

INDO-PAK PEACE PROCESS CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 2004-05

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30 December 2005

Pakistan Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Amanullah Khan Jadoon told that the work on Pak-Iran-India gas pipeline (IPI) project is likely to commence during 2007. President Pervez Musharraf claims that India and Pakistan were currently discussing through back channel diplomacy "ideas" like self-governance and demilitarisation to resolve the Kashmir issue and they would be brought to the front channel if concrete progress was made.

29 December 2005

Pakistan said that the observations by the Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman on the law and order situation in Balochistan are "unwarranted and baseless." Pakistan has once again linked the extension of MFN status to India with the progress on political issues, particularly Kashmir.

28 December 2005

India voiced concern at spiralling violence in Pakistan's Balochistan province and advised Islamabad to "exercise restraint". It underlined the need for the Pakistan government to concentrate on addressing the grievances of the people in the region through peaceful discussions. Meanwhile, Pakistan will not be able to submit answers to technical questions

about the controversial 4,50 MW Baglihar hydropower project to World Bank by December 31 following a delay in the provision of certain data about the project by India.

27 December 2005

Pakistan announced that the third round of the composite dialogue with India at the Foreign Secretary-level would be held in New Delhi on January 17 and 18. The Foreign Secretaries would discuss the Kashmir issue and security-related confidence-building measures (CBMs). Pakistan and India are discussing a proposal to demilitarise Kashmir and introduce self-governance in the region whose ownership is disputed by the two countries.

26 December 2005

Pakistan has sought the support of the UN nuclear watchdog IAEA in its quest for being treated at par with India by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which controls developing countries' access to nuclear technology. Indian and Pakistani diplomats are discussing the idea of self-governance for divided Kashmir as proposed by President Gen Pervez Musharraf, a top Indian official disclosed on Saturday. Indian National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan told a private TV channel that the discussions were being held in the back channels by senior Indian diplomats and their Pakistani counterparts.

25 December 2005

Representatives of NGOs, journalists, doctors, advocates, retired judges and notables, from different parts of the country took a peace caravan to the Pakistan-India Khokhrapar-Monabao border on 23 December. The caravan was organized under banner of the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPPFD).

24 December 2005

Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri on Thursday expressed the hope that the third round of Pakistan-India dialogue, to be held in New Delhi in January 2006, would take the process of normalisation forward and bring about a breakthrough on the core issue of Kashmir.

23 December 2005

Islamabad has offered two formulae to New Delhi for determining the annual transit fee to be collected by Pakistan from India for gas pipeline that would pass through its territory under the proposed \$7.2 billion Iran-India-Pakistan (IPI) gas pipeline.

22 December 2005

The foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India will meet in New Delhi on January 17-18 to initiate the third round of the composite dialogue between the two countries. Foreign Secretary Riaz Muhammad Khan will head Pakistan's delegation and hold two-day talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran. Taking yet another step to enhance people-to-people contact, India and Pakistan today decided to launch the long-awaited Amritsar-Lahore bus service from January 20 and Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus link by 27 February.

21 December 2005

The Pak-India Technical Experts meeting for the joint survey of the Sir Creek - one of the eight areas covered by Composite Dialogue Process - began on 20 December. Surveyor-General of Pakistan Maj-Gen Jamilur Rahman Afridi heads the 12-member team representing Islamabad while Brig Girish Kumar, Deputy Surveyor-General of India, leads the New Delhi side.

19 December 2005

In an unusual development in the Volcker report where at least the former Indian external minister Natwar Singh has been compelled to say goodbye to politics, a story published by Jang on January 24, 2004 has shaken the Indian bureaucracy. The Indian media has gone to town about the contents of the Jang story, which was quoted in a letter the then Indian ambassador in Baghdad wrote in January 2004 just two months before the general elections and over a year before the Volcker report rocked the country.

18 December 2005

India and Pakistan agreed on 17 December to give a final shape to the project structure and framework of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline by April 2006, a joint statement issued after two days of talks said. A tripartite meeting of three Joint (IPI) Working Groups "may be held" early next year in Teheran to discuss issues such as an integrated feasibility study, project structure and a tripartite framework agreement.

17 December 2005

The Indian Union Cabinet has cleared the way for an agreement with Pakistan

for starting a bus service between Amritsar and Nankana Sahib and a trial run for the Amritsar-Lahore bus sometime this month. India and Pakistan began discussing brass tacks of the 7 billion dollar Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline in order to evolve a project structure for its implementation and operation. Pakistan is expected to give its views on the project structure suggested by India, at the third meeting of the Indo-Pak Joint Working Group. After a lull of months Pakistan's economic managers have restarted discussion on the most favoured nation (MFN) status for India with officials here saying New Delhi is most likely to get this status in near future.

16 December 2005

India and Pakistan opened five crossing points along the Line of Control following the 8 October temblor to facilitate movement of relief material and people on either side, the Indian Parliament was told on Thursday. Pakistan and India will formally sign an agreement to effect restoration of the Khokhrapar-Munabao train link during a ministerial level meeting in New Delhi on 22 December.

15 December 2005

The third meeting of the India-Pakistan joint working group on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project is starting on 16 December. Pakistan and Iran favour early implementation of the proposed multi-billion gas pipeline, to carry gas from Iran to Pakistan and India.

14 December 2005

A dry run from Lahore to Amritsar was conducted by Pakistan on Tuesday with a bus carrying eight officials crossing into India through the Atari-Wagah

joint check post. Pakistan and India hope to start third round of the composite dialogue at the foreign secretary level in the third week of next month in New Delhi. At a time when the Congress government has still not nominated a new minister for external affairs, Pakistan hopes that a moderate new face will emerge so that "the year 2006 could be one of great promises between the two countries."

13 December 2005

The UN Secretary General has appointed Maj Gen Dragutin Repinc of Croatia as the head of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Gen Repinc, 46, will replace Maj Gen Guido Dante Palmieri of Italy who left the mission in September.

12 December 2005

History was made along the Radcliffe line, when the much-awaited trial run of the first Amritsar-Lahore bus service began on 11 December. The bus carrying nine passengers crossed over to Pakistan through the Wagah route. Pakistan and India have finalised a draft agreement which will pave the way to restart a ferry service between Karachi and Mumbai that was broken off 30 years ago.

11 December 2005

The First Amritsar-Lahore bus, on a trial run, crossed over to Pakistan through the land route at the Indo-Pak Wagah border. Pakistan and India have agreed to allow each others' ships to carry third country cargo from ports in the two countries. The two sides agreed to a revised Protocol on Shipping after three days of technical talks in Karachi that ended on 10 December.

10 December 2005

Toeing Pakistan's line, the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Countries has "extended" its support to the "inalienable right" of people of Jammu and Kashmir for "self-determination" in accordance with the UN resolutions.

9 December 2005

Asserting that the October earthquake in the Kashmir province on both sides of the LoC did help create opportunities to resolve Kashmir issue, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said that India's response to Pakistani proposal for self-governance in Jammu and Kashmir was not positive so far.

8 December 2005

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement on Wednesday discussed Pakistan-India relations and other issues with the Indian High Commissioner here on Wednesday. According to a party press release, the MQM coordination committee hosted a luncheon meeting with Indian High Commissioner Shiv Shankar Menon at a local hotel. Mr Menon attended the luncheon with his wife and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations. India has requested Pakistan to exclude 271 tradable items from its negative list and allow tariff concession on such items under the SAFTA agreement to be effective from 1 January.

7 December 2005

Officials of India and Pakistan will hold technical talks in the port city of Karachi from 8 December to review the India-Pakistan Shipping protocol of 1975 to enable ships of both countries to pick up cargo for a third country party. The two-day talks are a follow up to the decision by the Joint Study Group, to enhance

economic and commercial cooperation, of the two countries at its meeting in New Delhi in the second week of August.

6 December 2005

The much awaited Amritsar-Lahore bus service is finally scheduled to start from December 23 with the first bus coming in from Lahore on that day while the first bus from Amritsar will depart on 27 December.

5 December 2005

Pakistan has proposed technical-level talks on the Khokrapar-Munnabao rail route, linking Sindh with Rajasthan, from 1—15 December. The talks are scheduled to be held in New Delhi. Both sides have agreed, in principle, to begin the rail link by 1 January.

4 December 2005

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has urged the United States to lend its support to efforts aimed at resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, "which is at the root of tension in South Asia."

3 December 2005

Pakistan and India agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation between their counter-narcotics agencies in fighting drug trafficking in the region. The agreement came after a two-day meeting between anti-narcotics officials of the two countries in Rawalpindi on 2 December. Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, the Anti Narcotics Force director general, headed the Pakistani delegation while the Indian side was led by Narcotics Control Bureau Director General KC Verma.

