



# **INDIA-BANGLADESH COORDINATED BORDER MANAGEMENT PLAN (CBMP)**

## **BORDER SECURITY FORCE - BORDER GUARD BANGLADESH**

### **Introduction**

1. India and Bangladesh share a long and densely populated border. The need to address issues related to cross-border activities and crimes as well as incidents of firing has been recognized. The Prime Ministers of the two countries in the Joint Communiqué in 2010 had underscored the need for both countries to cooperate actively on security issues. They had directed their respective Ministries and agencies to cooperate closely and implement all decisions taken during the talks. While recognizing the need to check cross border crimes, both Prime Ministers agreed that the respective border guarding forces exercise restraint and underscored the importance of regular meetings between the border guarding forces to curtail illegal cross border activities and prevent loss of lives.

2. These issues have been discussed in details in Home Secretary level meetings and they agreed to have a Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) for vulnerable areas including riverine areas.

### **Aim**

3. The aim of CBMP is to synergize the efforts of both the Border Guarding Forces (BSF and BGB) for more effective control over cross-border illegal activities and crimes as well as for maintenance of peace and harmony along India-Bangladesh Border.



## **Vulnerable Areas**

4. **Identification** . The areas along the India-Bangladesh border prone to cross border activities and crimes are considered vulnerable areas. A Joint India-Bangladesh team, will visit the vulnerable stretches and make an initial list for the purpose of the CBMP. The first of such list shall be prepared within three months of signing of the CBMP. Each Border Guarding Force thereafter will identify the vulnerable areas from their perspectives and share with each other. The list may be updated from time to time.

## **Coordination and Modalities**

5. Close coordination and an appropriate approach is required to curb illegal cross-border activities and crimes by both BSF and BGB. The level of coordination, responsibility and the allied modalities are highlighted in subsequent paragraphs.

6. **Nodal Officers**. The following will act as Nodal Officers nominated with appropriate rank :

| Serial | Indian (BSF)   | Bangladesh (BGB)  |
|--------|--|---|
| 1.     | Nodal Officer, BSF HQ<br>DIG (Staff Officer)             | Nodal Officer, BGB HQ<br>GSO-1 (Operation)              |
| 2.     | South Bengal Frontier<br>DIG/Comdt (Staff Officer)       | South - West Region<br>Sector 2IC/GSO-2 (Staff Officer) |
| 3.     | Malda/North Bengal Frontier<br>DIG/Comdt (Staff Officer) | North - West Region<br>Sector 2IC/GSO-2 (Staff Officer) |
| 4.     | Guwahati, Meghalaya &<br>Cachar Frontier (less           | North - East Region<br>Sector 2IC/GSO-2 (Staff Officer) |

| Serial | Indian (BSF)   | Bangladesh (BGB)                                 |
|--------|--|--|
|        | Mizoram Sector)<br>DIG/Comdt (Staff Officer)                               |  |
| 5.     | Region Tripura Frontier<br>and Mizoram Sector<br>DIG/Comdt (Staff Officer) | South – East<br>Sector 2IC/GSO-2 (Staff Officer) |

7. **Responsibilities of Nodal Officers.**

- a. Immediate intervention into any border issue, if deemed necessary, for prevention and peaceful settlement of the problem.
- b. Share understanding of problem with counterpart Nodal Officer and solve the issue in question.
- c. Ensure timely implementation of all developmental works (except military) within 150 yards of IB.
- d. Promote confidence building measures between the two border forces.
- e. Refer major issues to appropriate level.
- f. Discuss any other matter as deemed appropriate for attaining the goal of CBMP.

8. **Contact Method.** Communication through landlines and cell phones forms the prime means of contact between Nodal Officers of respective BSF-BGB Hqs, Regions/ Frontiers. Besides, e-mail address and a facsimile number are to be designated to exchange documents. The information is to be intimated to all concerned promptly. They will keep record of the communications referred to above.





9. **Frequency of Meeting.** The Nodal Officers would meet frequently and report to HQs about progress through proper channel, following guidelines below :

- a. BSF-BGB Hqs' Nodal Officers, may meet as and when required
- b. Region / Frontier level Nodal Officers may meet minimum twice in every quarter.
- c. Meetings at any level may be arranged on any special issues other than the quarterly meeting.

