

The International Border Lines of India

Published on: April 25, 2019 | Updated on: April 25, 2019



Map showing India and its neighbouring countries depicting the international border line names.

A border line is a dividing line that marks the territorial limits between two countries. Our country India shares land borders with seven countries including Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan and maritime borders with Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia. It has 15,106.7 kilometres of land border and a coastline of 7,516 kilometres including its island territories.

Given below is a list of important boundary lines, and the list of states which share their boundaries with the seven neighbouring countries.

McMahon Line

Named after the British Indian Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Sir Arthur Henry McMahon, who was also an administrator in British India, the McMahon line is a demarcation that separates Tibet and the

north-east India. Colonel McMahon had proposed this line as the boundary between Tibet, China, and India at the Shimla Convention of 1914. It was accepted by Tibetan authorities and British India, and is now acknowledged by the Republic of India as the official boundary. China, however, disputes the validity of the McMahon line. It claims that Tibet isn't a sovereign government, and therefore any treaty made with Tibet stands invalid.

Radcliffe Line

Radcliffe Line divided British India into India and Pakistan. It is named after the architect of this line, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who was also the chairman of the Boundary Commissions. The Radcliffe Line was drawn between West Pakistan (now Pakistan) and India on the western side and between India and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) on the eastern side of the subcontinent.

Durand Line

Boundary line between India and Afghanistan demarcated by Sir Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat in the year 1896 is known as the Durand Line. It separated British India and Afghanistan. After partition, Pakistan inherited this line. However, a short section of the Afghanistan border is shared with the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Line of Actual Control (LAC)

Line of Actual Control is the demarcation line between India and China which separates the India controlled territory from the China-controlled territory in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. In 1962, the two countries were embroiled in a war. China attacked India and captured the Aksai Chin area. In 1963, China declared ceasefire but did not leave the area. Now, the ceasefire line is known as the LAC. This line is not actually recognised as international boundary, as by virtue of Instrument of Accession, entire state of Jammu and Kashmir legally and constitutionally became an integral part of India.

Line of Control (LOC)

The military controlled line between India and Pakistan in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir is named as the Line of Control (LOC). It was originally known as the Ceasefire Line. After the Simla Agreement signed on July 3, 1972, the Ceasefire Line was renamed as the LOC. This line is not actually recognised as international boundary, as by virtue of Instrument of Accession, entire state of Jammu and Kashmir legally and constitutionally became an integral part of India.

A quick glance at the seven land bordering countries, and the names of states bordering them:

India and Pakistan (3,233 kilometres)

Punjab

Rajasthan

Gujarat

Jammu and Kashmir

India and China (3,488 kilometres)

Sikkim
Jammu and Kashmir
Uttarakhand
Arunachal Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh

India and Nepal (1751 kilometres)

Uttar Pradesh
Uttarakhand
West Bengal
Bihar
Sikkim

India and Bhutan (699 kilometres)

West Bengal
Sikkim
Assam
Arunachal Pradesh

India and Myanmar (1643 kilometres)

Manipur
Arunachal Pradesh
Nagaland
Mizoram

India and Bangladesh (4,096 kilometres)

Meghalaya
Assam
Tripura
Mizoram
West Bengal

India and Afghanistan (106 kilometres)

Jammu and Kashmir

Maritime neighbours of India and the Indian States/Union Territories closest to them:

India and Sri Lanka

Tamil Nadu

India and Maldives

Lakshadweep (UT)

India and Indonesia

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Article Name: The International Border Lines of India

Author: Aayushi Namdev

Description: India shares land borders with seven countries and maritime borders with Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia. Read here in detail about the names which are given to these international border lines of India.