2 December 2005

Indian authorities declined to accept the lists of intending travellers from Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday as 25 Kashmiris from both sides crossed the Line of Control (LoC) on foot from the Chakothi-Uri crossing point.

1 December 2005

Pakistan on Wednesday decided to seek setting up of a Court of Arbitration or appointment of a neutral expert to stop India from diverting Neelum waters in violation of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz presided over a meeting of all stakeholders here on Tuesday and directed to examine the dispute from all legal and technical aspects whether Pakistan should seek appointment of a neutral expert or setting up of a court of arbitration under the aegis of the World Bank.

NOVEMBER 2005

30 November 2005

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on reiterated that his country favoured demilitarisation and self governance on both sides of Kashmir.

29 November 2005

Pakistan named senior diplomat Jauhar Saleem as consul-general of its Mumbai consulate, paving the way for the re-opening of the consulates in Karachi and Mumbai in January, 2006.

28 November 2005

India's national security advisor accused Pakistan on Sunday of conspiring with the Taliban to abduct and kill a Border Road Organisation (BRO) driver in Afghanistan. MK Narayanan said that Pakistan's aim was to create a rift in the cordial relations between India and Afghanistan. A three-member Pakistan

Railway delegation will leave on December 3 for India to sign an agreement with the Indian Railway authorities for restoration of train service between Pakistan and India via Khokhrapar.

27 November 2005

The Indian Councillor for Political Affairs Gataish Sharma has said that Indian Consulate would start functioning from next year in Karachi while Pak-India talks to start Karachi-Mumbai ferry service would begin in December.

26 November 2005

Senior IFS officer Navdeep Suri will be India's consul-general in Karachi where the Indian Consulate is likely to be reopened from January next year. The name of Suri, a Joint Secretary (Africa) in the External Affairs Ministry, has been cleared by the government.

25 November 2005

When the devastating earthquake set off a fresh wave of peace and cooperation along the Line of Control, the J-K Police says, foreign militants infiltrated into the Valley in large numbers. Around 125 of them are suspected to have entered Srinagar city, which has witnessed a sudden spurt of fidayeen and car bomb attacks.

24 November 2005

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has sought durable and verifiable checks on human rights abuse in held Kashmir ahead of a visit to New Delhi by US Congressmen who have been critical of violence against civilians there, according to informed sources. Serious work is continuing within different centres of the government to fine-tune President Pervez Musharraf's

proposal of "self-governance" in Kashmir. "It is not only within the circles responsible for Kashmir that are working on the issue of self-governance but also the back-channel diplomacy meetings are discussing it so as to proceed with and come closer to the ultimate goal of giving the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination," an official said.

23 November 2005

Pakistan 'regretted' the 'evasive response' of India to the ideas of 'demilitarisation and self-governance' on both sides of Kashmir. "It would be regrettable if the Indian side chooses to be evasive in responding to these ideas which must be considered with an open mind in the interest of finding a solution of the Kashmir dispute and durable peace in the region," the Pakistan Foreign Office said in a statement. An official spokesman said in response to question on Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman's remarks about self governance on both sides of the LOC that Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had conveyed to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the recent SAARC Summit in Dhaka that the two countries could explore ideas like self governance and demilitarisation.

22 November 2005

India said that it had received no proposal regarding so-called "self-governance" in Jammu and Kashmir during the 12 November Dhaka meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz. During the meeting between the two leaders, Mr. Aziz said that in seeking a resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue the two countries could, among other things,

explore ideas such as self-governance and demilitarisation.

21 November 2005

India and Pakistan will sort out issues pertaining to the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service at the technical level meeting scheduled in the second week of December. The Pakistan leadership gave this assurance to Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed, who is here for the donors' conference convened by Islamabad to raise money for the victims of the October 8 earthquake. India offered to undertake specific projects in education and health sectors in quake-hit areas of Pakistan even as it expressed concern over incidents of cross border terrorism in the aftermath of the recent serial blasts in New Delhi.

20 November 2005

Suggesting that a resolution of the Kashmir issue could once and for all be New Delhi's "donation to Kashmir," Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf maintained that the October 8 earthquake presented a 'lifetime opportunity' for India and Pakistan to improve relations. Hours after Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said that a resolution of the Kashmir issue could be India's 'donation to Kashmir' in the context of the earthquake, Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed said here on Saturday that India was ready to resolve all issues including Kashmir through dialogue "in an atmosphere free of terrorism and violence."

19 November 2005

Twenty-five Pakistanis who had completed jail terms in India for offences including illegal entry and drug trafficking were repatriated as a

goodwill gesture between the two countries, a Pakistani official said.

18 November 2005

The ministry of industries and production has strongly advocated trade liberalization with India either based on granting Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India or trade under the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).

17 November 2005

India will send by rail another 600 tonnes of relief material, comprising snow tents, snow sleeping bags, blankets, essential medicines and medical equipment, to the quake-affected in Pakistan.

16 November 2005

The US has lauded as "wonderful" India's response to send relief to victims in Pakistan after the devastating earthquake and said both New Delhi and Islamabad showed "great statesmanship" in furthering the peace process. Signalling that all is not well on the Pakistan-India front, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri made it clear to the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca that durable peace could not be achieved in the region without the settlement of all outstanding disputes, including Jammu and Kashmir.

15 November 2005

India and Pakistan opened the fourth point on the Line of Control (LoC) for exchanging quake relief material in Mendhar sector in Poonch district. This is the second point in the Poonch district which was opened today. Before exchanging the relief material at the Roshi-Kanna posts, 7 km from Mendhar, authorities representing both India and

Pakistan shook hands and greeted each other. Pakistan is likely to move the court of arbitration after the latest round of talks with India over the Kishanganga dam project ended in failure, said Syed Jamaat Ali Shah, Pakistan's Commissioner on the Indus Basin Treaty.

14 November 2005

After the opening of Kaman Post, the Army is now gearing up to open the Silikot point in the Uri sector. India and Pakistan fought a hard battle here in 1971 and shelling and bombing were routine before the November 2003 ceasefire. While the roads are being widened and bridges reconstructed, the biggest challenge is to make it mine-free, which the Army says has been done. The process of confidence building between Pakistan and India began last year and they were now exploring ways for "conflict resolution" instead of "conflict management," Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said. Despite Afghanistan's entry into SAARC, Pakistan will continue with its policy of denying India overland access to Afghanistan because that policy is linked to the broad matrix of India-Pakistan relations, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told the media on his return flight from Dhaka.

13 November 2005

Indian and Pakistani Army officials opened the third border meeting point along the Line of Control (LoC) to ferry relief material across till "all the quake-hit are rehabilitated." Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said that peace talks with India were making progress, but core issues such as Kashmir still remain. The World Bank-appointed neutral expert Prof Raymond Lafitte has given technical questionnaires to

Pakistan and India with regard to the structure and design of the controversial 450 MW Baglihar Hydropower Project, a senior government official told The News.

12 November 2005

The issue of cross-border terrorism and Kashmir are expected to figure in talks Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will have with his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz when the two leaders will review the progress in Composite Dialogue Process on the sidelines of the SAARC summit. Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that in his bilateral meetings with leaders on the sidelines of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, he would highlight the "concerns and challenges" being faced by Kashmiris.

11 November 2005

At a meeting between Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan and his Indian counterpart Shyam Saran in Dhaka, Khan conveyed Pakistan's appreciation for the relief assistance provided by the government and the people of India after the devastating earthquake.

Notwithstanding the ongoing Indo-Pak talks to resolve all outstanding issues, including Kashmir, Pakistan has once again spoken about the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir under UN supervision.

10 November 2005

Opening of the third crossing point on the Line of Control (LoC) for quake relief work has been delayed by two days because of incomplete infrastructural work. India will release 26 Pakistani prisoners on November 18 at the Wagah border post as part of

efforts by the two countries to speed up the repatriation of people languishing in jails on both sides. Indian medicines have so far not made it to Pakistani markets though the government has allowed the import of medicines from India. The import of Indian drugs was notified on 23 June 2005 to provide relief to the common people. The importers of pharmaceutical products have urged the government to allow duty-free import of pharmacy products from India immediately to provide relief to the people.

9 November 2005

Pakistan named the designated authorities from whom application forms could be obtained by people intending to cross the five points along the Line of Control (LoC). On 29 October, Pakistan and India agreed on the opening of five posts across the LoC to enable people participate in earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts.

8 November 2005

The Line of Control was opened as Indian relief material made its way to quake-devastated Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This is the first time in the history of the sub-continent that the LoC has been opened for the movement of goods as per the recent agreement signed between India and Pakistan.

