

Indo-Bangladesh Border Management: Constraints and Indian Government Initiatives

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Abstract

India and Bangladesh, two nations share a common colonial past, heritage, values of secularism, democracy, linguistic and cultural ties. The relationship between India and Bangladesh is anchored in history and lies on the principles of Sovereignty, equality, trust, understanding, growth, and vision of peace and stability that goes far beyond a strategic partnership. In this regard the India Bangladesh Border has been described as the 'Problem area of tomorrow'. The problems include illegal migration and infiltrations, Drug smuggling & trafficking, and trans-border movement of terrorists & insurgents groups etc, which are serious threat to the security of the country. India shares its longest border with Bangladesh, but this border is not attentively managed. This paper analyses the problems arising along this border and reviews the internal and external dimensions and also response on recommendations of a report by the Group of Ministers on Border Management and the measures undertaken by the government to tackle the Problems. This article also suggests additional measures and implores the Government of India to adopt a pragmatic and people sensitive approach to improve border management.

Key Words: border management, gom, migration, infiltration, security.