INTRODUCTION
Introduction

Managing borders in the present world is a complex phenomenon. "Border management" is primarily seen as an inter-state issue undermining the nature and potentiality of peoples' contact across borders. Illegal and trans-border migration—of people, anti-social and anti-national elements—has become one of the most serious challenges to national security in this era of globalization. The concept of self-determination, sub-nationalism, ethno-nationalism, insurgency movements and their trans-border networks and movements as non-military threat has made the issue worsen. Illegal migration creates serious security problems—political, societal, economic, environmental, and human rights violation—to the host country. The management of migration and border security is becoming more complex as countries respond to the ever-increasing migration flows has put a big question mark on the efforts of border management. And, Indo-Bangladesh border has become one of the porous and most vulnerable borders of the world.

Partition, the mother of all kinds of border deputes and conflicts, of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 was a defining moment in South Asian history. Communities were constituted, deconstituted and reconstituted. Nations were born. Thus partition was the terminal point of political negotiation in which the communal schism between Hindus and Muslims were appears to have been decisive policies to sustain its rule. Partition was not forced upon the subcontinent, but it emerged as the best possible alternative at a particular historical conjuncture. Although some scholars argue that it was out of the vested interests of some selfish politicians to grab the power.

The border remained a highly emotive issue: even today, its very location is contested in many places and there are groups who refuse to accept its legitimacy. The new border created a volatile region, linking India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Burma, that has experienced wars, border conflicts, regional revolts and many forms of everyday resistance. The story of this region does not support the idea that the world is becoming borderless as it globalizes.

However, the concept of border security has undergone a sea change with the growing vulnerability of not only land borders but also of the coastline and air space. In response to the gradual expansion and strengthening of security so far, mainly among what has
long been perceived as a sensitive land border. The transgressor (anti-national elements) is already on the lookout for the soft gaps. Those elements, with unprecedented money power, access to the latest technology, organizational strength, maneuverability and scope for strategic alliances with other like-minded groups, can target anything and any place of their choice.

Meanwhile, the terrorist attack on the US on September 11, 2001 and the Afghanistan and Iraq war thereafter have radically changed the border management and security environment facing countries. This would call for a reassessment for policies on a number of issues and several of these pertain to the management of international borders.

The Indo-Bangladesh border management has become one of the most serious challenges to India’s national security due to influx of illegal migrants, migration caused violent, terrorism, insurgency movements and their trans-border network. Secondly, the spreading of small arms throughout the states of North-East India and from there to other parts of India, the border crime, illegal border trade, trafficking of drugs, human and animals and last but not the least, the growing Madrassas in the border areas has made region a zone of violence and war. Environmental degradation, socio-cultural problems, scarcity of water, food and other human needs and human rights violation, on other hand, has made this worsen.

Indo-Bangladesh border is the longest land border of India covering a length of 4,096.7 kilometers abutting five Indian states and five out of six Bangladeshi divisions. The region includes desert lands, plains, numerous mountain ranges, rivers, wetlands, jungle terrain, large estuaries, Charlands, enclaves and shared aquifers and has various climates, with a remarkable biological diversity. The border goes through the middle of several villages, rivers, mountains, Charlands, agricultural lands, and public institutions have become the reason of emerging many enclaves on the region.

Unlike South Asia, as unique among all the regions of the world, the Indo-Bangladesh border is also a unique border because of its history of origin and creation. India’s land borders in general and Indo-Bangladesh border in particular is a different kind in its nature where people of both the sides of the border are similar in nature, similar by their socio-cultural and religious practices with a very strong family and marital relationships; but only divided by a political boundary. The Indo-Bangladesh border is not a new border created in
1947 with the partition of Indian subcontinent into two sovereign countries of India and Pakistan (on the communal and religious basis). Its origin can be traced back into the history of 18th centuries of British rule in Indian Subcontinent. The Indo-Bangladesh border, thought, conceived and originated in 18th centuries, got an administrative shape in 1905 and a physical shape in 1947 and politically renewed in 1971-72. In a nutshell it gradually developed with the division, addition and partition of Bengal from ancient time to till 1971 with the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

Due to continuous migration, the entire complexion of populations in several districts and areas in the northeastern states, West Bengal and Bihar even Delhi, Mumbai and other small and big cities have undergone a dramatic transformation. According to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, there are over 20 million illegal Bangladeshi migrants are residing in the country, of which above 10 million are in Assam and West Bengal alone. Among the innumerable border crossing routes, Jhaukutty on the West Bengal side is mentioned as a major corridor. Five rivers divide the flat plains making travel extremely difficult and long. However, instead of crossing all the streams, Bangladeshis are reported to go through so many other natural and artificial routes.