7 November 2005

The much-awaited opening of the Line of Control at five designated points to enable people to cross the Kashmir frontier between India and Pakistan is expected to be delayed for at least a week. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will meet his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the 13th Saarc Summit in Bangladesh's

capital Dhaka, it is learnt. According to diplomatic sources, the meeting between the two prime ministers is likely to take place on November 12. They said the two sides were currently in the process of finalising the time and date of the meeting.

6 November 2005

The five points across the Line of Control (LoC) from the Pakistan side to enable people travel on foot to the Indian side would be operational from 7 November. Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Tasneem Aslam said arrangements to open the points to people wishing to cross over have been completed.

5 November 2005

The opening of relief camps along the Line of Control for earthquake victims of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir have hit a roadblock as the armies on either side are unable to evolve a mechanism for transporting the aid packages. The two armies have also had a communication breakdown of sorts with the gushing river Kishanganga drowning all efforts.

4 November 2005

Ahead of the opening of quake relief centres along the Line of Control (LoC), the Army reopened the road connecting Srinagar with Muzaffarabad. However, work is yet to be completed on the other side. Braving rough terrain and landslips, Army and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) workers finished the work in record time. Troop positions on the Siachen Glacier must be demarcated before demilitarising the world's highest battlefield to avoid a repeat of the 1999 Kargil border conflict with Pakistan, said Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

3 November 2005

Pakistan is optimistic that India is willing to consider Islamabad's proposal for the demilitarisation of Kashmir, the Foreign Office said. Pakistan maintained that the claim made by India about the possibility of involvement of Pakistan-based groups in the serial blasts of New Delhi did not amount to evidence.

2 November 2005

India reacted cautiously to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's suggestion of demilitarising both sides of Kashmir, asserting that it can't be done "unilaterally". "It can't be done unilaterally," External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh told reporters at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Only Kashmiris who are members of families divided by the Line of Control will be allowed to cross the de-facto border when five crossing points are opened on 7 November. Two banned Pakistani militant groups on denied involvement in last week's deadly bombings in the Indian capital. India has not placed blame for the bombings in New Delhi that killed 59 people, but suspicion has fallen on Pakistan-based militants fighting the Indian rule in the divided Kashmir region.

1 November 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh minced no words when Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf called him to express his condolences over the deaths in the Delhi blasts. Short of directly accusing Pakistan, Singh said he was "disturbed" at indications of "external linkages" of terrorist groups with the blasts.

OCTOBER 2005

31 October 2005

Although the festival-eve terror came close to breaching India's threshold of tolerance to terrorism, the Government consciously chose last night not to let the Delhi bombings come in the way of the quake diplomacy with Pakistan. Hours before India and Pakistan signed the agreement on opening points along the Line of Control (LoC) for earthquake relief and reconstruction operations, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said that with the decision he was making the LoC "irrelevant."

30 October 2005

Three weeks after a devastating earthquake killed more than 56,000 people in Pakistan and India, officials from the two countries met on Saturday to discuss opening their Kashmir border to survivors. Pakistan and India have agreed to open foot crossings at five points across the Line of Control that divides Kashmir from 7 November. The agreement was reached between the two sides after intense negotiations at the senior officials' meeting held at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad.

29 October 2005

A six-member Indian delegation is in Pakistan to finalize modalities on opening some points and relief camps along the LoC to help the quake affected Kashmiri people and permit them to meet their relatives on the other side.

28 October 2005

India has offered Rs. 112.45 crores in assistance to Pakistan for relief and rehabilitation of the October 8 earthquake victims. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman announced that Minister of State for Statistics Oscar Fernandes made the offer at a

conference organised by the United Nations Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva.

27 October 2005

Reacting strongly to New Delhi's call to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to further investigate Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear network, Pakistan has held India responsible for promoting nuclear proliferation and arms race in the region. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said India was not to blame for the delay in affording relief to Pakistani earthquake victims from across the ceasefire line in earthquake-devastated Kashmir. His comments came hours after Pakistani soldiers objected to the construction of a footbridge by Indian troops across the Line of Control (LoC) to allow Pakistani quake victims to cross into Indian-administered Kashmir.

26 October 2005

India offered material to help Pakistan rebuild its earthquake-affected areas but dismissed the probability of its engineers going over to the other side as "romanticism". India on Tuesday expressed concern over the situation in Gilgit (on the Pakistani side of the Line of Control), where a curfew was in force after "clashes" between Pakistani paramilitary forces and Shia students.

25 October 2005

Accepting Islamabad's 22 October proposal, India announced that a delegation of senior officials would visit Pakistan before the end of the month for talks on facilitating cooperation between the two countries in providing relief to the victims of the earthquake.

24 October 2005

The Indian Army will use mules and helicopters to ensure planned relief camps for earthquake survivors from Azad Kashmir are operational. Despite damaged roads and bridges, the camps at three points along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir will be ready in time should the Pakistani government give the go-ahead for the plan.

23 October 2005

Pakistan announced that it has handed over a formal proposal to India for allowing Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) to help each other in relief and reconstruction efforts. India said Pakistan's proposal to open five crossing points on the Line of Control for speedy delivery of aid to earthquake victims could be reconciled with New Delhi's suggestion to set up three relief centres near the LoC.

22 October 2005

India has received through the backchannel diplomacy involving Tariq Aziz and S K Lambah a rough draft of Pakistan's proposal to allow any number of people coming across the Line of Control to meet their relatives and assist in reconstruction.

21 October 2005

India said that it was still waiting for Pakistani proposals on how to allow Kashmiris to cross the Line of Control (LoC) in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Pakistan has ruled out a joint relief operation with India in Kashmir as proposed by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

20 October 2005

Pakistan will shortly make a formal proposal to India on opening the Line of Control (LoC) to facilitate movement of

Kashmiri people on both sides of the divide in the aftermath of the earthquake. With Islamabad expected to move a formal proposal soon on allowing Kashmiris to cross the Line of Control to meet relatives or help in relief work, New Delhi has done some groundwork and is now looking to take forward its own proposal of five meeting points for divided families along the LoC. The five points-Poonch, Rajouri, Suchetgarh, Uri and Tangdhar-were suggested by India but are yet to take off.

19 October 2005

India welcomed in principle the offer made by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf that people could be allowed to cross the Line of Control (LoC) to meet their relatives and assist with reconstruction in the quake-hit areas. An eight-member Pakistani delegation left for Geneva for talks on the disputed Baglihar dam, which India is constructing in its Jammu and Kashmir state. The two-day talks will be attended by Raymond Lafitte, the World Bank-appointed neutral expert on the issue.

18 October 2005

India conveyed its inability to Pakistan to provide its armed forces' helicopters for relief operations in Azad Kashmir without Indian pilots. An Indian foreign ministry spokesman said Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammed Khan called his Indian counterpart Shyam Saran conveying Islamabad's willingness to have Indian helicopters but without Indian pilots and crews.

17 October 2005

Indian troops are on heightened alert to prevent militants from taking advantage of the chaos in quake-shattered held Kashmir and crossing the border, the

military said. India will send its third consignment of relief material for earthquake victims in Pakistan by train. 170 tonnes of relief materials will be sent, including 100 tonnes of fortified biscuits.

16 October 2005

India granted permission to Pakistan to fly its helicopters inside one kilometre of the airspace above the LoC to access remote areas affected by the earthquake in Kashmir.

15 October 2005

India and Pakistan are playing politics with earthquake relief and have missed a great opportunity to build closer ties in a time of tragedy, said Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

14 October 2005

An Indian relief train was due to cross the Wagah-Attari border with a consignment of blankets, medicines and tents for the Azad Kashmir earthquake victims, official sources said.

13 October 2005

Officials have advised the government that the composite dialogue process with India should retain its primacy, and the revival of joint commission should not dilute its importance.

12 October 2005

India was ready to rush potentially life-saving aid to the devastated parts of Azad Kashmir since these were more readily accessible from the Line of Control, but New Delhi was equally alive to Pakistan's sensitivities in not signalling its acceptance, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh said. Following the massive destruction caused by the earthquake in Pakistan on Saturday, the Amritsar-Lahore bus

service, scheduled to start from 9 November, stands postponed, sources in the Punjab Government said.

11 October 2005

Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Delhi Aziz Ahmed Khan met Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and indicated that Pakistan would welcome relief goods to help survivors in different parts of the country that have been affected by one of the worst disasters in its history.

10 October 2005

The shared tragedy confronting India and Pakistan in disputed Kashmir could pay dividends for the fragile peace process, experts said after a massive earthquake left thousands dead there. "It will certainly help in furthering the peace process," former Indian foreign secretary and ambassador to Washington Lalit Mansingh said.

