



INDIA'S BORDER MANAGEMENT WITH PAKISTAN-AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

KEYWORDS:

Border, Boundaries, Border
Guarding Forces, Illegal
Immigration, Indian Sub-
Continent, Neighbours,
RAW

Boundaries are the framework of a nation. The location of boundary determines the rules and laws that the people have to follow, the national culture with which they would be identified with, and many other such things. Boundary questions have often led to war in the history for numerous reasons. Before one delves deeper into this subject, one needs to define the terms that are often used as synonyms: boundary and border. To sum up, boundary is to be defended in times of war; border has to be patrolled in times of peace to prevent illegal immigration and to control smuggling, trafficking etc; and needs to be consolidated by evolving appropriate socio – economic and political policies¹. Boundaries perform a variety of functions, namely, political, strategic, administrative and cultural and also have a psychological, economic, cultural, anthropological and a strategic significance.

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of boundaries in the Indian subcontinent has a long historical legacy, which often has been a source of tension and conflict between neighbours. Like all boundaries in South Asia, India's boundaries are also man-made. India shares 14,880 kilometres of boundary with Pakistan (3323 km), China (3488 km), Nepal (1751 km), Bhutan (699 km), Myanmar (1643 km), and Bangladesh (4097 km). India's boundary with each of its neighbours runs through a variety of ecological milieus, each with its own unique setting and associated problems. India-Pakistan border areas are spread across extreme climatic conditions wherein the boundary runs from the hot Thar Desert in Rajasthan to the cold Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir.

Some of our maritime boundaries are still unsettled. Land borders are also not fully demarcated. Sections of our borders are based on artificial boundaries and not based on natural features. Institutional mechanisms for coordinating intelligence gathering, sharing and intelligence coordination are weak. India's neighbourhood is in turmoil. Several of India's neighbours and particularly Pakistan are undergoing political and economic instability. India also has continuing border disputes with several of its neighbours.

Uncertain borders not only raise bilateral tensions but also facilitate cross border infiltration, illegal migration, smuggling and crime. Illegal migration has emerged as one of the major national security challenges. The Group of Ministers undertook a thorough review of border management issues and made several recommendations in 2001. Many of these recommendations are being implemented. It is, however, clear that managing borders is likely to be prove a long and

complex task. Despite best intentions and efforts, fool proof borders are unlikely to materialize in the short term in the context of India and Pakistan.

THE CONCEPTUAL ISSUES OF BORDER MANAGEMENT

Borders and Boundaries

Boundaries are the framework of a nation. The location of boundary determines the rules and laws that the people have to follow, the national culture with which they would be identified with, and many other such things. Boundary questions have often led to war in the history for numerous reasons. Before one delves deeper into this subject, one needs to define the terms that are often used as synonyms: boundary and border.

- **Boundary:** It is a line of demarcation, based on political agreements that determine the limits of legal and administrative jurisdiction of a sovereign independent state. Boundary has international legal significance. Defence of the boundary is the primary responsibility of the armed forces².
- **Border:** It is the area that extends inwards from the boundary. The depth of the border may vary depending upon the terrain and the geopolitical location of the area concerned. Unless otherwise specified, the administrative infrastructure of the border is the same as that of other parts of the country. Defence of the border, especially in peacetime, is the primary responsibility of the appropriate para - military forces like the BSF, ITBP etc.

To sum up, boundary is to be defended in times of war; border has to be patrolled in times of peace to prevent illegal immigration and to control smuggling, trafficking etc; and needs to be consolidated by evolving appropriate socio – economic and political policies³. Boundaries perform a variety of functions, namely, political, strategic, administrative and cultural and also have a psychological, economic, cultural, anthropological and a strategic significance. It thus assumes importance in not only the functions it performs but also in its very nature of raising conflicts and thereby affecting peace and stability in a region. The boundary negotiations between states usually originate once a conflict of interest develops or seems imminent.

