

WAGAH BORDER: INDIA-PAKISTAN LINE OF CONTROL

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Article Received: 01 July 2026

Article Review: 22 July 2026

Article Accepted: 12 August 2026

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21950634>

How to cite this Article: Dr. Dhrubo Jyoti Sen (2026). WAGAH BORDER: INDIA-PAKISTAN LINE OF CONTROL. World Journal of Pharmacy and Medical Science, 2(8): 96-99.



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ABSTRACT

The Wagah Border, located on the historic Grand Trunk Road, is the only open land border crossing between India and Pakistan. Situated 24 km from Lahore and 32 km from Amritsar, it is famous for its daily “Beating Retreat” flag-lowering ceremony, an electrifying and highly synchronized display of national pride. From Amritsar 35 Km on the road to Lahore (Pakistan), is India-Pakistan border, which is also known as **Attari (India)-Wagah (Pakistan)** border. The Wagah Border is famous for its daily Beating Retreat Ceremony, an elaborate, high-energy military drill performed jointly by India’s Border Security Force and the Pakistan Rangers since 1959. Located on the historic Grand Trunk Road between Amritsar and Lahore, it symbolizes both the deep rivalry and shared heritage of the two nations.

KEYWORDS: BSF, Pakistan, India, Lahore, Attari, Amritsar, Wagah.

INTRODUCTION

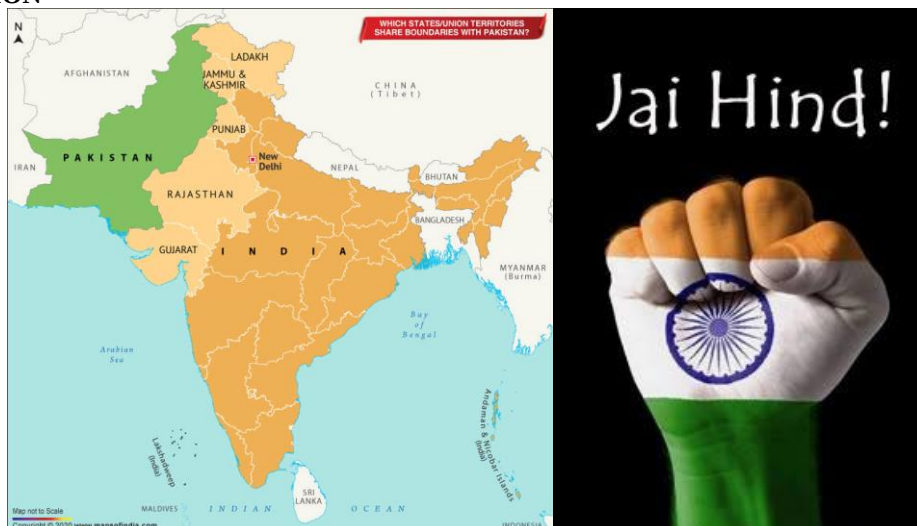


Figure-1: India-Pakistan Border.

The Daily Ceremony

- **Dramatic Display:** Features synchronized high kicks, aggressive stomping, sharp turns, and intense stare-downs by guards from both sides.
- **Crowd Fervor:** Large, stadium-like seating on both the Indian and Pakistani sides fill daily with thousands of cheering spectators waving national flags.
- **Sunset Ritual:** Culminates just before sunset with the simultaneous, coordinated lowering of both national flags and a brief, formal handshake between opposing commanders before the gates shut for the night.



Figure-2: Wagah Border.