9 October 2005

A major earthquake shook cities and villages across the South Asian subcontinent, wiping out several villages in Pakistan and leading to fears that the death toll could run into thousands. About 400 Pakistani school children were killed in northwestern Pakistan when two schools collapsed, the police said. Officials said over 1000 people were killed in the worst-hit Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, while 700 lost their lives in Islamabad and North western Frontier Province.

8 October 2005

India has said that there can be no pullout of troops from Jammu and Kashmir unless violence ends there and a similar disengagement in Siachen Glacier can be undertaken only when

delineation on the troop positions is carried out.

7 October 2005

Pakistan and India are holding crucial meeting on Baglihar dam in New Delhi amid persisting serious differences between the two countries on the design of the dam and no agreement seems to be in sight about the contentious project. The World Bank (WB) neutral expert Dr Raymond Laffitte will chair the meeting that is taking place after the inspection of the dam site and original model of the dam laying in Roorkee near Jammu by the experts of the two countries and the WB neutral expert.

6 October 2005

External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh said that he hoped the India-Pakistan talks on the Siachen issue would move forward. Talking to reporters before leaving for New Delhi at the end of a four-day visit to the country, he said that "there is no deadline for Siachen, but we hope the talks will move forward."

4 October 2005

Pakistan and India signed an agreement on pre-notification of flight-testing of ballistic missiles and a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a communication link between the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and the Indian Coast Guards. The accord and memorandum were signed after the 90-minute delegation-level talks between Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and his Indian counterpart Natwar Singh at the Foreign Office. Back-channel diplomacy was in full swing as India and Pakistan appeared to be converging towards having a formal agreement on resolving the Siachen dispute. The final word, however,

would come after the visiting External Affairs Minister, Mr K Natwar Singh, calls on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

5 October 2005

India and Pakistan held a meeting of the Joint Economic Commission for years, marking a further thaw between the South Asian countries. Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh is leading the Indian side at the talks with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri, Foreign Office officials said. India and Pakistan failed to achieve a thaw on Siachen issue despite hectic back-room diplomatic efforts that continued well past midnight last night, though the two nuclear neighbours did take a step forward in resolving the Sir Creek maritime boundary dispute.

3 October 2005

On the eve of one of the most crucial talks between India and Pakistan starting at the Foreign Office between Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and his Indian counterpart. Pakistan and India opened talks a day after Indian External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh arrived, saying that the people and governments of both countries were determined to end decades of hostility. Endeavouring to adjudicate the riparian dispute between India and Pakistan, World Bank appointed Swiss neutral expert Raymond Lafitte today began inspecting the dam design and "peripheral setup" of the 450-mw Baglihar hydel project in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

2 October 2005

In trying to take the peace process forward after the slight chill in New York, External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh is bringing with him a

proposal to revamp the rigid 20-year old visa protocol and remove restrictions peculiar to the two countries. In efforts to iron out differences between India and Pakistan on the Indus river waters issue, a 13-member team led by World Bank neutral expert, Raymond Lafitte arrived in Jammu for a 3-day inspection tour of Baglihar at Patnitop.

1 October 2005

India and Pakistan met to agree details of new bus services between border cities and discuss an increase in flights as a part of a peace process, officials in both countries said. Pakistan and India will ink three treaties next week here in the presence of their foreign ministers. One of the treaties will provide pre-notification of test-flight of missiles, officials said. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today, two days ahead of External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh's bilateral visit to Pakistan (October 2-5), and set the parameters for Mr Natwar Singh's talks with the Pakistani leadership. The EAM is going to Pakistan armed with a host of proposals for improving bilateral relations with Pakistan in such diverse fields as security, defence, trade and commerce, tourism and culture, consular matters, banking, information and broadcasting and telecommunications.

SEPTEMBER 2005

30 September 2005

Pakistan is engaged in negotiations with India to reach an early agreement on the withdrawal of troops from the Siachen glacier. In a press statement, Foreign Office (FO) spokesman Naeem Khan, in response to the Indian defence minister's statement that Pakistan and

India had reached an agreement on withdrawing troops from Siachen, said that he wasn't sure if the Indian minister was referring to the agreement between the two countries in 1989 which could not be signed at that time. Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said India and Pakistan have agreed to withdraw troops from their present position in Siachen glacier but the modalities have to be worked out.

29 September 2005

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir made history in reverse when Mohammad Ayub, a senior commander of the Pakistan-backed Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and laid down arms before the Indian Army. India and Pakistan agreed to start a bus service in October linking two cities on either side of their only border crossing as part of an ongoing peace process.

28 September 2005

The Pakistan Supreme Court upheld the death sentence to Sarabjit Singh of Punjab in the fourth case of his alleged role in a series of bomb blasts which occurred in the country in 1990 "at the behest of RAW". Trying to breathe life into a joint commission that has not met for the last 16 years, India will send representatives of six ministries to Islamabad along with External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh to ensure that the 4 October meeting is not reduced to a symbolic affair. Apart from the Ministry of External Affairs, five other ministries - Home, Telecom, Commerce, Information & Broadcasting and Tourism-will send joint secretary level officials as part of the External Affairs Minister's delegation.

27 September 2005

The second round of India-Pakistan technical level talks on the Amritsar-Lahore and Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus services will be held today. At the two-day technical level parleys, the Pakistani side will be led by Mohammad Abbas, additional secretary to the Ministry of Communication. The Indian delegation will be headed by Dilip Sinha, joint secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs.

26 September 2005

Officials from India and Pakistan would begin hectic rounds of parleys to discuss a host of issues, including bus services and aviation agreement between the two countries ahead of the third round of the Composite Dialogue process scheduled in January next year. In a move to boost bilateral trade between India and Pakistan, Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) have decided to set up a joint trade committee soon. The proposed committee will have an equal number of representatives from both chambers, IMC president Rajesh Kapadia, who recently led a 24-member delegation to Pakistan, told reporters.

25 September 2005

A delegation of Indian aviation officials will arrive in Pakistan this week for talks on increasing civilian passenger flights between the two countries, the Defence Ministry said. Officials of the Pakistan Rangers and Indian Border Security Force discussed the day-to-day border security matters at a quarterly held meeting at Khokhrapar. Humayun Akhtar Khan, commerce minister said Pakistan would not extend Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India

without resolution of disputes between two neighbours.

24 September 2005

Permanent Indo-Pak peace is possible only when the Pakistan military accepts that India will not secede any part of Jammu and Kashmir, former US envoy to India, Robert Blackwill has said.

23 September 2005

Intra-Kashmir 'Heart-to-Heart' talks urged the governments of India and Pakistan to consider reducing the level of deployment of military and paramilitary forces on both sides of Kashmir. A joint statement, adopted at the conclusion of the two-day Kashmir conference recommended review of detenus cases and declaration of general amnesty to prisoners detained in each country.

22 September 2005

Pakistan's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Amanullah Khan Jadoon will visit India next month to finalise issues relating to the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. "The minister is likely to visit New Delhi on October 2-3 but the dates may be changed," an official from the ministry of petroleum and natural resources said. Pakistan and India will seek independent third party global "certification" of the Iranian hydrocarbon reserve allocated for the South Asian gas pipeline.

21 September 2005

The All-Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said that contacts between Pakistan and Israel would help in finding a solution in Kashmir. "Pak-Israel links will not harm the Kashmir cause, but they will help to settle the festering issue," APHC chairman

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said while addressing a press conference in New York.

20 September 2005

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Naeem Khan told presspersons here on Monday that Pakistan expected the same treatment as India from the West in its quest for peaceful use of nuclear technology. The Indian foreign minister will be in Islamabad on 3 October for a three-day visit to review with his Pakistan counterpart the outcome of the second round of their composite dialogue, official sources said.

19 September 2005

Natwar Singh has met his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri in New York. According to Indian TV channel, Mr. Natwar Singh said that the dialogue process with Pakistan is on track. The Indian foreign minister will also be travelling to Pakistan in the first week of October.

18 September 2005

In their third interaction in five months, Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq met Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf here and extended full support to India-Pakistan dialogue but expressed regret over the "slow" pace of the peace process. During the meeting with Gen. Musharraf lasting over an hour, the Mirwaiz briefed him on the first-ever talks the Hurriyat leaders had with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 5 September while discussing the ongoing India-Pakistan dialogue process.

17 September 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said he proposed to remain "engaged" with General Pervez Musharraf and if the

Pakistani leader "delivered" on his promise to control terror flow into Jammu and Kashmir then it would be possible to inject a "movement forward" in the relationship between India and Pakistan. A day before Hurriyat president Mirwaiz Umer Farooq meets Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf here, India said that an end to cross-border violence would make it easier to improve human rights conditions in Jammu and Kashmir and withdraw troops from the state.