EVOLUTION OF BOUNDARIES IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

- **Pre 1947:** The evolution of boundaries in the Indian subcontinent has a long historical legacy, which often has been a source of tension and conflict between neighbours. Before 1947, the Indian subcontinent was a single geographical unit comprising present day India, Pakistan, Nepal,

Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and marked by political, social and economic unity. People and goods were free to move anywhere in the subcontinent unhindered by barriers.

- **Post 1947:** Political and administrative compulsions led to the division of the subcontinent and the eventual break-up of its social and economic unity as well. States based on religious and ethnic identities were carved out from this single geographical unit. Boundaries hastily drawn to give shape to the new political entities did not follow any distinct physical feature. These superimposed lines cut across ethnic, social and economic communities, severing social and economic ties among the people straddling these new borders. Consequently, people of the same village often found themselves citizens of two different countries separated by a line. Their livelihoods were severely threatened by the disruption of trade as barriers were erected in the way of the smooth flow of cargo and passengers.



- **India's Boundaries with Pakistan:**

India's boundary with each of its neighbours runs through a variety of ecological milieus, each with its own unique setting and associated unique problems. India-Pakistan border areas are spread across extreme climatic conditions given that the boundary runs from the hot Thar Desert in Rajasthan to the cold Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir. The diverse ecological and climatic

conditions create immense hurdles for extending the security and administrative reach in these border areas. Coupled with this, the man-made nature of these boundaries also throws up serious issues such as border disputes, porous borders, continuance of trans-border ethnic and social ties, etc. Together, they pose a serious challenge to the effective management of the borders in general and particularly with Pakistan.



PECULIARITIES OF INDIA'S BORDER WITH PAKISTAN

India shares 3323 km long and complicated boundary with Pakistan. The India-Pakistan boundary is categorised under three different heads⁴.

- **International Boundary.** International boundary is also known as the 'Radcliff line'. It is 2340 km long and stretches from Gujarat to parts of Jammu district in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Line of Control.
- Actual Ground Position Line.

The borders between India and Pakistan can be further subdivided as under⁵: -

- **Gujarat Border:** The total stretch along this border is 508 Kms and is characterised by arid wasteland and large number of creeks. The population is sparse and there is lack of vegetation and water. The high salt content in the soil and extremely hot temperatures make the area unsuitable for agriculture. The resultant poverty and abundance of creeks lends the area to nefarious trans-border activities.
- **Rajasthan Border:** The 1,037 Kms long border along Rajasthan stretches from Sanchor in the South to Ganganagar in the North. However, the major portion of this land comprises of the Thar Desert on own side. The area opposite this region comprises the Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan. The construction of Indira Gandhi Canal (IGC) has created a Green Belt, which is popularly referred to as the Semi Desert region.
- **Punjab Border:** The stretch of 553 Kms long border extends from Abohar in the South to Madhopur in the North. The region is highly fertile and most prosperous amongst the border areas. Population centers straddle the IB and coupled with excellent road and rail communications region is ideally suited for subversion and trans border

immigration. Basins and alignment of three major rivers i.e. Ravi, Sutlej and Beas and their tributaries provide alternate routes for smugglers and other anti national elements to reach areas in depth with relative ease.

- **J & K Border.** The most complicated arrangements for border management – probably anywhere in the world exist here. The whole of 1,225 Kms long borders can be divided into three sectors i.e. the IB sector, LC sector and the AGPL.

(i) IB Sector (240 Km). The IB sector extends from Madhopur in the South to Sangam in the North. This sector generally corresponds to the border districts of Samba, Kathua and Jammu. The area is also referred to as the plains sector of J&K but has large tracts of broken country and large number of water bodies flowing across. Terrain and the large number of 'enclaves' in the region make the area conducive for infiltration and smuggling of arms in support of the militant groups operating in the valley and more particularly those operating in Doda district.

(ii) LC Sector (776 Kms). LC sector extends from Sangam in the South to NJ 9842 in the North. This sector corresponds to the border districts of Chamb – Jaurian, Akhnour, Rajouri, Poonch, Uri, Baramula, Kargil and some portion of Leh rising to almost 20,000 feet. The region lacks international recognition and hence victor is the keeper, implying that any territory usurped by a side goes to that side or simply put your sovereign control extends to the line of your control. LC by its nature runs through villages and has no geographical basis – thus splitting villages through and through.

