



India's Border and It's Management

For Prelims: [Indian Borders](#), [Tropical Evergreen Forests](#), [Territorial Water](#), [Exclusive Economic Zone \(EEZ\)](#), [Minerals](#), [Line of Control \(LoC\)](#), [Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#), [Thar Desert](#), [Golden Triangle](#), [Army](#), [Navy](#), [Air Force](#), [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#), [Indo-Tibetan Border Police \(ITBP\)](#), [Assam Rifles \(AR\)](#), [Indian Coast Guard](#), [Sashastra Seema Bal \(SSB\)](#), [Ordinance Supply Chain](#), [Long-range reconnaissance and observation systems \(LORROs\)](#), [Wireless Message Transfer Unit \(WMTU\)](#), [Group of Ministers \(GoM\)](#), [Department of Border Management](#), [Integrated Check Posts \(ICPs\)](#), [Night Vision Devices](#), [Radars](#), [Border Area Development Program \(BADP\)](#), [Vibrant Villages Programme \(VVP\)](#), [Radiological Material](#), [Public Private Partnership \(PPP\)](#), [Community Police Forces](#).

For Mains: Role of armed forces in securing Indian frontiers and safeguarding the nation.

What is Border Management?

- [Border management](#) is a security function that aims to secure our **frontiers** and safeguard our nation from the **risks** involved in the **movement** of **goods** and **people** from India to other countries and vice versa.
- It includes **regulation** of **legal** and [illegal immigration](#), ensuring **safe** and **secure movement** of authorized people and goods, and prevention of [smuggling](#), [human trafficking](#) and **infiltration**.
- The principle of “**One Border, One Border Guarding Force**” is followed by the Government of India to **secure the border**. In line with this philosophy
 - The **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** border is looked after by [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#)
 - The **China** border is looked after by [Indo-Tibetan Border Police \(ITBP\)](#)
 - The **Nepal** and **Bhutan** border is looked after by [Sashastra Seema Bal \(SSB\)](#)
 - The Myanmar border is looked after by [Assam Rifles \(AR\)](#).
- The [Line of Control \(LoC\)](#) on the **Indo-Pakistan border** and the [Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#) on the **Indo-China border** are protected by the [Indian Army](#).
- Security of the **coastal borders** lies with the [Indian Navy](#) and [Indian Coast Guard](#), with the State (Marine) Police acting as the second line of defense

How Many Countries are Sharing Border with India?

- **India** shares borders with **seven** different countries namely **Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan** and **Afghanistan**.
- The border passes through all varied **terrains** namely [deserts](#), **fertile lands**, [swampy marshes](#), **snow-covered peaks** and [tropical evergreen forests](#).
 - This kind of vast terrain makes us **vulnerable** to [insurgency](#), [illegal migration](#) and [smuggling](#).

How does India's Maritime Boundries Differentiated?

- **Territorial Water:**
 - It extends upto [12 nautical miles](#).
 - This zone is our **sovereign territory** and other countries have to take **permission** from

India to enter this area.