The Wagah Border is the sole active road border crossing between India and Pakistan, famous for its daily military Beating Retreat ceremony, high-energy patriotic crowds, and synchronized soldier drills. Amritsar Distance: Located 32 km (20 mi) west of Amritsar, India, near the village of Attari. Lahore Distance: Located 24 km (15 mi) east of Lahore, Pakistan, along the historic Grand Trunk Road. Travel Access: Reachable via taxis or shared auto-rickshaws from Amritsar in about 45 to 60 minutes. Ceremony Timings and Structure: Summer Timing: Starts around 5:15 PM. Winter Timing: Starts

around 4:15 PM. Daily Routine: Conducted jointly since 1959 by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers. The Attari–Wagah Border is famous for its electrifying daily Beating Retreat flag-lowering ceremony, an intense, highly synchronized military drill performed jointly by the Border Security Force (BSF) of India and the Pakistan Rangers since 1959. Key Reasons for Fame: The Ceremony: Features aggressive high kicks, sharp stomps, loud vocal calls, and a dramatic simultaneous lowering of both national flags just before sunset.



Figure-3: India & Pakistan Border.

Geographic Symbolism: Located on the historic Grand Trunk Road between Amritsar (32 km away) and Lahore (24 km away), it is the primary and most well-known land border crossing between India and Pakistan.

Partition History: Established during the 1947 partition of British India, it carries deep historical weight as a route used by millions of refugees during the division.

Cultural Spectacle: Attracts thousands of patriotic spectators daily from both nations, creating a high-energy stadium-like atmosphere filled with cheering and music. The international boundary at Wagah was created through the 1947 Partition of British India along the **Radcliffe Line**, with the physical border checkpoint established by **Brigadier Mohindar Singh Chopra** of the Indian Army and **Brigadier Nazir Ahmed** of the Pakistan Army on October 11, 1947.



Figure-4: Brigadier Mohindar Singh Chopra, Brigadier Nazir Ahmed & Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani.

Mohindar Singh Chopra (1907–1990) was an Indian Army General Officer who was known for being in charge of stopping the Partition Riots in both corners of India; Punjab and Bengal.

Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani (1980–2018): An Indian Army soldier from Kulgam, Jammu & Kashmir. He was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra (India's highest peacetime gallantry award) in 2019, becoming the first person from Jammu & Kashmir to receive the honor, after making the supreme sacrifice during an anti-terrorist operation.

The India-Pakistan border was drawn by **Sir Cyril Radcliffe**, a British lawyer who chaired the Boundary Commissions. He was given just five weeks in 1947 to divide the provinces of Punjab and Bengal based on religious majorities, creating the boundary known as the **Radcliffe Line**.

Amritsar in Punjab is the major Indian city closest to the Pakistan border, located just 28 kilometers (17 miles) away. Smaller border towns like Attari sit even closer at just 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the international boundary.

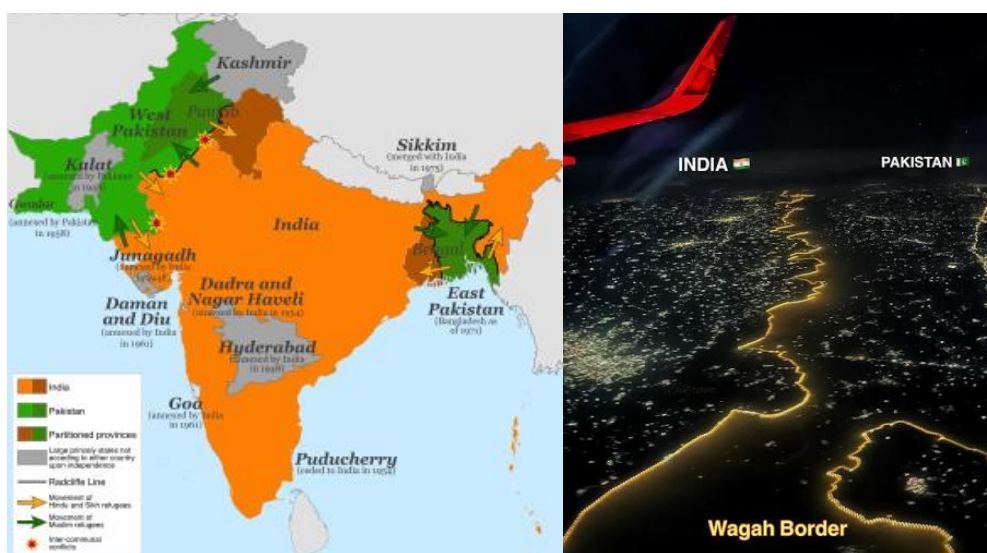


Figure-5: Radcliffe Line.