(iii)AGPL Sector (110 Kms). The AGPL sector extends from NJ 9842 to Indira Col in the North(Endnotes)



CHALLENGES

The India-Pakistan boundary does not follow any geographical barrier. It runs through diverse terrain like deserts, marshes, plains, snow clad mountains, and winds its way through villages, houses and agricultural lands making it extremely porous. Porosity of this border has facilitated various illegal activities such as smuggling, drugs and arms trafficking, and infiltration. Heroin and fake Indian currency are the two predominant items of smuggling along this border. Other items include saffron, textile, mercury, which are smuggled from Pakistan. The villagers adjacent to the border are alleged to be involved in smuggling in a big way. In addition, the border population has also been subjected to hostile propaganda by Pakistan designed to mislead and sway their loyalties. The Sir Creek area, due to its peculiar terrain, makes the movement of border guarding forces very difficult and thus, provides scope for illegal fishing in the creeks⁶.

Pakistan since its inception has tried to destabilize India by fanning a number of insurgencies, like the Punjab insurgency in the 1980s and Kashmir since 1990⁷. It has also stroked insurgencies in the north-eastern states through Nepal and Bangladesh. It provides active support in the form of weapons, training camps across the border, funding and propaganda. Presence of demographic similarity, near contiguous villages and harsh terrain coupled with the vagaries of weather make the area ideal for infiltration. High mountain ridges and primary forests on the Western Himalayan slopes are ideal sites for hideouts / camps being extremely remote and difficult to patrol regularly⁸.

The links of ISI with Muslim fundamentalist groups in India and the underworld are well established and documented, 26/11 attacks in Mumbai and Attack on Parliament in the year 2001 are a grim reminder of the imminent threat. Effectively sealing the border with Pakistan to prevent any unregulated move of persons or goods is perhaps the only solution (in the short term), to prevent anti national elements and material into India till Kashmir Issue is resolved⁹.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO BORDER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Task Force on Border Management: Kargil Review Committee

Based on the recommendations of the Review Committee, in April 2001 the Government of India set up a Task Force on Border Management under the Chairmanship of Madhav Godbole. This Task Force was part of a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to review the national security system as a whole and the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee in particular. The Task Force's objective was to "consider measures for border management and, in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee in this regard and formulate specific proposals for the GoM's consideration"¹⁰.

The chapter on Border Management in the Group of Ministers' (GoM) Report states that proper border management is vital for national security and it should be viewed in its widest sense implying coordination and concerted action by political, administrative, diplomatic, security, intelligence, legal, regulatory and economic agencies of the country to secure the borders. The Chapter details the problems of border management, which include undefined borders (both maritime and land border), porosity, multiplicity of border guarding forces (BGF) on the same border, repeated withdrawal of large number of BGF for internal security, counter-insurgency and other duties, lack of institutional arrangement for intelligence sharing, illegal migration, smuggling, and vulnerability of coastal areas and airspace. The GoM recommended that the Government should resolve all outstanding border problems and demarcate all land and maritime boundaries. They also recommended the establishment of a Border Management Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Home Secretary. The principle of 'one border one force' may be adopted. The BGF needs to be differentiated from Central paramilitary Forces and Central Police Organisations as they have distinct functions. Whenever the Army is given the charge of a border, the BGF should work under the overall command of the Army.

The GoM recommended enhancement of vigilance along the Rajasthan and Gujarat border. They also recommended the augmentation of resources of the Border Security Force (BSF), Police and Customs to meet the challenges of the coastal and creek areas of Gujarat. The GoM further recommended the up gradation and strengthening of police stations along the Indo-Nepal border. Immigration Check Points should be increased along the borders and demarcation of the border should be completed.

