

### DRONE REVOLUTION AND MODERN WARFARE

- For decades, battlefield dominance belonged to nations with advanced tanks, aircraft, warships, precision missiles, and large defence budgets. Smaller militaries and non-state actors were largely confined to guerrilla and asymmetric tactics.
- This paradigm has now been shattered. Commercially derived drones, produced at scale and deployed widely, have redefined military power.
- They perform functions spanning:
  - Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)
  - Target acquisition and artillery spotting
  - Precision strikes and deep-strike missions
  - Electronic warfare and logistics support

### **Ukraine: The World's First Industrial-Scale Drone War**

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine (February 2022) began as a conventional war. Within two years, it became the world's **first industrial-scale, drone-intensive conflict**.
- **The FPV Revolution**
  - At the core of Ukraine's drone warfare is the **First-Person View (FPV) drone** — a cheap, commercially available platform originally built for recreational racing.
  - Operators control them via live video fed to VR-style goggles, giving exceptional precision and manoeuvrability.
  - FPV drones were rapidly converted into:

**Kamikaze/Strike drones** — small quadcopters carrying explosive payloads, flown directly into targets. A drone worth a few hundred dollars can destroy armoured vehicles worth millions.

**Bomber drones** — adapted from commercial DJI Mavic and Matrice platforms; they drop grenades and anti-tank mines and survive missions, enabling repeated sorties against trenches and bunkers.

**Interceptor and long-range attack variants** — used to strike deep inside Russian territory against airbases, logistics hubs and critical infrastructure.

- **Ukraine's Most Significant Innovation: Fibre-Optic FPV Drones**

- Conventional drones rely on radio-frequency links, which are vulnerable to jamming. Ukraine's most critical innovation is the **fibre-optic FPV drone**, which transmits commands and video through ultra-thin fibre-optic cables that unspool during flight.
- This makes them immune to electronic jamming — a decisive advantage in heavily contested electromagnetic environments, and one that Russia has struggled to counter.

### Iran's Strategic Drone Model

- Iran represents a **structurally distinct model** of drone warfare. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) does not use drones merely as tactical tools.
- Iran has demonstrated the ability to threaten US and Israeli military bases, naval assets and critical infrastructure across the region — at remarkably low cost.

### The Economics of Drone Warfare

- Cheap, mass-produced drones are replacing expensive conventional platforms
- Industrial production capacity has become a core military capability
- Warfare is increasingly a test of industrial endurance — the ability to build, deploy and counter ever-evolving drone systems continuously

### India's Relevance and Takeaways

- India faces active drone threats on both its western and northern borders. Pakistan has used Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones; China has an advanced indigenous drone programme.
- Several key lessons from global drone warfare are directly relevant to India:
  - India must invest in domestic drone manufacturing under Make in India / iDEX frameworks.
  - Counter-drone systems — both kinetic and electronic — need to be integrated into India's air defence architecture.
  - The fibre-optic drone technology gap must be urgently addressed.

### THE TRUST DEFICIT IN INDIA-BANGLADESH TIES

- Over 100 days have passed since Tarique Rahman's BNP government assumed power in Bangladesh.
- Despite initial optimism, India-Bangladesh relations remain strained — much as they were under the preceding interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.
- This article highlights the growing trust deficit in India-Bangladesh relations despite the formation of a new government in Bangladesh and multiple diplomatic outreach efforts by India.
- It examines the unresolved issues driving bilateral tensions, including trade restrictions, visa policies, water-sharing concerns, immigration rhetoric, and the looming renewal of the Ganga Water Treaty, while underscoring the need for pragmatic engagement to safeguard regional stability.

### **India's Outreach: Gestures Without Substance**

- India made two diplomatic gestures even before Rahman formally took charge:
  - EAM S. Jaishankar visited Dhaka in December 2025, to condole the death of Rahman's mother and former PM Khaleda Zia.
  - Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri delivered PM Modi's invitation letter, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended Rahman's swearing-in ceremony on February 17.
- However, BNP insiders consider these gestures insufficient. They expected India to reverse concrete punitive measures taken during the Yunus-led interim period.