10. **Issues to be Dealt with by Nodal Officers.**

a. **Trans Border Activities and Crimes.**

- (i) Human trafficking
- (ii) Drug smuggling / trafficking
- (iii) Arms / Ammunition / Explosive trafficking
- (iv) Dealing of fake currency
- (v) Any trespassing (armed / unarmed) of Border
- (vi) Smuggling, theft, terrorism etc
- (vii) Straying of animals/cattle smuggling
- (viii) Incidents resulting in deaths and injury at border
- (ix) Illegal immigration
- (x) Inadvertent / Accidental crossing of land and riverine borders
- (xi) Any air violation

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- (xii) Kidnapping
  - (xiii) Any other related issues

b. **Border Issues.**

- (1) Coordinated patrolling.
- (2) Coordinated Pillar checking.
- (3) Flag meeting.
- (4) Border violations.
- (5) Implementation of developmental works within 150 yards of IB.
- (6) Coordinate screening of persons crossing border for trade purposes on the basis of lawful documents.
- (7) Any other points deemed appropriate.


**Working Modalities**

11. To check crimes, following to be carried out in coordination by the two border forces :

a. **Coordinated Patrolling.**

- (1) Coordinated Patrolling will be carried out simultaneously on both sides of border which will create a greater sense of security among the border population and also build greater coordination and confidence between the Border Guarding Forces.
- (2) Area of Coordinated Patrolling may be decided upon jointly by both the Sector Commanders for their respective sectors. The battalion commanders will be consulted and kept informed in whose jurisdiction the patrolling is needed.



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- (3) The Coordinated Patrolling should be done at frequent intervals. It should continue till the purpose is achieved.
  - (4) Coordinated Patrolling should be conducted simultaneously along plain/hilly areas and water bodies. Rearward communication shall always be maintained by respective Headquarters of the two forces.
  - (5) Any apprehension/seizure during the patrol will be dealt with under the laws of the land where the crime occurs.
  - (6) Review to adjust/modify modalities based on ground requirements as and when deemed necessary.
  - (7) Details of deployment, time, weapon, AOR etc would be decided by Sector Commanders locally.
  - (8) All such coordinated patrol shall always maintain communication with counter part by radio, cell phone, walkie talkie, etc.
  - (9) During patrol, only personal weapons ie Sub Machine Gun (SMG)/Rifle/ Pistol/ Revolver with first line pouch ammunition will be carried.
  - (10) Patrol will remain restricted to its own territory and will not cross over to the other side of IB under any circumstance.
  - (11) Neither side will resort to use of lethal weapons except in self defence against terrorists or smugglers. Patrols on both sides shall exercise maximum restraint; and only after clear warning, may use force.

(12) Patrol Commanders of respective country will carry out debriefing of own patrol.

b. **Establish Standing Patrol.** Respective Border Guarding Forces may establish standing patrol if deemed necessary.

c. **Exchange of Intelligence.** Intelligence in respect of border crimes may be exchanged by Nodal Officers/concerned Sector/Battalion Commanders on the ground.

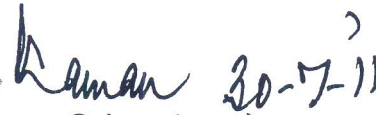
d. **Dialogue and Meetings.** Both forces shall mutually address the issues through dialogue and meetings.

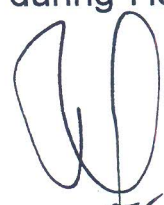
e. **Joint Action in Case of a Serious Incident.**

- (1) Immediate holding of a Flag Meeting.
- (2) Establish contact at the BOP, Company, Battalion and Sector level.
- (3) Exchange lessons learnt.

### **Conclusion**

12. To maintain peace and tranquility along the vulnerable patches/areas, close cooperation is imperative. Introduction of CBMP regarding vulnerable patches is a key step in ensuring close understanding between the two Border Guarding Forces considering the decision taken during Home Secretary level talks.

  
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