For the identification of illegal immigrants, the GoM recommended the issuance of Multi-Purpose National Identity Cards and the launching of Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigner scheme. For development of the border areas, the GoM recommended that a composite plan should be formulated for border area developmental activities. At least 15 per cent of the total outlay under BADP should be entitled to the BGF for undertaking security related works. Participation of people in the border areas should be encouraged for keeping vigil of the borders and reporting any illegal activities. For this, a village volunteer force may be created.

Assessment of Border Security Apparatus:

At the top echelon of the hierarchy, Indian border security is handled by the Cabinet Committee on Security, which oversees the entire internal security apparatus. The Ministry of Home Affairs, analogous to the interior ministries responsible for internal security in many countries, is the key ministry. It handles most operational aspects of both border security and internal security, and has traditionally been a very powerful player in the Indian government. Coordination takes place with involvement from the Cabinet Secretariat staffed by civil servants, and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). In addition, a number of administrative, intelligence, and enforcement agencies are involved, as are similar organizations at the state level in India's federal government structure.

Within the Home Ministry, the principal department responsible solely for border security is the Department of Border Management. This was created in 2004 to be principally accountable for managing international and land borders although, as mentioned above, it carries out its responsibilities in conjunction with several state and central governmental bodies. The department oversees the strengthening of border policing and surveillance, infrastructure amelioration through the building of roads and fences, and the flood lighting of borders. Intelligence responsibilities are shared among at least 12 organizations, which report to different ministries. The Intelligence Bureau, the primary agency responsible for internal intelligence, reports to the home minister. The Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), responsible for foreign intelligence, falls under the Cabinet Secretariat and therefore indirectly reports to the Prime Minister. The Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), and the Aviation Research Centre are under the purview of the National Security Adviser (NSA). The NSA also manages the National Security Council and the National Security Council Secretariat. Each of the armed forces has their own intelligence agencies. There is also an umbrella body called the Defence Intelligence Agency. There are several more agencies, including the Financial Intelligence Unit, that handle financial security.

The land border security apparatus involves specialized paramilitary organizations to include Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Assam Rifles, Sahastra Seema Bal, the Border Security Force, and the Special Frontier Force. All of these report to the Home Ministry except the Special Frontier Force, which is under the control of India's external intelligence wing, the RAW. Battalions of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police have also been put under operational command of the Indian Army. In addition, the Indian Army, and the Indian Police Service have responsibilities along the borders. The enforcement arm of the border security apparatus also suffers from weak coordination. The most difficult problem is coordination between state and central agencies, and it operates both at the political level, between the national government and the elected chief ministers of the states, and especially in the area of policing.

Finally, despite the fact that there are a multitude of agencies responsible for the physical patrolling of borders, there are fewer coordination issues between those agencies. This is partly because there are no conflicting or competing jurisdictions and partly because most of the internal security enforcement agencies report to the Home Ministry. The internal security apparatus faces additional challenges with a poorly trained and understaffed police force, an outdated and overburdened legal system, and insufficient modern equipment.

Regulation of the Borders:

Effective regulation of the movement of people and goods is the hallmark of good border management. For this government has to facilitate legitimate travel and trade, while at the same time preventing illegal migration, smuggling and infiltration of insurgents and terrorists. Building barriers is an effectual means of preventing illegal egress and ingress of people and goods. In the mid 1980s the Government of India decided to build a fence along Indo-Pak border. The success of fencing along this border inspired the government to raise similar fence along indo-Bangladesh border as well. To increase the efficacy of the fence at night extensive flooding of the same is also being undertaken.