### **Pending Grievances: What Dhaka Wants?**

- Bangladesh's key expectations from India remain unmet:
  - **Transshipment revival** — resumption of goods transit from Bangladesh through India
  - **Visa restoration** — full reinstatement of business and medical visas
  - **Market access** — removal of restrictive trade barriers on Bangladeshi goods

- **Ganga Water Treaty** — renewal of the 1996 treaty due to expire on December 31, 2026
- Dhaka argues that without these actions, India has given Rahman no political capital to spend while managing anti-India domestic forces, including the Jamaat-e-Islami and student groups.

### The Hasina Factor and the Immigration Rhetoric

- BNP's veteran leadership made a significant concession by publicly stating that Sheikh Hasina's continued presence in India would not be a dealbreaker for normalising ties — a departure from the hard position of the Yunus government.
- India did not reciprocate. Instead, after the recent elections in West Bengal and Assam, New Delhi intensified its rhetoric around illegal immigration from Bangladesh in official communications.
- Bangladeshi diplomats expected this language to be toned down after the elections. The Ministry of External Affairs' continued stridence has generated what officials in Dhaka's secretariat describe as "a sense of betrayal."

### Rahman's China Option

- Sensing a stall in normalisation, Rahman is reportedly in the final stages of planning visits to **Malaysia and China** in late June 2026 — a signal that Dhaka may seek to diversify its partnerships further if India does not engage meaningfully.
- However, the China pivot has its limits. Bangladesh's ties with China, the US, and others have grown since August 2024 — but these cannot substitute for India on one critical issue: **river water**.

### Conclusion

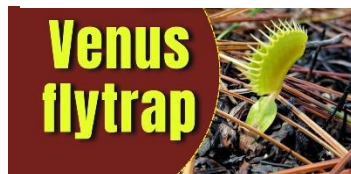
- India and Bangladesh are caught in a cycle of unmet expectations — India offers gestures, Dhaka wants action; Dhaka softens on Hasina, India escalates immigration rhetoric.
- With the Ganga treaty deadline looming, pragmatism must replace posturing before bilateral inertia becomes irreversible damage.

### WHAT IS DROP SHIPPING?



- Dropshipping is a retail **business model** in which a seller accepts customer orders without keeping the products in stock.
- Instead, when a customer places an order, the seller purchases the product from a **third-party supplier, who then ships it directly to the customer.**
- A **dropshipper** is an **intermediary between consumers and suppliers**, curating and promoting the goods that suppliers ship to customers.
- Many businesses prefer dropshipping because it **removes costs like warehouse storage and unsold inventory.**
- Drop-shipping is **not illegal**, but there can be problems for buyers and sellers.
- How Does Drop-Shipping Work?
  - The **company signs an agreement with a wholesaler, manufacturer, or other retailer to provide the goods it advertises.**
  - **Customers place orders**
  - The company receives the order.
  - The **customer receives an order confirmation.**
  - The **company forwards the order to the wholesaler, manufacturer, or other retailer.**
  - The **wholesaler, manufacturer, or other retailer ships the order.**
  - **Customers receive their product.**
- Example:
  - You list a phone case on your website for ₹500.
  - A customer buys it for ₹500.
  - You order it from a supplier for ₹300.
  - The supplier ships it directly to the customer.
  - Your gross profit is ₹200 (before marketing and other costs).