16 September 2005

India and Pakistan have expressed their commitment "to ensure a peaceful settlement of all pending issues including Jammu and Kashmir to the satisfaction of both sides." The commitment came in a joint statement issued after a four-hour dinner meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf here on Wednesday. The two leaders also agreed to pursue all possible options for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute "in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner."

15 September 2005

Manmohan Singh and Pervez Musharraf agreed to carry forward the peace process and resolve all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir through negotiations and peaceful means. The two leaders also vowed not to allow terrorism to impede the peace process.

14 September 2005

The United States is keenly watching the meeting between Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. It wants the two neighbours to resolve their differences amicably. Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice, who called on Gen. Musharraf in New York and conveyed Washington's views to him. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has made it clear to the US that Pakistan still controls the flow of terror to India and that it must be stopped if there has to be any meaningful progress in the peace process between the two countries.

12 September 2005

The stage was set for another high in bilateral peace process when India and Pakistan exchange nearly 500 civilian prisoners at the Wagah border. Pakistani prisoners were brought here from different Indian jails in the States to be handed over to Pakistani authorities. India agreed to release 152 Pakistani prisoners while Pakistan agreed to set free 435 jailed Indian prisoners which includes 371 fishermen. Among the 152 Pakistani prisoners, 101 were fishermen who were caught while fishing in Indian waters. So far, 96 prisoners from Rajasthan, Gujarat and various parts of Punjab have reached Central Jail in Amritsar where they would be spending their last night on Indian soil before proceeding to Wagah.

10 September 2005

India will release 152 Pakistani civil prisoners on 12 September at the Wagah border. The civilian prisoners are those who have completed their sentences and whose travel documents have been issued by the Pakistan High Commission.

9 September 2005

Pakistan has welcomed the "spirit" behind the first formal talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the Hurriyat leaders and said this is the only way the peace process could move forward. "The most important thing is

the spirit behind it," Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid M Kasuri said.

8 September 2005

Pakistan should have the same access to US civilian nuclear technology that President George W Bush has proposed for India, the Pakistani ambassador to the United States said. Pakistan will on Sep 12 repatriate 371 Indian prisoners who have been in jails either for illegally entering the country or accidentally straying into its waters while fishing.

7 September 2005

With the apparently pre-determined script playing out last night in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's talks with the Hurriyat leaders, the prospects for the Indo-Pak summit in New York next week have brightened. For all the praises the Hurriyat leaders sang after their first-ever meeting with an Indian Prime Minister, sources suggested last night's deal on ending all forms of violence in Jammu and Kashmir might have been pre-cooked between Delhi and Islamabad. Petroleum Secretaries of India and Pakistan will hold the two-day talks at Islamabad to discuss modalities of the multi-billion-dollar Indo-Iran gas pipeline through this country. A five-member delegation of Indian gas experts led by Petroleum Secretary SC Tripathy is arriving in Islamabad to attend the second Pakistan-India Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on September 8 and 9 to discuss the modalities for the pipeline project.

6 September 2005

Welcoming the first-ever talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the moderate Hurriyat faction led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, Pakistan said it

would strengthen the peace process with India.

5 September 2005

India said it would continue with plans to build a US \$7.2 billion gas pipeline from Iran, undaunted by increasing threat of UN sanctions against Tehran. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that questions remained about Tehran's atomic activities and confirmed Iran had resumed nuclear fuel work, setting the stage for a possible referral to the UN Security Council.

4 September 2005

Pakistan, India and Iran are expected to sign a pact in December, which will enable them to go ahead with the proposed \$7.4 billion pipeline project to supply natural gas from Iran to Pakistan and India. "If all goes well, there can be a tripartite meeting of the concerned ministers to finalize a framework agreement by 31 December," Natwar Singh was quoted as saying in Tehran.

3 September 2005

Setting the stage for the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pervez Musharraf in New York on 14 September, India and Pakistan announced a slew of measures to promote people-to-people contacts, including starting a truck service for trade on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route. The two countries also outlined the roadmap for the third round of the Composite Dialogue process to be launched in January next year in New Delhi with a meeting of their Foreign Secretaries. A day after India and Pakistan announced a slew of measures to carry forward the peace process, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran met President Pervez Musharraf and

briefed him about the outcome of the talks he had with his counterpart.

1 September 2005

Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran arrived in Lahore for a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Mohammad Khan in Islamabad today. The two secretaries will review the progress of the composite dialogue process. Pakistan and India may formalize revival of joint commission of the two countries to remove irritants between them, coming in the way of normalisation. The composite dialogue will also continue side by side that has Kashmir issue on its top. The joint commission will be headed by the respective foreign ministers and had three sittings since its inception in 1983.

AUGUST 2005

31 August 2005

Pakistan and India have agreed to sign the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), a global arrangement for security to energy-related trade and investments, as observers to ease import of natural gas through pipelines from Iran, Qatar or Turkmenistan. The federal cabinet, which will meet on Wednesday, is expected to approve a plan to make a request to the Energy Charter Conference to get the 'observer status'. The treaty was signed in 1994 and came into force in 1998. Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran will leave for Islamabad to join his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Mohamamad Khan in the review of the two-round composite dialogue process, two weeks ahead of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and President Pervez Musharraf's meeting in New York.

30 August 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh rounded up his first two-day bilateral visit to Afghanistan by targeting the common man or the "aam aadmi of Afghanistan, saying that with India's help, several welfare initiatives for the Afghan would be put in place soon. Indian diplomats will meet Sarabjit Singh, sentenced to death in Pakistan.

29 August 2005

Terrorism and drug trafficking would be the main focus of the Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan which begins here tomorrow in the midst of efforts to release Sarabjit Singh, who is facing death sentence. Pakistan's Interior Secretary Syed Kamal Shah, who is leading an 11-member delegation to the two-day talks with his Indian counterpart V.K. Duggal, has said that he will like to discuss the issue of the prisoners languishing in each other's country.

The Home Secretaries of India and Pakistan today discussed at length the first-ever Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between them on prevention of drug trafficking, but failed to reach an agreement on it.

28 August 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said "appropriate messages" had been sent to Pakistan on the issue of Sarabjit Singh, on death row for his alleged involvement in bomb blasts in Lahore and Multan in 1990. India and Pakistan are expected to stick to their stated positions and go through the motions when the two countries' Home Secretaries begin their two day talks on August 29 on terrorism and drug trafficking under the composite dialogue framework. Moving beyond terrorism and drug-trafficking, India

and Pakistan will discuss the prisoners' issue during the August 29-30 talks between the Home Secretaries. "Usually the agenda [of the Home Secretary-level talks is terrorism and drug-trafficking but this time we requested that we would like to discuss the issue of prisoners," Pakistan Home Secretary Syed Kamal Shah said.

27 August 2005

India claimed that its efforts to help rebuild Afghanistan were being hampered by Pakistan, which had refused to allow transit facilities to Indian goods. Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said India was having to make huge investments to seek alternative routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia through Iran. Pakistan on Friday allowed Indian diplomats to meet a convicted Indian spy on death row amid heightened moves to save the life of the man who, Islamabad says, was behind deadly bomb blasts but is called innocent by his family. A foreign ministry spokesman said the government had granted approval to an Indian High Commission request for consular access to convict Sarabjit Singh, now lodged in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail.

26 August 2005

External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh discussed the issue of Sarabjit Singh with the Pakistan's High Commissioner here Mr Aziz Ahmed Khan. He told him that it was a humanitarian matter and there was a strong public sentiment in India for sparing the convict's life who was on death row in a Lahore jail.

25 August 2005

Pakistan informed India that its request for consular access to Sarabjit Singh,

sentenced to death for his alleged involvement in bomb blasts in this country, was being examined as senior Ministers here were locked in a debate whether President Pervez Musharraf was authorised to pardon him.

The foreign secretaries of Indian and Pakistan would be on a hotline from September to help avert mutual misunderstandings that could otherwise trigger nuclear tensions between the two, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. He said an understanding on the proposed agreement on a pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles was reached during the third round of India-Pakistan expert level dialogue on nuclear confidence building measures held in Delhi earlier this month.

24 August 2005

New Delhi is still to ascertain whether Sarabjit Singh, sentenced to death in Pakistan, is an Indian. "Confirmation of identity always follows consular access," the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said when asked whether Mr. Singh was, indeed, an Indian citizen.