Border Management along Indo-Pak Border:

IB Sector: Due to the prevalent threats described above a deliberate effort has been made over the years to seal the borders with Pakistan to prevent physical movement of men and material other than designated places. As a result fencing and floodlighting along Indo-Pakistan border has been in progress since 1980. Border fencing and floodlighting works along the entire Indo-Pakistan border had been completed except in Gujarat and barring realignment of about 60 km (38 km in Jammu and 22 km in Punjab sectors) and riverine and washed away gap filling activities (17 km in Punjab) are now in progress. The Government has approved a comprehensive proposal for erecting fencing, floodlighting and construction of border/link roads and Border Out- Posts for Border Security Force in the Gujarat sector of the Indo-Pak border.¹¹

L of C Sector - Anti Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS):

It was observed that while infiltration in the IB sector had dropped to insignificant levels at places where IB fence had come up, however L of C sector due to its difficult terrain and devoid of effective anti-infiltration measure was still prone to infiltration. In last decade a concerted effort has been made to erect a fence under the aegis of the army, in depth to prevent such moves. As a result the infiltration levels have drastically dropped since last 3-4 years¹².

Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)

One of the measures that was agreed upon is to set-up Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at major entry points on our land borders. These ICPs would house all regulatory agencies like Immigration, Customs, border security, etc together with support facilities like parking, warehousing, banking, hotels etc. in a single complex equipped with all modern facilities.

Accordingly, the approval of the Government was obtained to set-up ICPs at 13 locations on Indo-Pakistan, Indo-Nepal, Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Myanmar borders as a plan scheme under the 11th Five year plan at an estimated cost of 635 crore.¹³

Border Area Development Programme

The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has been implementing a Border Area Development Programme (BADP) through the State Governments as a part of a comprehensive approach to border management with the aim to meet the special developmental needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border. The programme covers 366 border blocks of 96 border districts of 17 States located along the international land border.

The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is being implemented under the guidelines framed by the erstwhile Planning Commission. The funds, which were allocated by the erstwhile Planning Commission annually, were re-allocated to the Border States taking into consideration length of International Border, population of the border block and area of the border block. Weightage of 15% over and above the total allocation is also given to States having hilly/desert/Kutchh areas.¹⁴

Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

To facilitate bilateral dialogue on matters of mutual concern regarding border management, the Government of India has constituted a system of institutionalized interaction through the meetings of home secretaries, area commanders of border guarding forces and the Joint Working Group on Border Management. India has also constituted similar institutional mechanisms with Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan. These bilateral mechanisms have been helpful in sensitizing each other about their respective security concerns and formulating strategies for better management of the border.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Border Guarding Forces (BGF)

These forces need to be dedicated to their tasks of guarding borders and should not be employed on CI duties or maintenance of law and order. Allotting of powers of jurisdiction and detention under the customs act and Cr Pc to other CPOs, such as ITBP and AR could be done; at present such powers are restricted to the BSF only. Further, these forces need to be strengthened in the following aspects: -

- (a) Maintain minimum strength at all times.
- (b) Equipment profile to cater for their specific roles.
- (c) Intelligence capability in terms of personnel and equipment.

Peace Time Border Management and the Army. In theory, the army in peace time should have no border management responsibilities. In practice however this has not been possible. Starting from 1947 war with Pakistan and with China in 1962, army has been defending on a permanent basis in many places the border with Pak in J&K and Indo-China border. In theory again, peace time border

management should enable smooth transition from peace to a planned war fighting posture, both offensive and defensive. Failure to ensure this could result in surprises that hit India in 1962, 1965 and even in 1999 in J&K. Despite several wars and conflicts, India's borders continue to be manned by a large number of military, paramilitary and police forces, each of which has its own ethos, and each of which reports to a different central ministry at New Delhi, with almost no real coordination in managing the borders, while the BSF should be responsible for all settled borders, the responsibility for unsettled borders, such as the line of control in J&K and Line of Actual Control on the Indo-Tibetan border should be that of the Army¹⁵. The principle of single point control must be followed if the borders are to be effectively managed.

Reorganising Border Guarding Forces.