Secondly, the existence of an elaborate terrorist infrastructure in safe havens across the border, the growth and internationalisation of organized criminal syndicates with powerful political influence and patronage, strengthening network of well funded institutions for the communal mobilization of the migrants—particularly through a growing complex of Madrassas—are among the most dangerous trends along this border. The Government of India has admitted that there are more than 1,000 of Madrassas have been emerged along the border.

Perceptions of Bangladesh become a place for Islamic fundamentalists intensified after the United States launched its “Operation Enduring Freedom” against the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, following the 9/11. According to Indian intelligence agencies, the mobilization of Islamic groups in Bangladesh as well as among Muslim migrants in bordering states has created an opportunity for Pakistan’s external intelligence agency, the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), to foment subversion in the eastern and northeastern parts of India. The Harkat-ul-Jehadi-e-Islami, Bangladesh (HuJI-BD) has close linkages with Pakistan-based terrorist groups such as the Jaish-e-
Mohammed (JeM) and the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). Since the elections of October 2001 and the installation of the new right wing regime, backed by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Islamic extremists mobilization has raised dramatically with coming to power by forming coalition with the BNP.

Intelligence sources say terrorist-training camps in Bangladesh train North-East insurgents, giving patronage and protection (both by the Bangladesh Army and the Bangladesh Rifles). Most of the important camps are in the Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Sahibganj, Mymensingh, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban, Sherpur, Moulavi Bazaar, Netrakona and Sunamganj Districts. Cox Bazaar in Chittagong district is used for the trans-shipment of weapons and explosives. Indian intelligence sources put the figure of terrorist training camps in Bangladesh as 130 (43 of them are for the National Liberation Front of Tripura—(NLFT)). There are also several ‘joint camps’ that involve the NSCN (I-M), NSCN (Khaplang), ULFA, All-Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), People’s Liberation Army, (PLA) and United National Liberation Front (UNLF).

According to official sources in India, insurgents are using the porous border between India and Bangladesh as a route for importing sophisticated weapons from Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh which flooded the entire northeastern region. Available evidence suggests that many terrorist groups combine their movement with drug trafficking, which provides significant financiers for terrorism in parts of the North-East. The tri-junction of the Indian, Bangladeshi and Myanmarese border near Lawangtlai in Southern Mizoram is a virtual free port for the biggest concentration of clandestine arms in South Asia, which is important because of its proximity to Cox’s Bazaar in Bangladesh, one of the biggest arms’ markets in South Asia. Weapons from Russian Kalashnikovs to Chinese AK-47s, American M-16s to German HK-33s are easily available in this market.

One of the oldest challenges to border management pertains to illegal border trade/smuggling. India’s export to Bangladesh is over US $ 2 billion while informal exports are believed to account for another US $ 2 billion a year. On the other hand, Bangladesh’s export is around US $ 144 million annually. It has been argued that informal trade is double than the formal trade between the two countries. The main informal trading centers on the Indo-Bangladesh border are Assam, Meghalaya,
Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal. The illegal border trade has made the Indo-Bangladesh bilateral trade and the economy of North-East totally jeopardized capturing all corners of its market.

The population influx across the border has hues implications both on the polity and economy of the northeastern states and India as a whole. The flow of immigrants, which continued much beyond the aftermath of partition, has presumably been induced by economic considerations. These immigrants, those are uneducated and unskilled, sought to get absorbed in agriculture, small industry and the related sectors. Many businesses in the border region depend heavily on agriculture, small-scale industry and like things. Drug trafficking, on the other hand, has become the most easy and profitable business for the Mafias present in the border region. What is worse, not only the drugs from the ‘Golden Triangle’ enters into India, some of these routes are now being used to smuggle narcotics out of India has become a two-way route for illegal trade in drugs. Their trans-border network has reached in the faraway places of India. The trade is running with the full support of the local politicians and the authorities including the security agencies working there. The Mafia gangs and their violent gang wars create different types of security problems in the border region. In addition, the criminals have adopted the compartmentalization of many terrorist groups. Their sophisticated by skills, with weapons and attack strategies, and they also posses efficient planning capabilities.

