

## BSF to shift fence closer to border to fight drug smuggling

**Chandigarh:** Around 20km of International Border in Punjab's Gurdaspur sector is set to be sealed completely as the Border Security Force (BSF) has decided to shift its fence closer to the border in this area.

The move to shift the fence has been divided into three packages and the work on two of these, covering around 11km, has been completed. The acquisition of land for the remaining 9-odd km area is still under process.

The Union home ministry's high-level empowered committee has earmarked Rs 35 crore for the project, sources confirmed to TOI.

The Gurdaspur sector is one of the most vulnerable areas on International Border to infiltration and inflow of drugs. Till January 2018, the BSF had recovered around 23.325 kg of narcotics on the border, out of which around 19.875 kg was seized from the Gurdaspur sector.

In January, 19 packets containing 19 kg contraband was seized in Gurdaspur's Adhian border outpost.

In March this year, a Pakistani intruder was killed in the area of Ghanikae border outpost in this sector.