Brig Jaspal Singh, who has been a DIG of BSF, has reviewed the current border policing arrangements and made a number of recommendations¹⁶. He opines that "there is a lack of direction and focus in India's border management, the present arrangement of command, control, organisational structures, mission statements and in that backdrop, the ability of these organizations to effectively absorb technology towards enhancing efficiency in their assigned missions"¹⁷. His recommendations for BGF peace time management restructuring are as under:-

- (a) The entire Indo-Tibetan border should be directly guarded by the army and there is no requirement of any ITBP deployment.
- (b) In J&K, the LOC and the AGPL should be guarded by the army. There is no requirement of BSF companies along LOC interspersed between army battalions.
- (c) The BSF should be bifurcated into two BGFs, one retaining the name BSF, for the Indo-Pakistan IB, and the other could be called Eastern Frontier Rifles.
- (d) BGF battalions should be authorized hand held Image Intensifiers, Battle field Surveillance Radars, ground sensors and much increased scale of modern communications equipment.
- (e) BGF troops should be organized as lightly armed scout forces, and the presently existing fire support units of mortars and artillery should be abolished.

Training of Border Guarding Forces - One of the factors of vital importance for border management is to have a well trained and dedicated border guarding force, which also has warm and friendly relations with the local population. Presently, it is observed that Government does not have a robust holistic training programme for the border guarding personnel, which is necessary for sensitising the security personnel towards the cultural nuances of every border area and help elicit better cooperation from the local population. Proper training and incentives are essential for keeping the morale of the border guarding personnel high¹⁸.

Legal/Administrative Jurisdiction of BGFs - The civil administration and political establishment in some states are sometimes not keen to allow the BGFs much physical space to exercise their legal rights with respect to border policing. Different states have ordered different distances into the interior for policing to be the legal responsibility of the BGFs. There is a need to confer the powers under the Customs Act and Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), as in the case of Border Guarding Forces.¹⁹.

Effectiveness of Borders:

Police Stations in the Border Zones. Up gradation and equipping of police stations in the border zones as well as coastal zones would provide a sound second tier for the forces guarding the borders and coastlines.

Sensitive Areas. There are many areas along our borders whose inherent socio-cultural and political dynamics could throw up serious challenges for border management in future, these need to be kept under strict vigil. Some of these are the Siliguri corridor along the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders and Sir Creek area along the Indo-Pakistan border.

Perception Management. Aggressive media posturing to counter subversive propaganda by hostile neighbours needs to be carried out in the border areas. This could be effectively done by extending coverage of the national media in the border areas that would require establishing of powerful transmitters erected in the areas of bordering and frontline states the coverage could well be extended to the Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

Role of Locals in Border Management - In a country of the size of India, it is almost impossible to seal off all the borders and even carry out continuous surveillance of the land borders, air space and maritime borders at the same time. Due to the lack of any occupation, the people living in border areas turn towards activities like cross-border smuggling, gunrunning and drug trafficking. If the local population living in the border areas can be incorporated into this task of managing the borders the problem can be reduced and the task of the security forces would be made much easier. Once the local population along the border areas is integrated in the mainstream of the country, therein a certain amount of moral responsibility would automatically come in. In order to incorporate the locals into the advent of border management certain actions are required to be taken as prerequisite such as improvement of living conditions of people in border areas and providing basic amenities and security to the people.

National Database - Establishment of a national network supported by a powerful data bank to check illegal immigration and unauthorized passage to the country is a necessity. This network would enable maintenance of negative lists and data sharing with the neighbouring countries.

Centre State Relations - Though the Government of India accepted recommendations of Task force headed by Dr Madhav Godbole and has even begun to implement them, many problems still persist at the ground level. These include lack of coordination between various central and state agencies, uncooperative state government departments, hostile local population, vested interests, lack of political will and strained neighbourly relations. It can be said without doubt that one area where the government needs to focus more is on centre-state relations. Most of the problems of implementation of any plan or programme stem from their mutually divergent perceptions and hence uncooperative attitude towards each other.

Improving Bilateral Relations - It is indeed surprising that India has managed to drive most if not all of our neighbours away from us and closer to China. Good neighbourly relations are a key to ensuring internal security and a gateway to resolving the greater issue of resolving our border issues by way of CBMs and bilateral mechanisms.

Legislation for Trans Border Offences - Arrested smuggling offenders, if handed over by the BGFs to the customs, are let off because the items may not warrant

detention of the individual under the customs act, 1962. Some these problems can be rationalized by legislating some overarching legislation that allows the system to hold such foreign offenders for simultaneous offence.