23 August 2005

The India-Pakistan peace process under the Composite Dialogue Framework gets into top gear after next week's Home Secretary level talks on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking as Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran would travel to Islamabad on August 31 for the wrap-up meeting of the second round of talks. Top Pakistani and Indian diplomats will meet in Islamabad on Sept 1 to review how the two countries have progressed on their peace process in one year before a planned bilateral summit at the United Nations.

22 August 2005

Pakistan has submitted its case on the controversial 450 MW Baglihar hydropower project in Jammu and Kashmir to the neutral expert appointed by the World Bank. President General Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh will discuss the whole gamut of bilateral relations in their third meeting in New York in September in a span of 16 months since the Indian leader assumed the top office.

21 August 2005

Pakistan has formally submitted its case over the controversial 450MW Baglihar hydropower project with the coordination office of the neutral expert in Washington DC three days ago.

20 August 2005

India has ordered slashing import duty on textile from two neighbours - Pakistan and Bangladesh. As many as 200 tariff lines in textile products will be identified to cut the basic import duty as well as ad valorem duty.

19 August 2005

One of the several unilateral decisions taken by India for promoting greater people-to-people contacts with Pakistan has failed to evoke the expected enthusiasm across the border. Or is it because the people on the other side of the border are not aware of the facility? This pertains to Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran's announcement early this year that India would grant visa on arrival at the Wagah border to Pakistani citizens above 65 years and children under 12 years of age. This facility is the first of its kind that New Delhi has with any country.

18 August 2005

Peace can only be achieved through strength and therefore we need to maintain a credible defence, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said at a meeting with Air Chief Marshal Kaleem Saadat on Wednesday. The prime minister said that the Pakistan Air Force had a vital role to play in making defence credible.

17 August 2005

Work on the controversial Baglihar hydroelectric power project hit another snag when one of its diversion tunnels collapsed due to a landslide late on Sunday. This is the second tunnel that has collapsed within the past two months. Reports stated that a landslide hit the dam's site, which blocked the flow of Chenab River for more than an hour, causing the dam to overflow. The leadership of Pakistan and India is determined to move the peace process forward and resolve all disputes including the Kashmir issue, Foreign Office Spokesman Naeem Khan has said.

16 August 2005

Pakistan will continue to improve its missile technology, said Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz while referring to the successful test fire of a cruise missile.

15 August 2005

Marking its 59th Independence Day, Pakistan vowed to improve its nuclear and missile capabilities while asserting that the resolution of the Kashmir issue was "a must for durable peace" in South Asia.

14 August 2005

Pointing out that there was a sharp increase in infiltration from across the border, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said greater vigil would be

kept along the 742 km stretch of fencing to foil such attempts.

13 August 2005

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) chief Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan said that Pakistan had proposed including cruise missile tests in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the pre-notification of missile tests, but the Indians had rejected it.

12 August 2005

Pakistan conducted a successful test flight of its first-ever Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) - Hatf VII Babur - that can carry nuclear and conventional warheads to a range of 500 km.

11 August 2005

Pakistan and India announced important measures to boost bilateral trade and proposed shipping and aviation talks in September with a rare urgency to widen their business links. Indian Commerce Secretary S.N. Menon and Pakistan's acting Commerce Secretary Syed Asif Shah concluded two days of discussions with a joint statement on economic and commercial cooperation, which now becomes part of their composite dialogue process. The second round of talks on economic and commercial cooperation between India and Pakistan concluded with a decision to expeditiously clear opening of branches of scheduled banks in each other's countries to facilitate bilateral trade. In the second round of talks on economic issues, India and Pakistan have agreed to take steps to review aviation and shipping agreements.

10 August 2005

Shaukat Aziz said that India, Pakistan and Kashmiris would have to resolve

the Kashmir issue, which had held regional peace hostage for a long time. India and Pakistan agreed to hold technical-level talks next month on finding out ways to boost air and shipping links which, if all goes well, may result in the entry of private airlines in the sub continental skies and emergence of the hitherto-unknown concept of third-country shipping between the two neighbours.

9 August 2005

India rejected Pakistan's proposal of reducing troops in both Kashmirs, along the Line of Control (LoC) and on Siachen, saying that while troops had been redeployed in Kashmir despite the violence last year, there were no reports of Pakistani troops withdrawing from Kashmir. Pakistan-based top militant Sayed Salahuddin has said the conglomerate of Jihadi outfits headed by him was ready to declare a ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir if President Pervez Musharraf or any "major" country assured that India would declare Kashmir as a "disputed" territory and withdraw its troops.

8 August 2005

Encouraged by tangible progress at the two-day dialogue on nuclear CBMs, Pakistan and India will hold day-long talks on conventional confidence-building measures (CBMs) today.

7 August 2005

Pakistan and India will discuss commercial and economic cooperation in New Delhi on 9-10 August. Commerce Ministry Additional Secretary Syed Asif Shah is likely to lead the Pakistani delegation to India. New Delhi will seek Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status from Islamabad, transit of its goods for export to Afghanistan and

Central Asian republics, permission for private Indian airlines and branches of Indian banks to operate in Pakistan and amendment to the Shipping Protocol 1974. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on the proposed Agreement on Pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles which commits both sides to pre-notify in a structured format flight testing of ballistic missiles. Trilateral discussions among India, Iran and Pakistan on the proposed Indo-Iranian gas pipeline are expected to begin by the year-end, Mani Shankar Aiyar has said. The process of collecting and sharing information to enable project structuring would be concluded by the end of November, said Mr. Aiyar.

6 August 2005

India and Pakistan began the third round of expert-level talks on nuclear confidence building measures (CBMs) wherein the two sides reviewed the progress made in the previous two rounds. The two neighbours have been negotiating the issue of prior notification on missile tests but have not arrived at a mutually acceptable decision.

5 August 2005

The next round of India-Pakistan nuclear CBMs talks begins under the shadow of uncertainties that have erupted on implementation of the eight-point areas of cooperation agreed at the Cultural Secretaries-level talks between the two countries that concluded in Islamabad on 27 July. As per the timetable, the second round of the dialogue will be completed by the month-end.

4 August 2005

A Pakistan's delegation will arrive in New Delhi to hold two-day expert-level talks with Indian counterparts on nuclear Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). The nine-member delegation will be led by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Iran proposed signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India on Wednesday for setting a timeframe for implementation of the \$7.4 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. Tehran proposed the MoU at the beginning of a two-day meeting of special Joint Working Group on the pipeline. It is similar to that signed with Pakistan last month and sets a clear timeframe. Pakistan and India will sign the much awaited agreement on advance notification of missile tests at the end of their two-day talks starting tomorrow in New Delhi whereas the proposed foreign secretaries level hotline is likely to be established. The upcoming talks between the South Asian nuclear states would focus on confidence-building measures (CBMs) on nuclear side with both the sides willing to sign the agreement on advance notification of missile tests.

3 August 2005

Gas pipelines from all possible foreign sources will work as India's lifeline in meeting its energy requirements, as domestic production would not be able to meet even half of the country's demand in 20 years; Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar told the Rajya Sabha or upper house of parliament.

2 August 2005

Pakistan will reiterate its demand for reduction of forces in Jammu and Kashmir at the talks in New Delhi later

this week. Talks on confidence-building measures (CBMs) in conventional defence mechanisms are scheduled for 5-6 August and those on nuclear CBMs for 8 August. They are part of the ongoing composite dialogue between the countries. India has abandoned its plans to pull out troops from Jammu and Kashmir and has decided to reinforce the military deployment along the Line of Control (LoC) with more troops and weapons.

1 August 2005

Top commerce officials of Pakistan and India meet in New Delhi on 9-10 August to discuss 30 Indian proposals for promotion of bilateral trade and commercial and economic cooperation. Six of the Indian proposals that it would make in the forthcoming meeting of the commerce secretaries are new while 24 were submitted by New Delhi at a similar meeting last year. Meanwhile, the final round of talks between Pakistan and India on the Kishanganga dam has been delayed again, with both sides still struggling to find a 'suitable' time for dialogue. According to sources in the Pakistan Commissionerate of the Indus Basin Water Treaty, the delay has been caused by the Indian refusal to entertain Pakistan's request for talks on 30 July, as its delegation (already in India to inspect the Baglihar dam) had completed its work and was available for talks on the Kishanganga dam. India maintained that since many departments were involved in the process it was difficult to gather all of them on the date given by Pakistan.

JULY 2005

31 July 2005

India will make six new proposals, including permanently opening the Wagah-Atari border for trade, to

Pakistan during talks on commercial and economic cooperation in New Delhi from 9-10 August, media reports said. Pakistani experts and engineers have completed comprehensive inspection of the controversial 450MW Baglihar Hydel Power project being constructed by India Kashmir.

