UNISYNC

ANGEL INVESTING SIMPLIFIED

NEWSLETTER

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Edition:

DRONE TECH STARTUPS

INSIDE

Dear Readers,

This month's focus is on one of the most dynamic sectors in the technology space — **Drone Tech Startups**. What began as a niche technology has become a critical tool across industries and geographies. The global drone market is expected to exceed **₹12 lakh crore (USD 150 billion)** by 2030, driven by applications in **agriculture, logistics, defence, urban infrastructure, and disaster response.**

Major players like **DJI, Skydio, Zipline,** and others are setting benchmarks for both technology and scalability. At the same time, traditional aerospace and defence companies are making strategic acquisitions to add autonomous capabilities, signalling the sector's strategic importance.

India's journey in this space has been remarkable. Initiatives like the **Drone Shakti Mission, liberalised drone rules (2021),** and the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** have catalysed growth and innovation. Domestic startups are not only building drones but also creating integrated ecosystems — **combining hardware, AI-based analytics, and cloud platforms** — to deliver sophisticated solutions for multiple industries.

From an investment standpoint, drone tech is a compelling sector. It combines **deep-tech hardware IP with recurring revenue models** such as **Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS)** and **data analytics SaaS.** These models provide predictable income streams and higher customer stickiness — critical features for scaling businesses.

CA MAYANK DESAI

Co-Founder, Unisync Angels
Partner, Y.B. Desai & Associates

Several Indian startups are making significant progress. **ideaForge** successfully listed on the Indian stock exchanges, while firms like **Garuda Aerospace, TechEagle,** and **Aarav Unmanned Systems** are securing major contracts and scaling operations. These companies demonstrate that Indian drone tech is ready not just for local deployment but for global markets.

As with any emerging technology, challenges remain. Shifting regulatory frameworks, rapid tech advancements, and intensifying competition demand that investors exercise careful due diligence. The key lies in supporting startups with **strong intellectual property, a clear path to recurring revenue, robust execution capabilities, and regulatory compliance.**

This sector represents an opportunity to back the future of autonomous systems and unlock value in industries that will shape tomorrow's economy. The following pages provide detailed insights, trends, and startup spotlights for those looking to understand and engage with this high-potential sector.

Warm Regards,
CA Mayank Desai

DRONING INTO THE FUTURE & THE SKY'S GETTING CROWDED

In 1997, the Hollywood movie "The Fifth Element" gave us a glimpse of a world buzzing with flying taxis, vertical traffic jams, and airborne chaos. Back then, it felt like pure sci-fi. But fast forward to 2025, and the skies are already whispering - "The future is now, and it's got propellers."

Drones, once dismissed as rich-kid toys or war-zone spies, are now becoming serious business - literally and figuratively. From swarms that surveil to flyers that deliver, from palm-sized peepers to car-sized carriers, drone tech is taking off. Quite literally.

Droning into 2050 - What Could the Future Hold?

Picture this:

- Your pizza arrives before your download finishes.
- Your building gets inspected by a bot on wings.
- Your groceries land on your balcony - hands-free, hassle-free.
- Border patrol? Handled by hawk-eyed aerial bots with facial recognition.
- Missing person in a forest? No problem. Drones equipped with thermal vision start the search while humans catch their breath.

In 2050, drones won't just be above us - they'll be among us.

The Global Drone-Tech Takeoff

Globally, drone tech is already a multi-billion dollar flight path:

- $43 billion (2024 global drone market)
- Expected to reach $90+ billion by 2030
- CAGR soaring at over 15%

Startups in US, Israel, China, and India are buzzing with innovation. Some are building flying ambulances; others are working on AI-powered drone fleets for farmland monitoring. Unicorns are emerging in sectors once considered undroneable.

Written by,

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From Nano to Giga: The Size Spectrum of Skies

- Mosquito-sized drones developed for espionage - yes, you read that right. China's been experimenting with micro-drones that can fly undetected and collect data like digital dragonflies.
- Heavy-duty cargo drones - think 300kg payload haulers used in mining, offshore oil rigs, or last-mile logistics in terrains where roads don't exist.

When it comes to size, the drone world flies both high and small.

Cross-Industry Applications: From Sky to Supply Chain

1. **Logistics & E-commerce:**
   Zipline is delivering blood in Africa. Amazon Prime Air is (still) promising 30-minute deliveries. In remote terrains, drones will become the new postal service. Sky-high delivery? Groundbreaking economy.

2. **Military & Defense:**
   Forget the age of manned warfare. We're entering a world of swarm intelligence, autonomous targeting, and loitering munitions. Fewer boots on the ground, more bots in the clouds.

3. **Agritech:**
   Precision spraying, soil analysis, crop health scans - drones are turning farmers into data scientists. Farming by flying. Crops by coding.

4. **Disaster Response:**
   Drones can access earthquake-hit areas before rescue teams arrive. Thermal sensors and AI help spot survivors. When seconds save lives, drones lead the way.

5. **Infrastructure & Manufacturing:**
   Inspection of wind turbines, bridges, and smokestacks now takes hours instead of weeks—without risking a human life. From scaffolding to software—inspect, detect, and correct.