No, people cannot currently cross the Attari-Wagah border. The land crossing between India and Pakistan is temporarily suspended for travelers and ordinary civilian transit. The border is located 24 km (15 mi) from Lahore and 32 km (20 mi) from Amritsar. It is also 3 km (1.9 mi) from the bordering village of Attari in India. Closure: The crossing has been closed to foot passengers and regular cross-border movement following security suspensions.

Ceremonies: The famous daily Beating Retreat/Sunset ceremony still takes place on both the Indian (Attari) and

Pakistani (Wagah) sides for spectators, but physical passage from one country to the other is not permitted.

Visas: Even when open, crossing requires pre-arranged valid visas and official clearance from both nations, as on-arrival land visas are generally unavailable. The Attari-Wagah border retreat ceremony is a daily military drill and flag-lowering ritual conducted jointly by India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Pakistan Rangers. Located 30 km from Amritsar, the high-energy event features synchronized high-legged marching, sharp maneuvers, and massive patriotic crowds before sunset.

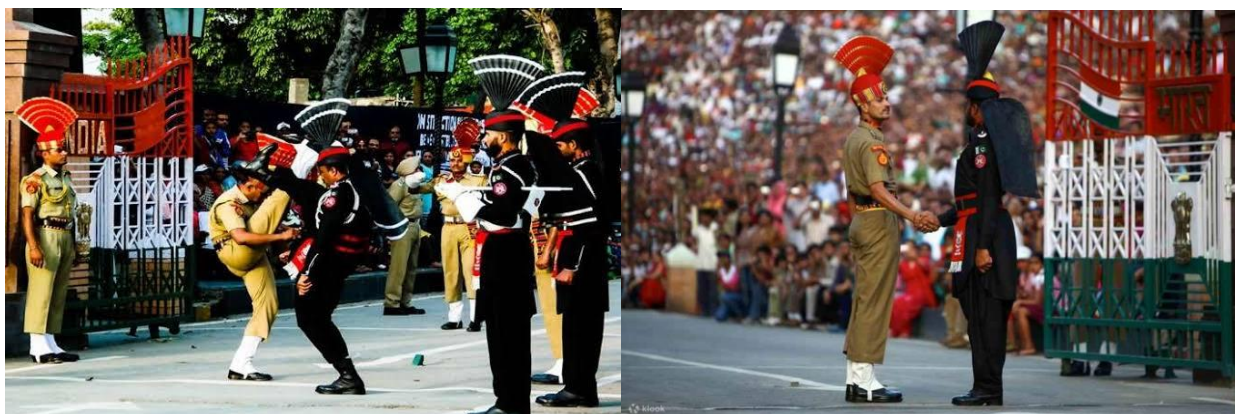




Figure-6: Beating Retreat/Sunset ceremony.

CONCLUSION

The Wagah-Attari border ceremony is a daily military practice held just before sunset. Located near Lahore in Pakistan and Amritsar in India, the 30-minute event features high-energy goose-stepping, synchronized flag lowering, and a vibrant, stadium-like patriotic atmosphere managed by Pakistan Rangers and India's BSF. The Pakistan Rangers at the Wagah border ceremony perform an aggressive, high-energy goose-step march with dramatic high kicks, intense stares, and loud battle cries. This daily sunset drill with the Indian BSF uniquely blends intense national rivalry with a synchronized, respectful flag-lowering and a sharp closing handshake.

Distinctive Uniforms: The Pakistan Rangers wear stark black uniforms with tall, fan-like red turbans.

Theatrical Stomping: Soldiers lift their legs extraordinarily high in an aggressive display of physical prowess and pride.

Crowd Energy: The audience area on the Pakistan side features passionate nationalistic cheering, flag-waving, and patriotic slogans.

The Final Protocol: The ceremony finishes with the coordinated lowering of both nations' flags and a brief, formal handshake between guards.

REFERENCES

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