

Border Security Bill, 2025

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Border Security Bill, 2025

This Bill seeks to comprehensively address border security by integrating modern defence technology, strengthening diplomatic ties, enhancing counter-terrorism efforts, and enacting stringent legal provisions to ensure national security during emergencies.

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement

- a. This act may be called or referred to as the Border Security Bill, 2025.
- b. It shall come into force on the 1st day of June, 2025.
- c. This act extends to the States and Union Territories of India as defined under Article 12 of the Constitution.

2. Definitions

- a. **“Border”** refers to a geographical boundary that separates two countries, states, or territories. It defines sovereignty, controls movement, and regulates security and trade.
 - b. **“Embassies”** are defined as the headquarters of Government officials serving and representing their country in a foreign state.
 - c. **“Biometric”** means involving the automated recognition of individuals by means of unique physical characteristics, typically for the purposes of security.
 - d. **“Airbase”** An airbase is a military facility used for the operation, maintenance, and deployment of aircraft. It serves as a strategic hub for air defence, logistics, and combat missions.
 - e. **“Cross-Border Trade”** refers to the exchange of goods, services, or capital across international borders, which is subject to customs and regulations.
 - f. **“Smuggling”** refers to the illegal export or import of contraband which violates customs and regulations.
 - g. **“Battalion”** a large unit of soldiers that forms part of a larger unit in the army.
 - h. **“Crisis”** a time of intense difficulty or danger.
 - i. **“Coastal States”** refer to the nine states and four union territories that border the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Bay of Bengal.
 - j. **“Counterterrorism”** means actions by a group, army, etc., that are done to prevent terrorist attacks and destroy terrorist networks.
 - k. **“Terrorism”** the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.
 - l. **“Jurisdiction”** refers to the legal authority or power of a state, court, or law enforcement agency to make decisions, enforce laws, and administer justice within a defined territory.
 - m. **“Friendly Neighbours”** refers to countries that share diplomatic relations, mutual respect, and cooperation in matters of trade, security, and cultural exchange.
 - n. **“Weaponry”** weapons regarded collectively.
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Chapter 1
Defence Modernization for Border Security

3. Border Infrastructure & Surveillance Enhancement-

- a. The Government shall allocate a Border Security Infrastructure Fund of somewhere around Rs. 7000, which is an increase from the previous fund of Rs. 5597.25, from the Consolidated Fund of India which will be used for the construction and upgradation of border roads, tunnels, and outposts.

4. Upgrading Border Forces & Equipment-

- a. Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and Assam Rifles shall receive modern weaponry, including assault rifles, anti-drone systems, and portable radars. Logistics management by the Army Ordnance Corps will ensure the timely delivery of weapons and technology while balancing inventory and optimizing the supply chain.
- b. Border forces shall undergo specialized high-altitude training for deployment in challenging terrains like Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. The training includes acclimatization programs, winter warfare tactics, avalanche survival drills, mountain combat training, and endurance exercises.

5. Integrated Defence Network-

- a. Theaterisation of command shall be done to coordinate operations between military, intelligence agencies, and paramilitary forces. This centralised command eliminates operational redundancies and enables rapid responses to security threats.
- b. Cross-border cyber monitoring units shall be established to counter cyber threats originating from hostile nations. These units will work in collaboration with cyber intelligence agencies to secure sensitive communication networks.

Chapter 2
Strategic Defence Ties with Neighbouring Countries

6. Bilateral & Multilateral Defence Cooperation-

- a. Border Security Cooperation Agreements shall be signed with Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar for intelligence-sharing and joint patrolling. India will focus on strengthening the previously made border agreements with Bhutan and Bangladesh. In conjunction, a Counterterror Intelligence Sharing Network (hereafter, CISN) shall be formed with Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar for real-time threat updates. The CISN shall function as an integrated intelligence-sharing mechanism to prevent cross-border terrorism. Logistics, including secured data centres, dedicated communication hubs, and rapid-response teams, shall be established at key border checkpoints: Agartala, Petrapole, Raxaul, Joghani and Moreh.
- b. Defence Attaché Offices shall be expanded in embassies of neighbouring countries to facilitate military diplomacy.
- c. A Joint Indo-Pacific Border Security Initiative shall be launched for strengthening regional stability. This will focus on sharing naval intelligence, coordinating anti-piracy operations, and establishing a multinational rapid-response framework for regional security threats.
- d. Annual joint border defence exercises shall be held with friendly neighbours for skill enhancement and to improve tactical cooperation.

7. Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs)-

- a. Bilateral Border Dispute Resolution Mechanisms shall be established to settle disputes with China and Pakistan through diplomatic dialogue.
- b. A Special Envoy for border security diplomacy shall be appointed. This diplomat will facilitate border agreements, resolve disputes and establish standardised protocols for de-escalation and conflict resolution.

Chapter 3

Anti-Terrorism and Infiltration Prevention

8. Strengthening Counterterrorism Cooperation-

- a. Cross-border counterterror operations shall be legally sanctioned under India's anti-terror laws including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) of 1967, the National Security Act (NSA) of 1980, and the National Investigation Agency Act of 2008, ensuring compliance with both domestic and international counterterrorism frameworks. Special operations shall be conducted under the oversight of the National Investigation Agency, following operational protocols set forth by previous successful cross-border missions, such as 2015 Myanmar Surgical Strike and the Balakot Air Strikes (2019).