Bifurcation of Responsibilities between Ministries - The increasing internal security threat from left wing extremism as well as from Islamic fundamentalism, both internally and externally organized, requires a great deal of attention from the MHA. It is recommended that it shed its responsibility for security of J&K, Sino-Indian and Indo-Myanmar borders and transfer the same to the MoD. The MHA should however continue to retain the management of BADP. The ITBP and Assam Rifles will need to come fully under the MoD.

Specific Recommendations: Indo – Pak Border

- a. Responsibilities of guarding the border should be clearly earmarked between various agencies.
- b. **Use of Technology as Force Multipliers.** It is imperative that greater use of technology and equipment such as UAVs, Unmanned Ground Sensors (UGS), Radars, and Video monitoring using Thermal Imaging cameras is made. There is a need to incorporate the DRDO and the private industry to ensure that the equipment is available indigenously.
- c. **Security at Crossing Points.** Security and checking arrangements at Wagah, Poonch, Attari and other crossing points need to be strengthened.
- d. **Enhanced Security Measures.** There is a need to ensure strengthened security measures, as in Punjab, along Rajasthan and Gujarat borders and also to check infiltration, gunrunning and drug trade.
- e. **Monitoring of Religious Schools.** Areas close to our borders have off late seen a sudden upsurge in the number of Madrasas, some of which are funded by foreign countries and may be detrimental to the security of our borders.
- f. **Local Level Management.** There is a need to establish a formal system of flag meetings and hot lines between Rangers and the BSF commanders at battalion level to ensure that local incidents do not flare up,.
- g. Sensitising the population living in the border areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab would make the job of the border guarding forces easier.
- h. There is an urgent need to improve working conditions of the men. A holistic approach to tide over this problem needs to be adopted after working out the financial implications²⁰.

CONCLUSION

Due to the difficult terrain and complex socio-economic milieu along the borders, effective management of India's international borders is quite a challenging task. Problems like smuggling, drug and human trafficking, illegal movement of people, goods, insurgents, and criminals across the border, etc, have further added to this challenge. Although larger constraints like lack of political will, vested interests and lack of coordination between Centre and state governments and sensitising neighbours would require considerable time and concerted efforts to mitigate, smaller issues if handled properly, could definitely be resolved.

It is necessary to adopt a holistic approach towards border management involving a multi-dimensional, coordinated

and concerted efforts at the political level and amongst the agencies managing the aspects of administration, security, intelligence, legal, regulatory and economics. This paper attempts to analyse the Indo Pakistan border and the problems being faced by India.

ENDNOTES

- ^{1.} Prescott, *Op Cit* , PP 13-17.
- ^{2.} Yadav A S, *Genesis of Geographical Boundaries of the World*, (New Delhi: Anmol Publications, 1993), p. 20.
- ^{3.} Prescott, *Op Cit* , PP 13-17.
- ^{4.} Das Pushpita, *Op Cit*, PP 10.
- ^{5.} Das Pushpita, *loc cit*.
- ^{6.} Singh Surindur, *Op Cit*, PP 183-186.
- ^{7.} Verghese BG, *Why the Kashmir Story Needs Fresh Retelling*, *Asian Conversations*, New Delhi, Jun 2011, [http:// www.asianconversations.com/Kashmir.php](http://www.asianconversations.com/Kashmir.php)
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- ^{9.} Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, *Kashmir the True Story*, , [http://www.mea.gov.in/ staticfile / meapublication/19jk01.pdf](http://www.mea.gov.in/staticfile/meapublication/19jk01.pdf), PP 1.
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- ^{11.} *Ibid*.
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- ^{17.} *Ibid*, page 119.
- ^{18.} Singh Surindur, *Op Cit*, PP 77.
- ^{19.} Das Gautam, *Op Cit*, PP 104.
- ^{20.} Singh Surindur , *Border Management of India's Land Borders*, Trikut Radiat Publications, 2003, PP 67.