30 July 2005

Calling for sustained efforts to ensure the success of the India-Pakistan peace process, participants in the first ever intra-Kashmir dialogue here on Friday laid stress on extending confidence-building measures to other areas as well. A focussed peace process would also prepare the ground for resolving the Kashmir issue, they said. Dr Manmohan Singh appeared to assure parliament on Friday that the Iran gas pipeline project was no issue with the George W. Bush and his administration accepted New Delhi's legitimate requirements from 'all sources' of energy. President Musharraf and Indian PM Manmohan Singh in a telephone conversation agreed to avoid statements that could endanger the ongoing peace process between both countries.

29 July 2005

Pakistan PM Shaukat Aziz has said that recent "negative statements" from India do not deter his country and it will continue to strive for the resolution of all outstanding issues with New Delhi. India said that incidents like the recent attack in Ayodhya would disrupt the peace process with Pakistan.

28 July 2005

The Pakistani expert team that visited Baglihar dam's site on the Indian side of the Line of Control has found on the ground that the project was violating the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and its

height and design was contradicting provisions of the treaty. After reaching on fruitful decisions on the opening day, the Indian and Pakistani officials cancelled their second round of talks for promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. The two countries decided on Tuesday for increasing the number of pilgrims up to 3,000 and the visit of Pakistanis to Muslim holy places in India besides hosting Pakistani film festival in India.

27 July 2005

A Pakistani team studied the flow of River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir on which the 450 megawatt Baglihar hydro project is situated. The five-member Pakistani Delegation was headed by Ground Water Commission Commissioner Syed Jamaat Ali Shah. Meanwhile, India said that so far there had been no official discussion with the United States on the India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project. On the US concern over this project, Mani Shankar Aiyar told that it was a matter of record that the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act 1996 continued on the US Statute book. Aiyar denied any differences within the government on the \$7.4-billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline and said New Delhi was going ahead with the project as scheduled.

26 July 2005

A team of Indian and Pakistani experts on Monday visited the Baglihar hydel project in Doda of Jammu and Kashmir. The step was aimed at finding a bilateral solution to the controversy regarding the waters of the 450-mw project on the Chenab. The team will prepare a report on the present status of the project on Tuesday and Wednesday. Pakistani officials ruled out joint control of the billion-dollar Baglihar Dam after

visiting the project. Islamabad opposed the project saying when completed it would deprive Punjab of vital irrigation water. Officials said the plant also violates the 44-year-old Indus Water Treaty brokered by the World Bank.

25 July 2005

A high level seven-member Indian delegation will arrive here today as part of the Pakistan-India composite dialogue. Pakistan and India will discuss various steps to ease visa restrictions for cultural activities and exchanges programmes between the two countries. The subject, favourite of Indians, would be taken up during two-day secretary-level talks. The talks will also encompass release of fishermen arrested by the two countries, provision of more facilities for visitors of religious places on both sides and matters pertaining to the archaeological sites.

24 July 2005

Two months after the World Bank appointed a Swiss mediator to hear its apprehensions, a five-member team of experts from Pakistan arrived here for a three-day inspection tour of the Baglihar hydel project in Doda district. The team and eight Indian experts arrived from New Delhi and left for Baglihar. They will inspect the dam and reservoir of the project on 25 July.

22 July 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has expressed concern about the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons should President Pervez Musharraf be removed from office.

21 July 2005

The Centre has decided to keep Vijay Diwas, marking the 1999 Kargil victory, a low-key affair with no central

functions being organised in an attempt to keep the peace dialogue with Pakistan on track despite provocations by militant groups.

12 July 2005

India and Pakistan began talks on formulating a timetable for building the \$4.1-billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline with Islamabad stating it would proceed on the project keeping its national interest in mind.

7 July 2005

Vast rural areas of major cities near the Chenab river in Pakistan are facing imminent high flood situation after India without any prior warning released 564,000 cusecs water into the river from Baglihar Dam following collapse of one of its tunnels.

4 July 2005

Pakistan and India have decided to hold nuclear talks on August 2 and 3 in New Delhi with official quarters here saying that a vital agreement on advance warning of missile tests is on the cards. Pakistan asked India to abandon the Wullar barrage project on the Jhelum river as it would cause interference in the flow of water, which was against the terms of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

JUNE 2005

27 June 2005

Pakistan's Water Resources Secretary Ashfaq Hussain arrived in New Delhi for talks with his Indian counterpart on the Tulbul navigational project-cum-Wullar Barrage in Jammu and Kashmir, work on which is stalled for the past 17 years.

25 June 2005

India has rejected Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's

application to travel by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman told mediapersons here on Friday: "The Government of India has processed the application and has declined to accord permission taking into account all relevant aspects involved."

24 June 2005

With the 150th anniversary of that event - hailed by many as India's first war of Independence - approaching, three parts of the subcontinent are coming together to celebrate the uprising. The government announced that both Pakistan and Bangladesh would join India to share the big moment in their shared history.

20 June 2005

Pakistan and India have postponed the two-day talks over Wullar Barrage dispute scheduled for June 24-25 upon the latter's request. Now the two sides are likely to hold the crucial parleys by this month end.

18 June 2005

Pakistan and India have put off their nuclear talks till the last week of July to reach consensus on vital issue before formal deliberations. The South Asian nuclear rivals had earlier agreed to hold the talks on nuclear CBMs in the current month of June.

Pakistan has urged India to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to enhance trade ties between the two countries. A number of tariff and non-tariff barriers, sources said, had been identified between the two countries, with New Delhi making promises to remove major complaints of the Pakistani exporters and importers and other businessmen.

16 June 2005

India has excluded Pakistanis and Bangladeshis while deciding to grant "Overseas Citizenship" to all people of Indian origin, provided their home countries permit the dual citizenship.

15 June 2005

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Chief Yasin Malik's reported statement about an alleged support of Pakistan's information minister Shiekh Rashid to the armed Kashmiri separatists has snowballed into a major diplomatic controversy attracting sharp reaction from India and a possibility of the minister's denial of a permission to travel to Srinagar.

13 June 2005

Giving a cold response to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement favouring the conversion of the Siachen glacier into a peace mountain, Pakistan today maintained its stand that India vacate its "aggression" and withdraw its troops to positions held at the time of 1972 Simla Agreement.

12 June 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the Siachen and calls that the time had come to convert the world's highest battlefield, Siachen, into a "peace mountain" without redrawing "established borders".

10 June 2005

With more Indians visiting Pakistan, the Interior Ministry issued fresh visa rules asking visitors to file applications at least eight weeks in advance.

4 June 2005

Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar arrived in Lahore on an official visit. Mr.

Aiyar will hold discussions with his Pakistani counterpart on energy cooperation between India and Pakistan.

3 June 2005

Talks between India and Pakistan to resolve differences on the 330-MW Kishanganga Hydro-power project being built on the Jhelum in Jammu and Kashmir remained inconclusive.

1 June 2005

India and Pakistan hold an exclusive meeting on the Kishanganga Storage and Power Project after exchanging the draft of the Indus Water Commission's (IWC) report for 2004-05.

MAY 2005

29 May 2005

India and Pakistan commenced talks on Sir Creek, the disputed coastal strip off the Gujarat coast, with a review of the joint survey conducted in January this year to identify the boundary pillars installed in 1924 to demarcate the area.

28 May 2005

India and Pakistan have failed to make headway at the Defence Secretary-level talks on the demilitarisation of Siachen as both sides stuck to their stands.

25 May 2005

Ahead of the defence secretary-level talks in Islamabad on May 26-27, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) decides to stick to India's position that there will be no troop withdrawal from Siachen Glacier-Saltoro Ridge till Pakistan agrees to "authenticate" ground positions.

An Indian delegation, headed by its secretary defence, is arriving here today on a three-day official visit to hold talks on troops withdrawal from Siachen, the

world's highest battlefield. The Indian secretary defence will hold talks, already scheduled for 26-27 May.

24 May 2005

A 100-member Indian business delegation arrived in Pakistan to discuss trade opportunities after the recent thaw in relations between the two countries.

22 May 2005

Pakistan rejects media reports suggesting there had been some skirmishes with Indian forces near Sir Creek.

13 May 2005

The Indo-Pak Indus Basin commissions agreed on 12 May to continue dialogue to remove Pakistan's objections to the construction of the Krishanganga hydroelectric power plant on Jhelum River. They also signed a summary of the three-day meeting.

11 May 2005

Pakistan and India failed to strike a breakthrough during a 10-hour marathon session on the last day of the first round of their talks on Kishanganga project.

10 May 2005

The third round of talks between the Indian and Pakistani Indus Basin commissions started today. The two countries discussed Pakistan's objections to the Kishanganga hydroelectric power plant on the Neelum River.

