

PSIR & GS-2

DAILY BRIEF

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Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.



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The Sheikh Hasina dilemma: India must choose statecraft over sentiment

India must deal with the Bangladesh that exists, not the Bangladesh that it would have preferred to exist



Context

Bangladesh's BNP government has sought Sheikh Hasina's extradition from India after her conviction in absentia for crimes against humanity.

Facts

The BNP returned to power post - February 2026 elections, electing Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as President on 20 August.

Extradition differs legally from deportation ; involves bilateral treaty obligations subject to judicial scrutiny & refusal clauses.

Analytical Crux

The issue is fundamentally about linkage between law and statecraft. Bangladesh seeks to make Hasina's extradition a prerequisite for improved relations, while India must balance treaty obligations with due process and concerns over capital punishment. Negotiated conditionality can provide a middle path : India can acknowledge Bangladesh's legal concerns while seeking credible judicial safeguards. The broader lesson is that strategic patience should not become indecision and bilateral cooperation should not be held hostage to one individual.

Verbatim Quotes

"India's handling of this will show whether it can tell friendship from statecraft, legality from expediency, and strategic patience from indecision."

- Pavan K Varma

Why Afghanistan-Pakistan border keeps burning

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Why the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border Keeps Burning: Keys to Peace Lies With Group Whose Loyalties Answer to No One

The borderland TTP now exploits is the same terrain that Pakistan's own security establishment worked for decades to create as "strategic depth." The world of proxy-war infrastructure seldom remains directed towards where its architects have aimed.



By Himadri Sekhar Mistri | Aug 11, 2026

Context

Repeated Afghanistan-Pakistan ceasefires have collapsed because the agreements are essentially two-state arrangements in a conflict where a third actor (TTP) sets the pace of violence.

Facts

Trade collapse : Bilateral trade reportedly fell from \$2.5 billion to about \$10 million.

Humanitarian costs : UNAMA recorded 372 civilian fatalities and 397 injuries in Q1 2026.

Torkham and Chaman have remained closed for over 300 days, hurting traders & daily wage workers while failing to directly constrain the TTP.

Analytical Crux

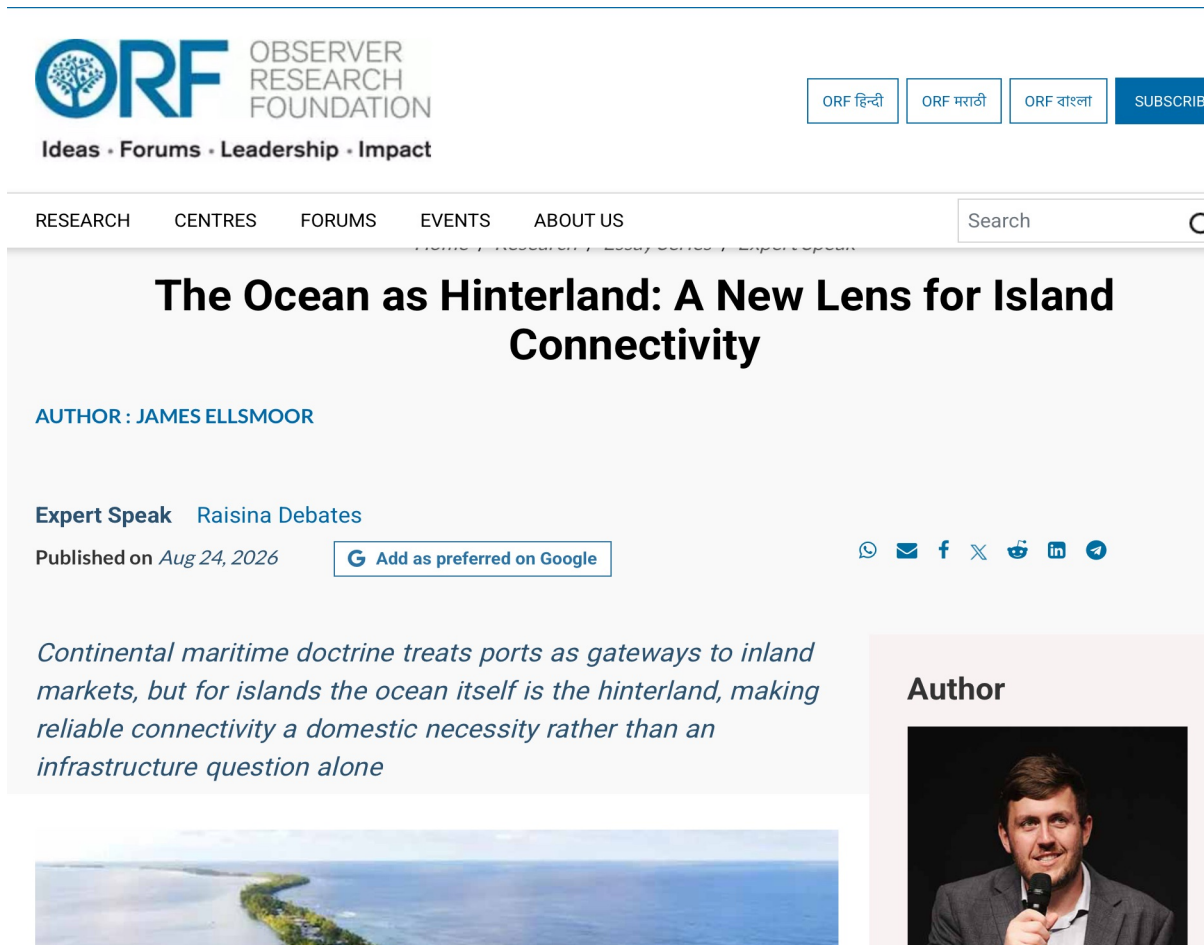
The central problem is architectural, not merely diplomatic: the ceasefires bind Islamabad and Kabul, while the TTP remains outside the negotiating framework and is itself fragmented. Pakistan's border closures and military strikes therefore impose costs primarily on civilians without eliminating the insurgent threat. The episode illustrates the limits of a two-state reading of conflict, the spoiler problem in peace processes and the difficulty of credible commitments when no single actor can control fragmented armed groups.

Verbatim Quotes

"The border's people are living inside a peace process built for two states in a war fed by loyalties answering to neither."

— Himadri Sekhar Mistri

Ocean as hinterland- new lens for island connectivity



Context Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face a distinctive connectivity challenge : unlike continental economies , they cannot rely on an extensive inland transport network behind their ports.

Facts

SIDS have shipping connectivity more than ten times lower than the rest of the world.

Maritime transport costs account for around 9.8% of import value in SIDS , compared with 8.1% in developed economies.

The proposed Galathea Bay International Container Trans-shipment Port in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands will create value for island communities only if supported by reliable services & insitutional capacity.

Analytical Crux

The article challenges the continental assumption that a port's success can be measured primarily through cargo throughput and inland connectivity. For islands, maritime connectivity is itself a form of domestic connectivity. Infrastructure is only one of 3 requirements; institutional capability and operational capacity are equally important. India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands illustrate the tension: a large transshipment port has strategic value, but island communities require reliable inter-island services. Thus, connectivity must be assessed through accessibility, resilience and inclusion, not infrastructure scale alone.

Verbatim Quotes

"A delayed vessel costs a continental business margin and costs an island community access to food and medicine."

- James Ellsmoor

PSIR 2025 Paper II — "China's growing footprint and a tangible shift in power dynamics in Bangladesh has weakened India's leverage in Dhaka. Comment."

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