. On the same day, unusually lethal violence killed 16 and wounded 40 in Indian Kashmir.
- 06/22/03** — An 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 a decade. India formally recognized Chinese sovereignty over Tibet, while Beijing agreed to begin border trade through the Indian state of Sikkim, a move seen as tacit acceptance of India’s claim over that region. A total of 9 formal agreements were inked and first-ever joint naval exercises were planned for later in the year.
- 06/20/03** — The World Trade Organization’s dispute settlement panel rejected an Indian challenge to U.S. rules on determining the country of origin for textiles. On the same day, 12 people were killed in separatist violence in India’s northeastern Assam state.
- 06/19/03** — Two U.S. Navy frigates arrived in India’s Kochi Port for a three-day visit.
- 06/18/03** — Indian Foreign Minister Sinha raised a “procedural” matter that at least temporarily prevents Pakistani membership in the ASEAN Regional Forum.
- 06/17/03** — A high-level delegation of military officials from the U.S. Pacific Command traveled to Indian Kashmir to discuss security concerns with their Indian counterparts. On the same day, 10 Indian parliamentarians began an 8-day “peace mission” in Pakistan, while Indian PM Vajpayee said that Pakistan was “preparing for a fourth defeat” in its proxy war with India.
- 06/16/03** — A delegation of senior U.S. defense officials led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Rodman met with Indian officials in Delhi to urge India to send a peacekeeping force to Iraq.
- 06/13/03** — U.S. Ambassador to India Blackwill said that, “Terrorism emanating from Pakistan [to India] has not ended.”
- 06/11/03** — Secretary of Commerce Evans met with Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Jaitley in Washington to discuss the enhancement and deepening of bilateral trade and economic ties between the two countries.

- 06/08/03 — While visiting Washington, Indian Deputy PM Advani met with numerous top U.S. government officials, including President Bush.
- 06/06/03 — A spokesman for India’s national coalition-leading BJP party criticized the United States for “double-dealing” in its anti-terrorism efforts by maintaining an alliance with Pakistan, the “epicenter of terrorism.” On the same day, Indian PM Vajpayee said that terrorist attacks in Indian-held Kashmir “have come down marginally over the last few months.”
- 06/05/03 — The Indian Air Force sent a team to participate in multilateral military exercises with the United States and others in Alaska. The occasion will provide the U.S. military with its first look at the Russian-built Su-30MKI, considered by some to be the most capable fighter aircraft in its class.
- 06/02/03 — Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Juster said that U.S. export controls on dual-use goods are not impeding high-technology trade between the United States and India.
- 06/01/03 — Indian Defense Minister Fernandes said that India and Pakistan are in the “process of confidence-building,” and he sees “very definite movement toward a summit.” On the same day, India’s Central Bureau of Investigation filed criminal conspiracy charges against Deputy PM Advani for his alleged role in the demolition of the Ayodhya mosque in 1992.
- 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.