9. Smart Border Fencing & Biometric Entry Systems-

- a. AI-powered smart fencing with automated alarm triggers shall be installed along high-risk borders. The AI analytics shall differentiate between genuine threats and false alarms, optimizing security operations and reducing human intervention in hazardous environments.
- b. Biometric authentication and RFID-tagged passports shall be made mandatory for cross-border travellers. These measures shall be integrated into existing immigration control systems.
- c. A Satellite Monitoring Program shall be developed for real-time border surveillance with ISRO collaboration.

10. Legal Framework for Border Security Operations-

- a. Fast-track courts shall be established in border states to prosecute infiltrators and terror suspects. These courts shall operate under the jurisdiction of the Border Security Special Tribunal and shall be set up in states and union territories with high infiltration rates, including Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, West Bengal, and Arunachal Pradesh, ensuring expedited trials for captured militants and smugglers.
- b. A National Anti-Terror Tribunal (hereinafter NATT) shall be set up to handle high-profile border terrorism cases with a specialized judicial bench. The NATT shall have nationwide jurisdiction, with the power to prosecute cross-border terrorism cases under the NIA Act, UAPA, and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita. Special compensation and legal assistance shall be provided to civilians affected by cross-border terrorism.

11. Securing Border-Area Tea Gardens to Combat Smuggling- Tea gardens near the Assam– West Bengal border are hubs for smuggling drugs, cattle, and gold, with militant groups like the United Liberation Front of Assam specially active in the region. The Government now proposes to take control of all tea gardens within 100 kilometres of the border. No legal proceedings shall lie against the Government or its authorised agencies for actions undertaken in furtherance of this measure.

Chapter 4
Strengthening India's Border Security

12. Expansion of Border Security Forces-

- a. Under the Border Security Force Act of 1968, the force functioned solely as a paramilitary peacekeeping unit under the authority of the Home Ministry. We propose integrating the Border Security Force into the broader Indian Armed Forces to enhance border management efficiency and responsiveness. The BSF will continue to remain on standby during times of conflict.
- b. A 15% increase in workforce for BSF, ITBP, and Assam Rifles shall be implemented within five years to strengthen India's defensive capabilities in vulnerable regions.

13. Indo-Tibetan Border Security Measures-

- a. A specialized Indo-Tibetan Security Task Force shall be created for the China border, addressing increasing transgressions by the People's Liberation Army.
- b. Border Village Defence Committees shall be set up to involve locals in intelligence gathering, border patrol, and counter-infiltration operations. These committees will operate under the supervision of BSF and state police forces, ensuring direct civilian participation in national security efforts.

14. Maritime and Coastal Security-

- a. Expansion of Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems for continuous monitoring. Special coordination teams shall be formed for coastal states to enhance rapid response against maritime threats.

15. National Border Security Emergency Plan-

- a. A Border Crisis Response Task Force shall be formed under the National Security Council. This task force shall consist of specialized military, intelligence, and cybersecurity units trained to oversee large-scale border incursions, sabotage attempts, and hybrid warfare scenarios.
- b. The President only at the behest of the Union Cabinet shall be authorized to enforce Special Border Security Protocols in high-risk zones. The task force will have absolute control over these high risk zones which include areas where there is a high amount of infiltration and illegal smuggling.

16. Bilateral Agreements for Trade Monitoring-

- a. Trade transparency agreements shall be signed with Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Nepal. A tripartite agreement has recently been signed between India, Nepal, and Bangladesh to finalise the power trade agreement draft. The move fits in with efforts by India in recent years to forge greater energy connectivity with our neighbouring countries through electricity transmission networks and petroleum pipelines.
- b. A Joint Trade Security & Facilitation Commission shall be established to oversee the implementation of trade monitoring agreements. This commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and respective trade ministries of partner countries, shall ensure seamless enforcement of trade regulations. Decisions of the JITSFC shall be binding and exempt from judicial review, with no requirement for parliamentary approval in matters deemed 'strategically sensitive.'
- c. Border trade compliance units shall inspect goods crossing borders. Arms, narcotics, and human trafficking prevention units shall be reinforced along borders.

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It is brought to light that any legal inconsistency is wholly unintentional and for the same we extend our apologies in advance.

Statement of Object and Reason

India shares over 15,000 kilometres of land borders with seven neighbouring countries, making it vulnerable to cross-border terrorism, infiltration, border disputes, illegal migration, smuggling, and hybrid warfare threats. The evolving geopolitical landscape necessitates a comprehensive legal and diplomatic framework to strengthen border security, modernize defence infrastructure, enhance strategic defence ties, and implement anti-infiltration measures. Existing legal provisions do not provide an integrated mechanism to address security concerns across land and maritime borders, requiring a harmonized approach involving the armed forces, intelligence agencies, and diplomatic efforts. This bill seeks to modernize border defence through AI-based surveillance and advanced technology, establish stronger security cooperation with neighbouring nations, curb illegal cross-border trade, and ensure rapid military mobilization in emergencies. It also aims to fortify national security through coordinated efforts among security forces, emergency preparedness mechanisms, and enforcement of strict legal provisions. By integrating defence modernization, counterterrorism policies, and diplomatic measures, this bill seeks to safeguard India's sovereignty, strengthen national security, and establish a legally binding framework for comprehensive border protection.

Gurugram
May 2025

Cabinet