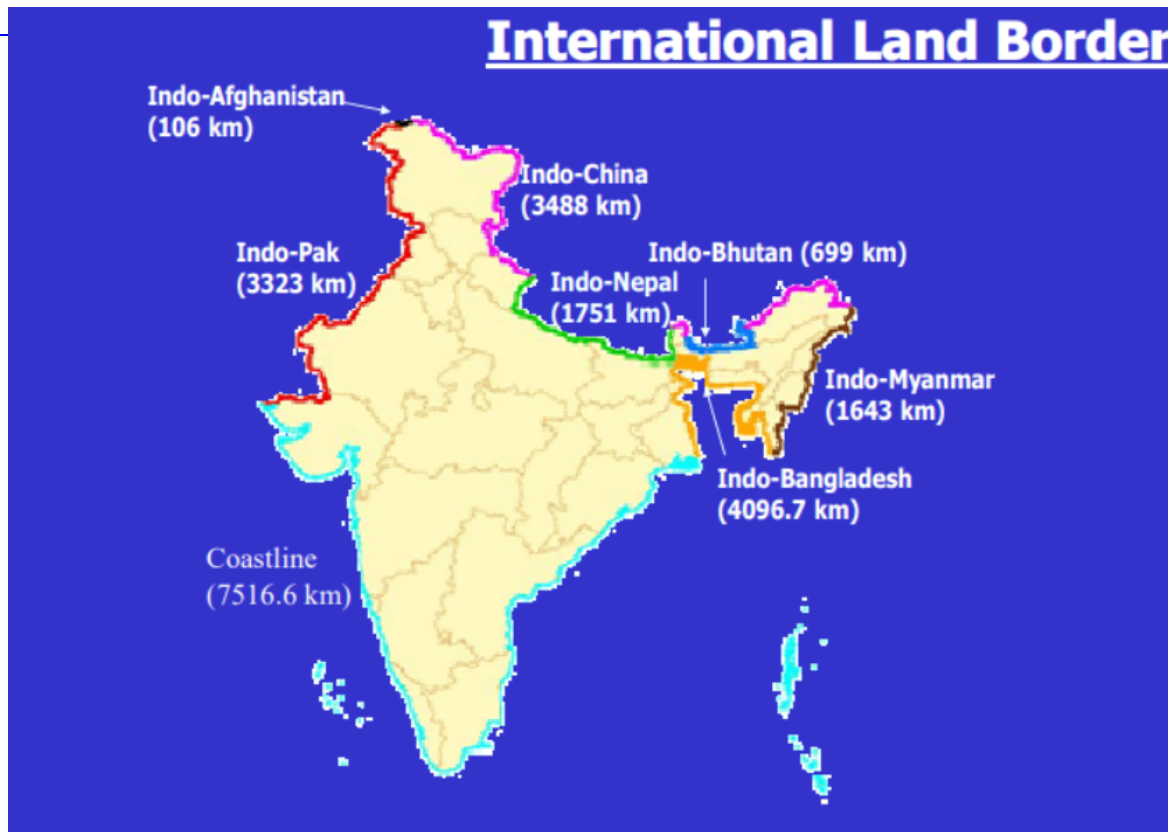
▪ **Contiguous Zone:**

- It extends up to **24 nautical miles** and is a zone of **hot pursuit** i.e., in this zone, a state can **chase** and **apprehend vessels** violating its laws or regulations
- Any **infringement** of customs, sanitary, immigration and fiscal regulations in the contiguous zone can also attract **punishment** from coastal states.

▪ **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):**

- It extends from the outer limit of the territorial sea up to [200 nautical miles](#).
- This is the zone where coastal states hold the right to **natural** and **economic resources** such as [minerals](#), **oil exploration** and **fishing**.
- **Ships** of other countries can **pass** through this zone as long as they do **not** pose any **threat** to the coastal states.

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What is the Role of the Department of Border Management?

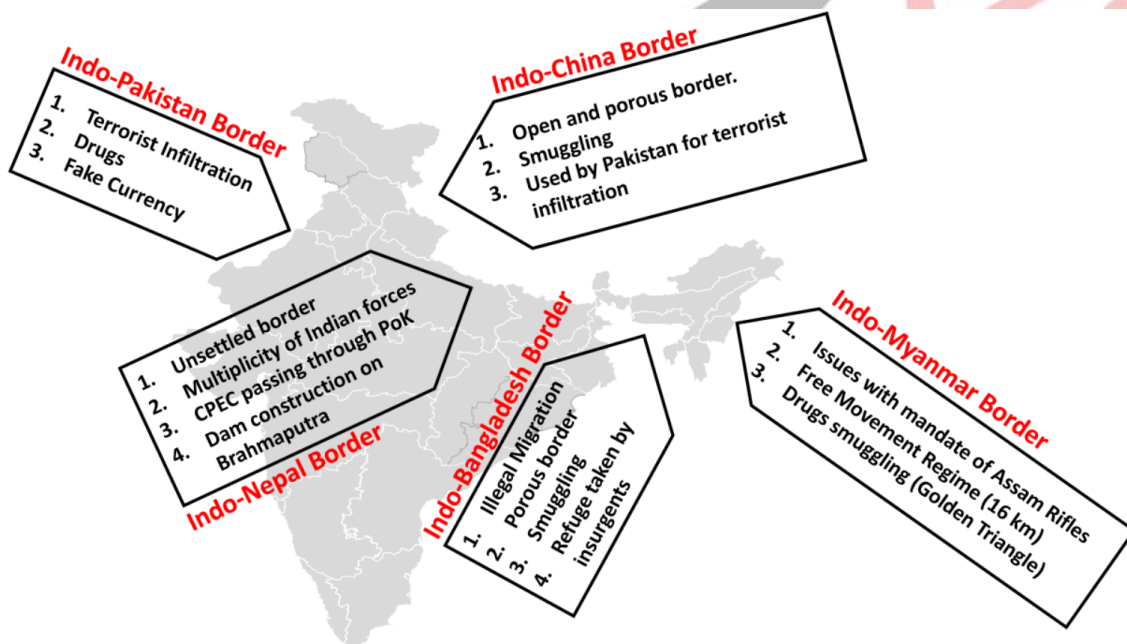
- The [Department of Border Management](#) was formed under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** in January 2004, following recommendations from the [Group of Ministers \(GoM\)](#) on border security.
- This department has been **entrusted** with the responsibility of all matters associated with **land borders** and **coastal borders**, with the **exception** of **LoC** in the Jammu and Kashmir sector.
- The roles and **responsibilities** of the Department of Border Management include **fencing** and **floodlighting**, **surveillance** and **patrolling**, **security infrastructure** development, intelligence report analysis, and development of [Integrated check posts \(ICPs\)](#).