Furthermore, subversive groups are violating human rights, targeting innocent people, border patrol agents, government officials, law enforcement officials, local politicians, and economic infrastructures. The citizens those who live along the border suffer the daily consequences of drug-related violence, kidnapping, robbery, burglary and theft, sexual harassment, and other kind of unsociable activities. Environmental degradation and the health problem are other most important problems for border region people. Rapid population growth in urban areas has resulted in unplanned development, greater demand for land and energy, traffic congestion, increased waste generation, overburdened or unavailable waste treatment and disposal facilities, and increased frequency of chemical emergencies. The quality of water, air, food and natural resources also has been adversely impacted. As a result of regional environmental degradation, some border residents suffer from environmental health problems including waterborne
and malnutrition and other respiratory diseases. The same problem also transmits from the migrants when they travel a long way through various adversarial and unhygienic conditions.

The politicisation of the whole issue, on the other hand, has made whole thing worsen. The sensitive issues like border management, national security and the issue of migration have been politicised and discussed on the floor of the parliament and state legislative assemblies, and many sensitive data and information has been publicised. There are many evidences that at the time of general elections in the border-states truckload of Bangladeshi come into India and return back to their home land after casting their vote. Unfortunately, nowadays, the migrants have started demanding voting rights with the help of the local politicians and some NGOs activists.

However, according to conventional wisdom, globalization argues to breaking down national borders. Indeed, it is often argued that growing economic integration and interdependence lead to more open borders and more harmonious cross-border relations. But the cross-border transportation and communications networks used by terrorists are also the arteries of highly integrated and interdependent economies. Unfortunately, the way border control are implemented and managed could reduce the benefits of open borders significantly affect the further of economic integration. Therefore, it has been strongly argued that the meaning and significance of state borders, as well as their geographical location can change drastically over space and time.

This is also very interest to know in the modern time no border can be managed through the help of arms, ammunitions or violent conflicts that because every country small or big has some sort of arms even several countries now a day pursuing nuclear weapons. Secondly, the movement has already been started to omit or liberalise the border and border policies throughout the world. Therefore, in one hand when there is so much security problems has been threatening the national security through the border, the emerging economic opportunities of open border has been forcing to open national borders. The most important question is “how to manage the national borders to safeguard the national security without compromising and losing the socio-cultural and economic benefits of the open border?”
Some Contemporary Research in the Concerned Field

There is a plethora of books relating to the proposed work directly or indirectly. This book of Malcolm Aderson, (1997), *Frontiers: Territory and State Formation in the Modern World*, [Cambridge: Polity Press], gives the conceptual and theoretical frameworks of border. The book argues that frontiers are not simply lines on maps—they are inseparable from the development of the states, which they enclose. Following the conceptual framework of inquiry, Surya P Sharma, (1976) in this book *International Boundary Disputes and International Law: A Policy-Oriented Study*, [NM Tripathi Pvt. Ltd., Bombay], has argued that Specific claims and counter-claims in these disputes are related to a four-fold functional classification of boundaries to wit, allocation, delimitation, demarcation and administration. However, J Anderson and Liam O’Dowd, (October 1999) in their “Borders, Border Regions, and Territoriality: Contradictory Meanings, Changing Significance,” *Regional Review*, Vol. 3, No. 7, pp. 593-605, believed that globalization, liberalization, economic integration interdependence has strongly argued that the meaning and significance of state borders, as well as their geographical location can change drastically over space and time.

Willem van Schendel, (2005) in this book *The Bengal Borderland: Beyond State and Nation in South Asia*, [London: Anthem Press], has given a comprehensive analysis regarding the Indo-Bangladesh border. The challenges Bengal border, he argues, depends upon the nature of relationships between people, place, identity and culture, in the context of globalization. NS Jamwal, (January-March 2004), in “Border Management: Dilemma of guarding the India-Bangladesh Border,” *Strategic Analysis*, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 5-36, has tried his best provide the exact picture of the Indo-Bangladesh border and discussed about the problem areas and the initiatives taken by the government to short them down and the problems faced by the security forces on the ground. Subhash Kapila, (2003), in his book *India’s Defence Policies and Strategic Thought: A Comparative Analysis*, [New Delhi: Simsid Books], provides a strategic thought of noted strategists and thinkers on military security in original and analyse India’s defence policies in relation to strategic thought and has attempted to interpret how defiance of strategic logic has cost India dearly in the past.

countries of South Asia. He has highlighted 12 major bilateral population flows into the region and tried to categorized them into three types—rejected people, political refugees from repressive regimes and unwanted migrants.