## VENUS FLYTRAP



- It is a **small perennial carnivorous plant** of the sundew family.
- **Distribution:** It is native to a **limited region of North Carolina and South Carolina** in the United States.
- **Characteristics:**
  - The plant grows **in moist, acidic soil**.
  - It grows in **nutrient-poor environments** and supplements its nutrition by capturing and digesting insects.
- **Mechanism of Snapping:**
  - The “trap” is **made of two hinged lobes** at the **end of each leaf**.
  - It uses specialized trigger hairs **called trichomes** located on the inner surface of the trap.
  - When an insect touches these hairs twice within a short period of time, the trap closes. Closure can occur in as little as one tenth of a second.
  - After the **plant absorbs the nutrient-rich liquid produced by the digestive processes**, the trap reopens, with the insect’s empty exoskeleton left behind.
  - This **type of movement is called thigmonasty**—a nondirectional plant response to being touched.
- **Findings of the new Study:**
  - The research says that when the trap is stimulated, the cell walls of the **outer epidermal layer rapidly soften by roughly 30 to 40%**, and cell wall becomes more flexible.
  - This releases internal stresses stored in the tissue and causes the trap to bend and close.
  - When the trap snaps shut, the insect is sealed inside for digestion.

### EXERCISE PITCH BLACK 2026



- It is a **biennial and multinational** exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- It is the RAAF's **flagship international flying exercise**.

The name **'Pitch Black'** was derived from the **emphasis on nighttime flying over large unpopulated areas**.

#### **2026 Edition:**

- It will run with operations based out of **RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal in the Northern Territory**, as well as **RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland**.
- It features a massive assembly of global air forces, providing an unparalleled platform for interoperability.
- The exercise focuses on **highly complex aerial manoeuvres**, including **offensive counter-air operations, air defence tracking**, and tactical coordination between completely different styles of aircraft and communication systems.
- The IAF has **dispatched a highly capable multi-role task force** to the exercise, ensuring robust participation across multiple operational spectrum.
- For the IAF, training alongside advanced air assets from nations like the US, UK, Australia, France, and regional partners offers crucial exposure to contemporary air warfare tactics, electronic warfare defence, and modern network-centric operations.

**Previous participation of India:** The IAF has previously participated in the **2018, 2022, and 2024 editions** of this exercise.

### NEW GI TAGS



A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country). India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into effect from 15 September 2003.

The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name. Darjeeling tea was the first GI recognized by Government of India in 2004–05.

- **Bhagaiya silk:**

It is a hand spun silk textile **mainly woven by Santhal tribal women**.

These silk varieties, deeply rooted in local knowledge systems and indigenous craftsmanship, represent generations of skill passed down within rural communities.

- **Kuchai silk:**

It is **produced by tussar silkworms** cultivated on the trees of Asan and Arjun.

It is a part of **ancient tradition of Jharkhand**, which provides livelihood in rural areas.

It was started in the small village of Seraikela-Kharsawan – ‘Kuchai’ and is now spread all over Jharkhand.

- **Munda Jewellery:**

It is the distinctive artistic **traditions of the Munda tribal community**.

It is characterised by its **unique motifs, craftsmanship and cultural significance**, the jewellery embodies the rich tribal heritage of Jharkhand.

- **Jharkhand bamboo craft:**

This product is **made from locally available bamboo** will now be accessible to a wider market.

It involves **creativity and craftsmanship** of rural artisans who transform locally available bamboo resources into a wide range of utility and decorative products.



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### SAN ANDREAS FAULT



- **Location:** It is a major continental transform boundary that is situated in the extreme western part of the continent of North America.
- It is believed that the San Andreas Fault started to form about 30 million years ago in the **mid-Cenozoic Era**.
- It forms the border between two principal tectonic plates: the **North American Plate** on the eastern side and **the Pacific Plate** on the western side.
- Geologists classify the San Andreas **Fault** as a “**strike-slip fault**”, as the Pacific Plate slides laterally over the North American Plate in a northward direction.
- It is one of the world’s largest and most extensively studied faults.
- The northward movement along the San Andreas Fault had led to the **creation of the Baja Peninsula**.

### What is Strike-slip Fault?

- It occurs in an area where **two plates are sliding past horizontally** with little to no vertical movement.
- Strike-slip faults are **found in California**, the **San Andreas Fault** being the most famous, which has caused many powerful earthquakes.