What are the Challenges in Managing Indian Borders?

▪ **Indo-Pak Border Challenges:**

- **Varied Climatic Conditions:** India-Pakistan border runs from the hot [Thar desert](#) in Rajasthan to the cold [Himalayas](#) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Infiltration: Political instability** and crisis in Pakistan also lead to an upsurge in **cross-border infiltration** and threats due to terrorism.
- **Cross-Border Terrorism:** It stands out as one of the major reasons for **disaccord** between **India and Pakistan**.

- **Indo-China Border Challenges:**
 - It remains **disputed** along its **entire length** and is one of the key points of **friction** between the two countries over the past years.
 - Chinese **intrusions** and **face-off** have become more **frequent** and threaten to lead to **all-out conflict** between the two Asian giants.
- **Indo-Bangladesh Border Challenges:**
 - **Illegal immigration:** Due to the **porosity** of the border, the primary challenge has been the **influx** of **illegal immigrants** in India.
 - **Smuggling:** A Major challenge with this part of the Indian border is the smuggling of **arms, ammunition and drugs**.
- **Indo-Nepal Border Challenges:**
 - **Smuggling: Open borders** lead to illegal activities such as smuggling of **drugs, stolen vehicles** and **arms and ammunition** into India.
 - **Terrorism:** Lately, **anti-social** elements and [terrorist](#) organizations are also using this open border for a **least resistance passage** into India.
- **Indo-Myanmar Border Challenges:**
 - **Drug Trafficking:** [Insurgents](#) are extensively involved in drug trafficking, especially in areas such as **Moreh** in **Manipur** and [Golden Triangle](#) covering **Northern Thailand, Laos** and **Myanmar**.
 - **Insurgency:** The open border and **cross-ethnic ties** among the tribal community help insurgents **escape** from the hands of the border security forces.
- **Indo-Bhutan Border Challenges:**
 - **Smuggling:** It is one of the **major concerns** along this border.



Way Forward

- **Smart Identity Management:** The use of **biometrics** (photographs, fingerprints, face, iris, etc.) for **identification** is one of the smart ways of identity management.
- **Smart Inspection System:** **Non-invasive inspection** techniques such as explosive **vapor detectors**, **full-body scanners**, **metal detectors** and **handheld substance detectors** can be used for the detection of concealed **weapons, drugs, illicit radiological material**, etc.
- **Security and Surveillance System:** **Intrusion detection systems, watchtowers, surveillance cameras** and **laser curtains** need to be deployed at border areas along the border fence.
- **Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC):** It includes **information sharing** and collaborative approach between neighboring countries for border security for issues such as **human trafficking, arms or drugs smuggling, terrorist threats**, etc.
- **Development of Border Areas:** The government initiated the [Border Area Development](#)

[Program \(BADP\)](#) in **1987** to facilitate the provision of the required **socio-economic infrastructure** and adequate security. [Vibrant Villages Programme \(VVP\)](#) was launched for **comprehensive development** of the select villages in 19 districts of abutting the northern border in the States of **Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and UT of Ladakh**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

- Q.**The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders. to ferry arms / ammunition, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. **(2023)**
- Q.**What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organizational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. **(2022)**
- Q.**For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. **(2020)**
- Q.**Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management. **(2016)**
- Q.**How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bring out the factors which give impetus to such migration. **(2014)**
- Q.**How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar? **(2013)**

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