

Managing Prolonged Instability at the India–Myanmar Frontier: Comparative Reflections with Thailand

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Abstract

Since 2021, Myanmar's political crisis has generated prolonged and multi-layered instability along its land frontiers. This paper argues that such instability functions not as a temporary disruption but as a structural condition reshaping border governance in neighboring states. The primary focus is the India–Myanmar frontier, where sustained volatility intersects with insurgency legacies, federal–state dynamics, and infrastructure-led connectivity initiatives.

Methodologically, the study is based on documentary research, including analysis of policy documents, official statements, parliamentary debates, security reports, and secondary academic sources concerning border governance in India and Thailand. Through a comparative governance perspective, the paper examines how domestic political structure and internal security environments mediate state responses to shared external pressures.

The analysis suggests that India's approach reflects a security-layered governance logic embedded within territorial and insurgency concerns. By contrast, Thailand, operating within a unitary administrative system, calibrates border management through centralized coordination and controlled economic circulation. The comparison demonstrates that identical external instability does not produce uniform responses. Instead, institutional configuration and threat perception shape how states regulate mobility, authority, and control at the frontier.

By foregrounding the Indian case within a regional frame, the paper contributes to broader discussions on frontier governance under conditions of prolonged regional volatility.