Minister for Railways Mian Shamim Haider will formally inaugurate work on a second rail link between Pakistan and India in Mirpurkhas on 10 May. India and Pakistan on the first day of the technical talks on Amritsar-Lahore bus service agreed to begin the service once in a week. The two sides will hold

last round of the two-day talks tomorrow.

Pakistani and Indian maritime officials have started talks at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi for setting up a communication link between them.

5 May 2005

Pakistan has identified certain tariff and non-tariff barriers being imposed by India to marginalize its exports that includes higher tariffs, import bans, quotas, import licensing, restrictions through state monopolies, certification requirements, inter-provincial movement of goods, limited ports and inland customs posts.

APRIL 2005

27 April 2005

The second round of Pakistan-India composite dialogue, which was scheduled for April-June, has been delayed and now it is likely to be held between May and September this year.

26 April 2005

The World Bank announced it was ready to appoint a neutral expert to resolve the Baglihar dam water dispute between India and Pakistan.

23 April 2005

Border forces of Pakistan and India have made 'significant progress' on some 'sensitive and delicate' issues and agreed to complete joint verification, repair and maintenance of boundary pillars along the international border and to maintain status quo on the disputed land.

18 April 2005

A joint has been issued after the meeting between President Pervaiz Musharraf and Indian Premier Manmohan Singh. India and Pakistan agreed that their peace process was "irreversible" and

pledged to increase transport links across divided Kashmir, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said reading from a joint statement. India and Pakistan vowed decided to pursue the proposed \$4b gas pipeline from Iran to South Asia, shrugging off US concerns over the project.

17 April 2005

The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf arrives in New Delhi.

13 April 2005

With the fate of Indo-Iran gas pipeline remaining uncertain amidst concerns raised by the USA, Pakistan today invited India to join the TAP (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan) pipeline project.

7 April 2005

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh flagged off the bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

2 April 2005

India and Pakistan have launched 'back-channel diplomacy' to prepare for President Pervez Musharraf's planned visit to New Delhi on 16 April.

1 April 2005

Pakistan has denied permission to a number of non-Hurriyat, Kashmiri political leaders, including Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah and Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, to travel to Muzaffarabad by bus from Srinagar on 7 April.

MARCH 2005

27 March 2005

After a delay of two decades, the US has decided to sell the latest version of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan. The number of aircraft to be supplied is subject to

negotiations, but the State Department spokesman made it clear that these would be new planes and not those manufactured for Pakistan in the 1980s.

23 March 2005

Commemorating the 13th century visit of famous Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya to Multan in Pakistan, a march for peace to the same destination was flagged off from New Delhi by eminent peace activists.

21 March 2005

A 92-member delegation from Pakistan today joined the re-enactment of the Dandi March organised by the All-India Congress Committee to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic yatra led by Mahatma Gandhi.

18 March 2005

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee today sent out a cautious signal to Washington that the supply of weapons including F-16 fighter planes, by the USA to Pakistan could impact the composite dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad.

16 March 2005

Pakistan Foreign Affairs Minister Khursheed Mahmood Kasuri says there is no need for third party mediation on Kashmir issue.

15 March 2005

The Pakistan government has issued release orders for 589 Indian prisoners as a gesture of goodwill towards New Delhi, an official statement said.

14 March 2005

Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, accorded an unprecedented reception to the Chief Minister of Indian

Punjab, Amarinder Singh, who started his four-day Pakistan visit this morning.

9 March 2005

Pakistan wants India to remove restrictive trade policies, like non-tariff barriers, which inhibit export growth from Pakistan, to allow consideration of other issues, like the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) status. A team of doctors of Pakistani origin has offered to adopt an Indian village to take care of all its healthcare needs.

Pakistan has built bunkers and reinforced defence structures in Tanghdar, Batalik, Kargil and Nowshera sectors since the November 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC), Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said.

8 March 2005

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said that India had accepted Pakistan's proposal for an 'energy corridor' and the Indian petroleum minister would be invited for talks on the project.

7 March 2005

Pakistan, engaged in improving relations with India, said it was preparing for an early release of 700 Indian prisoners whose nationality had been confirmed by the Indian Government.

6 March 2005

Hordes of Pakistani cricket fans today swooped down on the border checkpoint at Wagah for the first Test between India and Pakistan in Mohali.

2 March 2005

The Pakistan Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz, said that Islamabad was going ahead with the arrangements to begin

the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service from 7 April.

Over 900 Indian fishermen and civilians who have completed their jail terms are expected to be released soon, the Pakistan Foreign Office said.

1 March 2005

The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has ordered the immediate release of 200 Indian civilian prisoners who have completed their term in Pakistan's jails.

FEBRUARY 2005

28 February 2005

India made it clear that it would go ahead with the controversial Baglihar dam project in Jammu and Kashmir that Pakistan has taken to the World Bank for arbitration.

22-23 February 2005

The two-day meeting of Joint Study Group (JSG) (on economic cooperation), set-up Working/Sub-Groups on Customs Cooperation & Trade Facilitation and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs).

15-17 February 2005

Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh's three-day visit to Pakistan. Agreement on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad was concluded; an agreement for operationalising the new bus service between Amritsar and Lahore also was reached.

JANUARY 2005

29 January 2005

Pakistan arrests 43 Indian fishermen and seizes their seven boats off the coast of Karachi for allegedly entering its territorial waters.

19 January 2005

Terming the firing from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir as "violation of ceasefire", India take up the issue with Pakistan.

10 January 2005

Pakistan asks India to suspend work on the Baglihar dam, warning that the issue could sour peace process between the two countries.

6 January 2005

Pakistan repatriates 266 Indian fishermen, caught on the charge of illegally entering the Pakistani waters, via the Wagah border crossing.

5 January 2005

India and Pakistan have launched the joint survey of Sir Creek, the disputed coastal strip off Gujarat coast, to identify the boundary pillars installed in 1924.

4-5 January 2005

India and Pakistan hold bilateral talks on Baglihar Dam issue. The talks fail to produce any positive outcome except exchange of technical data.

DECEMBER 2004

31 December 2004

India and Pakistan exchange lists of their nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.

27-28 December 2004

Foreign Secretary level talks to review second round of Composite Dialogue in Islamabad pledge to carry the peace process forward and explore other confidence-building measures.

14-15 December 2004

Talks on nuclear and conventional confidence building measures end with no tangible outcome. The two sides, however, decide to meet again. India and Pakistan in two day talks on Sir Creek have agreed to begin a joint survey of boundary pillars in the disputed area.

12-13 December 2004

The two-day delegation-level talks on drug-trafficking end with both countries resolving to wage war against the menace of narcotics and psychedelic substances.

7-8 December 2004

Two-day talks on proposed bus service between Srinagar and Muzafarabad fails on the issue of travel documents to be used by commuters. The two countries decide to talk again.

4 December 2004

Pakistan and India on Saturday agreed to hold next round of talks in Karachi/Islamabad to carry forward discussions on draft proposals for finalising Memorandum of Understanding to establish hotlines between the Maritime Security Agency and Indian Coast Guards.

2-3 December 2004

Indian and Pakistani Railway delegations meet in Islamabad to discuss on the restoration of the Munabao-Khokhrapar rail link.

2 December 2004

Commanders of the Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers reach an agreement to delegate powers to the area commanders to make a ground assessment and resolve a border dispute.

NOVEMBER 2004

25 November 2004

India accepts to reopen Khokhrapar-Munabao rail link between Pakistan and India by October next year.

23-24 November 2004

Pakistani Prime Minister, ShaikatAziz visits India.

SEPTEMBER 2004

5-6 September 2004

Review the status of the Composite Dialogue by the Foreign Ministers.

4 September 2004

Review progress in the Composite Dialogue and report to the Foreign Ministers.

AUGUST 2004

3-4 August 2004

Composite Dialogue on Promotion of Friendly Exchanges.

5-6 August 2004

Composite Dialogue on Demilitarising the Siachen Glacier.

6-7 August 2004

Composite Dialogue on Demarcation of the international boundary between the two countries in the Sir Creek area.

10-11 August 2004

Composite Dialogue on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking.

11-12 August 2004

Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

JULY 2004

29-30 July 2004

Composite Dialogue on Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project.

INDO-PAK PEACE PROCESS
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 2004-05

JUNE 2004

27-28 June 2004

Composite Dialogue on Confidence Building Measures and Jammu & Kashmir.

JANUARY 2004

6 January 2004

India, Pakistan announce resumption of bilateral talks on all issues, including Kashmir, to begin in February.

5 January 2004

Vajpayee and Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf meet for the first time since 2001.