The book of EN Rammohan (2005), *Insurgent Frontiers: Essays from the Troubled North East*, [New Delhi: India Research Press], is one of the marvelous literatures on northeast’s social, political, cultural, educational and security aspects. The five essays—Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Chakmas and Indo-Bangladesh border—give a complete picture of northeastern region. The article of SK Sihna, (July-September 1998), “Insurgency in Assam,” *USI Journal*, Vol. 123, No. 533, pp. 125-137, argues that if the precautionary is not taken very soon the local people of northeast particularly in Assam. The issue of narcotic drugs and proliferation of small arms has made the issue worsen. Binalakshmi Nepram’s (2002) book *South Asia’s Fractured Frontier: Armed Conflict, Narcotics & Small Arms Proliferation in India’s North East*, [New Delhi: Mittal Books Publications], gives a comprehensive analyses on inter-linked issues of armed conflicts, narcotics and small arms proliferation and drug routes in India’s northeastern region.

Narottam Gaan, (July-September 2001) in “Environmental Scarcity of Land, Migration and Violent Conflict: Bangladesh-India,” *India Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 3, pp. 151-176, has tried to examine how the environmental degradation and scarcity of land compels the people of Bangladesh to migrate into India which creates conflicting situations with the people of host countries. Rajat Kanti Das and Debashis Basu’s (2005) edited book *North East India in Perspective: Biology, Socio-Cultural Formations and Contemporary Problems*, [New Delhi: Akansha], has tried to examine the diverse formations of North-East India in different perspectives ranging from population, biogenetic structure and community health on the one side to socio-cultural formations, ethnicity, politics, community interests and developmental changes on the other. Ajay Sahni (May 2002), “Survey of Conflict and Resolution in India’s Northeast,” *Faultline*, Vol. & No. 12, pp. 39-112, has examined both the conflict occurring in the northeastern region and the initiatives taken by both the governmental and non-governmental institutions (NGOs) and the Civil Societies towards the management of the conflicts going on in the northeast region.
Economic or trade plays an important role in bilateral relation between two countries so also India and Bangladesh. According to Indra Nath Mukharjee, (July-September 2003), in “India-Bangladesh Bilateral Trade: Issues and Concerns,” Himalayan and Central Asian Studies, Vol. 7, Nos. 3-4, pp. 41-56, argued that informal trade is double than the formal trade between the two countries which threatens India’s economy in general and northeast in particular in a long way. The of book Gurudas Das and RK Purkayastha (Eds.), (2000), Border Trade: North East and Neighbouring Countries, [New Delhi: Akansha Books], attempted to make it understand as whether there exists any basis for trade in terms of compatibility between the resource/production structure of the north-eastern region and the demand structure of the neighbouring countries, particularly Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Alokesh Barua (2005) edited book India’s North-East. Developmental issues in a Historical Perspective, [New Delhi: Manohar-CSH], provides northeast India’s developmental issues historically with a comprehensive study of the economic and political history of the north-east region. However, globalization often argues that growing economic integration and interdependence lead to more open borders and more harmonious cross-border relations. But, the way in which border control are implemented and managed could reduce the benefits of open borders significantly affect the further of economic integration. Peter Andreas (2003), in “Border Security in the Age of Globalization: How Can We Protect Ourselves Without Losing the Benefits of Openness?”, Regional Review, Vol. 13. No. 3, pp. 3-7, heavily examines about the negative and positive aspects of openness of borders in the age of globalization. Peter Andreas has examined the relation between the security consequences and the socio-economic benefits of the openness of borders and used the concept “smart border”. Mayumi Moriyama, (April 8-14, 2006), in “Border Migration and Sub-Regional Cooperation in Eastern South Asia,” Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XLI, No. 14, pp. 1351-1359, has strongly argued that the economic cooperation and economic integration can be promoted even among states in conflict, and can eventually overcome political antagonism.

There are quite a lot of literatures has been written and several studies have been conducted on the issue and the issues relating to the proposed study. However, these are
not directly addressing the issues of Indo-Bangladesh border management and the national security problems. The proposed study is the first exclusive and in-depth of its type. Secondly, South Asian region is the unique region in the world. The way the sub-continent partitioned and the way the borders created has brought several questions. Due to the historical, socio-cultural relations between both the countries along with the unhygienic nature the border has become critical and complex to manage. There is no such reliable study has been done so far on the Indo-Bangla border and its impact on the national security of India.

