

China and India in border talks

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(Asian Times) India and China began an eighth round of talks on their long-standing border dispute. The focus was this time on devising a framework for a settlement of the issue on the basis of the *"political parameters and guiding principles"* finalized during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in 2005. The demarcation of the border can only begin after the framework is realized, official sources say. Indian National Security Adviser M K Narayanan and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Binguo met in Beijing in what is seen as another step forward on the slow road to resolution. After the last round of talks between Narayanan and Dai, held in March 2006 in India, the former said he was hopeful of arriving at a basic framework for resolution *"within the next two to three rounds"*. As in the case of the preceding seven rounds, this week's talks were held behind closed doors and details of what was discussed were not made public.

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