There are some important issues and research questions can be critically examined and studied as well. Those are as follows:

- Why there is a border between two parts of one (Bengali) nations?
- Why border is important for India even in the age of globalization?
- Is India strong enough and technologically sound to defend the Indo-Bangla border and the national security single-handedly?
- Is it viable to put a question mark on the transparency in duty of border security agencies?
- It I possible for India to tackle the nexus of anti-nationals, socials, security agencies and the local politicians?
- Can the legalization of all bilateral trades stop illegal trade through Indo-Bangla border?
- Is India ready to retaliate to a possible military intervention by Bangladesh or by the help regional and extra-regional powers?
- Is the concept of Free Border Trade and people-to-people contact can construct a healthy bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh?
- Is it fair enough to rely on the data and information provided by intelligence agencies in Indian and Bangladesh?
- Will the theory/concept of “deborder of national borders” can bring a real stability and security on Indo-Bangla border and make South Asia a healthy and prosperous region in the world?
The main Focus and Objectives of the Study are as Follows:

1. The study will examine and evaluate India’s policies, approaches and strategies for Indo-Bangladesh border management and the national security.
2. The study will conduct an in-depth study on the forms, reasons and dimensions of cross-border migration from Bangladesh into India.
3. The study will give a deep look at the root-cause of all the violent conflicts and security problems emerging through this border which threatens India’s national security.
4. The study will examine the development of border infrastructure, which is the most important aspect of the management of Indo-Bangladesh border.
5. The study will examine, evaluate and try to explore the socio-cultural, economic and other benefits of the openness of Indo-Bangla border.
6. The study will try to explore some possible ways, means, methods, techniques and also try to develop some approaches and strategies to control this border making the border management mechanism more efficient and scientific to maintain the national security of India.

Methodological Debates:

Methodological debates addressing issues of socio-economic, cultural and security are wide ranging. The thesis attempts to study the Bengali culture mainly along with the Hindu and Muslim religions and the same about the Chakkmas of Chittagong Hill Tracts. The thesis will study all the existing theories on border, other border-related theories and theories of national security in context of India and the world. The starting of the study will be theoretical in nature.

Research Methodology:

The proposed study adopted theoretical, historical, descriptive and analytical case study design. Initially, a thorough review of the existing literature pertaining to the history of the region and Indo-Bangla border region has done. Various sources were utilized. Historical works relating to the Indo-Bangladesh region were read in order to understand legends about migration that is relating to the community. The proposed study
is historical in the sense that this examines the historical background of the Indo-Bangladesh land border, its origin and nature. The study discusses the land border disputes, enclaves and charlands situated along the border. This study examines how these challenges the border management and threats to the national security of India. The study also examines reasons of all the security problems and the strategies taken by India to solve these problems. This method also tries to examine the problem of migration and migration caused violent conflicts going on in the northeastern region of India. There will be a descriptive study of the border protection units, the techniques and technologies they are using to protect the border. There will be also a descriptive and analytical study of the development of the border infrastructure and the border trade going on along the border. The study also analyses the economic and socio-cultural benefits of the openness of this border.

The study depends on both the primary and secondary sources of data, information and literature. The primary sources are taken as government documents; various reports (governmental and non-governmental) are examined. This data includes original documents on partition relating, confidential and secret letters and reports of British Indian officials, creation of the Indo-Bangla border, government documents and reports of India and Bangladesh (post-independence) relating to management of the border and treaties and agreements signed by both the governments. And along with this the reports of some very important and independent research studies conducted by Non-Governmental Institutions are also been investigated. The interview reports of political parties and leaders of both the countries are also examined regarding the whole subject.

The original documents include resolutions of annual and special conferences, election manifestos and leaflets, control committee reports on party dissidents, writings of the leaders and correspondence of the party leaders to the Government of India and Bangladesh. Party’s official publications, Parliament Hansards, published interviews and important speeches have also been utilized in this study. Secondary data includes books and research articles. Relevant theoretical works on the creation of the border, border management and national security have been consulted. The secondary sources consist of books, articles, newspapers and web pages. These secondary readings helped in finalizing the issues to be dealt with, following which the area of study was chosen. There are a
plethora of books, articles and documents available but the study examines only the relevant literature. The relevant reports, documents, books, articles will be harnessed to develop a better hypothesis and for the comprehensiveness of the study, though the basic source is secondary in nature.

Historical and sociological tools were used to comprehend the culture of the country and its people. This is very important to cultivate the socio-cultural life of the people of both the countries and more about the people of the border region. Anthropological tools are also utilized to understand the peoples in the border region their community formation cross-border family relations and how it is impacting on the migration process. The psychological attitudes of those people need very important to be cultivated. International relation and the foreign policy are very important to maintain a bilateral relationship of two countries. Therefore, theories of international relations will be employed to assess its foreign policy matters pertaining to the issues of border management and the national security of India.

Research Techniques and Field-Works:

Interview schedules and participant observation were the primary research techniques employed in this field-study. Interview schedules were open-ended and unstructured to ensure maximum transfer of information. Interview with the eminent scholars, government official, ministers, security and defence officials along with elderly peoples of the border areas were usual but in-depth interviews were conducted where the informants spoke about certain issues at great length.

Participant observation for the case study was done by living with some older peoples both in the capital-city and all the sides of the border areas. The interview was spread over three long phases of fieldwork of both the sides of the border in India and Bangladesh. Close interaction and observation helped in understanding their life history. Informal interviews with them and an analysis of their personal documents proved useful in reconstructing their past as a case-study. This case-study attempts to bring out the position of men, women and old people in their society, their property rights and the relationship between law, practices and customs. Information gathered from interviews
with nearly 75 men, women and elderly peoples in the region was also used to bolster the case-study.

In interviews with women (most of their husbands were also interviewed), their position within the household, role in decision-making, access to property and power equations within the household were touched upon. Successively, snowballing technique was used where one person put me on to another and so on. In all, peoples of three age groups were interviewed during the fieldwork. They fall in the following age groups—above 75 years, between 50 and 75 years and between 18 and 26 years. This clearly indicates three generations of people involved in the issue. One interesting issue that came up in the course of interviews and interaction with the people was the issue of identity.

A very important and sensitive question of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases was asked to those people who are involved in migration and especially those who have already experience of crossing the border regularly. Specifically the intension was to conduct interviews with the cross-border sex workers and truck drivers who are very active in both the sides of the border and have a very easy and frequent passing experience.

A series of very healthy interviews were conducted with the eminent scholars working in the field of research on educational system in Bangladesh and India, especially working on Madrassas education system. The fast growing Madrassas in the border areas, according to official sources, are now days have become the nerve centre of terrorism. The efforts was put to discuss regarding their relevance in the contemporary society and the modern world and the interests of the parents sending their children to Madrassas and what are the employment opportunities after completion of the education from there. The special discussion was done to know the assistance and funding to those institutions. It was also examined “is Madrassas really promoting fundamentalism and terrorism in Bangladesh?”

Some eminent scholars and experts in agriculture and disaster management field were also interviewed to know how much natural disaster and natural calamities affect on the livelihood and specifically on agriculture and their standard of living in Bangladesh,
which force people to migrate towards cities and mostly towards India in search of better livelihood.

Another keen study was conducted to find out the economy of the border region and the development process of the border areas. Underdevelopment of the border areas impact, in a long way, on the people to migrate to other places. It came to the limelight that the development of the border region in the Bangladesh side is totally minimal as comparing to Indian side.

A visit to Cox Bazaar and another visit to Chittagong Hill Tracts as part of the fieldwork were very much useful and interesting for the study. The Cox Bazaar is so popular for the small arms gathering and the Chittagong Hill Tracts is important as Bangladesh argues India is interfering collaborating with the Chakkma rebels to destabilize Bangladesh political system. Some important visits were also made especially to the transit points—Benapol, Petrapol, Lalmunirhat and so many other transit points through the Indo-Bangla border—to get the practical knowledge of transit across the border. The best efforts were also put to visit all those points through which illegal border crossing is going on, though it was very difficult and too much security risk and threat to the life.

A special interview was conducted with some very important cultural groups those believe a good relationship between both the countries can be made much better through the cultural relations. Interestingly, culture in Bangladesh and India (in Bengal) is similar in all the forms. Furthermore, a very interesting matter came out through the interviews and visiting of some transit points that how official trade is been derailed and discouraged through the network among the vested interests on the transit points? For which scholars argue illegal trade is more encourageable than the legal trade. Very healthy interviews were carried out with eminent scholars’ specialization in the trade and commerce. The greater possibility of the free trade between both the countries through the border using the openness of the border were examined and discussed thoroughly.

A very in-depth research was done to know about the cross-border network and how the migrants are feeling safety once they cross the border and enter into India? How are they getting citizenship in Indian side through the ration-cards and the voter identity cards? And how they are assimilating with the Indian mass through the family and marriage relationships?
Apart from these biographies, pamphlets, brochures and personal books preserved by individuals were also scrutinized. The old archives and most of the libraries are been consulted to find out some important literatures in Bangladesh and Kolkata.

Chapterization
This study is divided into seven parts.

The ‘introduction’, a very crucial part of the research work. This provides a well-rounded summary of the entire research and review of some previous research that is relevant to the topic. Intro also provides a brief description of the research questions. What is the experiment or study attempting to demonstrate? What phenomenon is going to be studied? This also provides a brief history of the study and explains how it is going to be relevance for the society?

The first chapter ('Conceptual Framework: Border, Border Management and National Security') analyses the existing theories of border, border management and national security. It will also thoroughly examine theories of national security and ethnic violence and ethno-nationalism due to illegal migration and migration caused national security problems. The chapter examines both the traditional, classical theories and the modern theories. It also tries to find out how this theoretical investigation is justifying the present study.

The second chapter ('Indo-Bangladesh Border, Border Dispute and Border Management: Origin and Nature') focuses on the in-depth analysis of the origin and nature of border, border disputes and border management. The chapter tries to discuss the chronological and historical evolution of this border, border disputes and the process of its management. The origin and nature of this border is the root cause of all the disputes, problems for management and national security concerns. This also investigates the partition politics and the creation of the border since ancient and mainly of British time. The unscientific partition and the delimitation of “Radcliffe Award” in the blunder that have very badly infected the management process of the border.

The third chapter ('Indo-Bangladesh Border Management and National Security: Policies, Approaches, Strategies, Technology and Protection Units') categorically and critically examines all the existing policies and approaches to border management and
national security in both the countries of India and Bangladesh. This chapter also puts a glance on the other available policies, approaches and strategies of border management and national security existing in present time. This chapter also tries to explore the loopholes of the present policies, approaches and strategies of India. This also discusses about the border management mechanisms, force units, tools and the technology operating to safeguard the national security interests of India.

The fourth chapter (‘Indo-Bangladesh Border Management and National Security: Socio-Cultural and Economic Dynamics’) focuses broadly and categorically on some definite challenges and obstacles of border management which threats the national security interests of India. These are illegal migration; migration caused violent conflicts, border trade and the other like problems e.g., social, political, economic, human right and environmental issues. The chapter mainly tries to find out the root cause of migration from Bangladesh into India. This also puts efforts to know the educational system of Bangladesh and the reasons of growing Madrassas education institutions in border areas of Bangladesh. This chapter also specially discusses development of border infrastructure and examines the benefits of openness of the border and legalized of the border trade.

The fifth chapter (‘Indo-Bangladesh Border Management and National Security: Politico-Military Dynamics’) does an in-depth study about all other challenges and obstacles of border management which threatens the national security interests of India. Those are the security issues like terrorism, insurgency movements, growing Islamic fundamentalism in Bangladesh, proliferation of small arms light weapons and Trafficking of drug and human beings.

The final chapter (‘Conclusion: Towards a Comprehensive Border Management and National Security Strategy’) presents a summary and the general conclusions of the study. It begins by highlighting the major objective of the study, crops covered, data and data sources and the methodology employed in data analysis. The conclusion basically tries to justify the questions put in introduction or the thesis statement that is “how to manage the border without compromising with national security challenges in one hand and the emerging socio-cultural and economic opportunities of the open border on the other?” Finally, the chapter ends by recommending some ways, means and methods of
better management of the border and to defend the national security along with areas for further research relating to border management and national security.

Finally, the Study seeks to test the following Hypotheses:

• In spite of strong border management policies and security strategies India has been incapable of managing its eastern border with Bangladesh leaving it the most vulnerable.

• The anti-social and anti-national activities on Indo-Bangladesh border region forced India to rethink its border management and national security strategies.

• Development of border infrastructure can reduce border problems and enhance border security.

• Unscientific border control policies could affect the traditional socio-cultural, economic and other cross-border interactions.

• Healthy bi-lateral relationship or cultural exchange could reduce/solve all the border related problems and help to manage the border effectively.