Tech Trends: AI, Autonomy & Swarm Smarts

- **AI-based flight intelligence:** Obstacle avoidance, autonomous rerouting, and behavioral prediction
- **Swarm drones:** Multiple units working like bees with decentralized command, real-time coordination
- **Edge computing & real-time analytics:** Enabling on-the-fly decisions (pun intended)

We're moving from manual piloting to machine learning, from remote control to real-time cognition.

Drone Startups: Skypreneurs with Sky-High Ambitions

India's Garuda Aerospace is doing rural mapping. Israel's Percepto offers autonomous industrial inspections. US-based Skydio is redefining smart drones with real-time obstacle avoidance. Every country has its "Top Gun of Tech" and they don't wear uniforms, just hoodies and headsets.

The Flip Side of Flight

With every technology, comes turbulence:

- Privacy breaches via hovering spies
- Security threats in the form of rogue drones
- Airspace congestion and mid-air mishaps
- Policy lag where regulation flies slower than innovation

But just like cars needed rules of the road, drones need rules of the cloud. The future will demand Drone Traffic Controllers, Geo-fencing, and Digital Sky Protocols - all being fast-tracked globally.

The Final Descent

In a world racing toward automation, drones aren't a luxury, they're a necessity. From domino deliveries to defense domination, the question isn't whether drone tech will disrupt industries - it's which industry will be left undisrupted. The next billion-dollar idea? Might just be flying under your radar.

So, to all you startups dreaming big:
Don't just build apps. Build altitude.
Because in the drone age, traction has propellers.

TERMINOLOGY

1 **Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS):**
Business model offering drone operations as a service (e.g., surveying, delivery).

BVLOS Operations 2
Business offering solutions for flying drones Beyond Visual Line of Sight.

Introduction: The Rise of Drones

Drones — once associated only with military surveillance — have become essential tools in industries as diverse as agriculture, healthcare, construction, and logistics. With origins tracing back to unmanned hot air balloons in 1783, drones today represent the cutting edge of **autonomous technology, AI-driven analytics,** and **real-time data solutions.**

Features and Types: What Makes Drones So Versatile?

Structural magic

Drones combine a lightweight frame with components like **propellers, motors, flight controllers, GPS modules, and cameras,** delivering a unique blend of maneuverability, stability, and functionality.

Main types:

1. **Multicopters:** Quadcopter (4 rotors), hexacopter (6 rotors), and octocopter (8 rotors) for flexibility in aerial photography, surveillance, and light logistics.



2. **Fixed-wing drones:** Like airplanes, these excel in long-range mapping and monitoring but require runways or launchers.

3. **Hybrid VTOL (Vertical Takeoff and Landing):** Combines the best of both worlds — long-range flight + hover capabilities.

Power and payload:

From featherweight drones (<11g payloads) to heavy-lift models (>1000kg payloads), there's a solution for nearly every industrial need.

Smart sensors:

Drones today come equipped with **LiDAR, thermal cameras, multispectral and hyperspectral sensors,** enabling applications from crop health analysis to 3D city mapping.

Drone Usage Area:

Drones are primarily used for military purposes, their application in commercial and other sectors is increasingly common today. The evaluations of the current usage areas, which are still in use and expected to become more widespread soon, are summarized below.

Agriculture

In agriculture, drones deliver vital data, enhancing productivity and efficiency. They support **spraying, fertilization, plant damage detection, and yield prediction,** while easing physical effort. Drones also save time in **research, planting, and livestock monitoring.** As drone and satellite data integration grows, **smart farming** will become the norm, helping producers better plan and manage their crops.

Environment

Drones are increasingly vital for **environmental control** and **emergency response** in growing cities. They aid in **sea cleaning projects, anti-poaching efforts,** and **tracking endangered species** using thermal cameras. Drones also help **detect oil and gas leaks,** enabling faster, safer interventions.

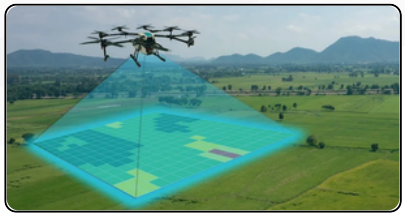
Health

Drones are transforming medical response by delivering **equipment, medicines, and trauma kits,** especially to hard-to-reach urban and rural areas. They assist in **search-and-rescue missions** and help guide people using cameras and audio. Studies show drones deliver **defibrillators 32% faster in cities and 93% faster in rural areas.** Drones also enable safe, rapid transport of **drugs, blood, and tissues,** outperforming traditional methods in emergencies.

Photography and cinema

Drones are widely used in **professional video production** for commercials, TV series, films, and direct marketing. They capture stunning **aerial views** of cities, beaches, and buildings, enhancing advertising visuals. Increasingly common at large events, drones offer a safe, efficient way to gather images from otherwise inaccessible areas. Their use significantly boosts **innovation and quality** in the film and media industries.

Mapping



Drones are increasingly used for **rapid, 3D mapping** of nearly any terrain. Equipped with **LiDAR sensors,** they deliver highly accurate data for landform mapping and play a key role in **agricultural product evaluation.** LiDAR drone technology is transforming how we map and assess landscapes.

Logistics

Drones are transforming **logistics,** transporting food, packages, and goods — especially small, urgent deliveries to hard-to-reach locations. They also assist in **warehouse scanning and** material management. While carrying capacity remains a challenge, **heavy-duty drones** have the potential to ease road traffic and handle goods between warehouses. In the near future, drones could become a key player in package delivery.

Emergencies

Drones play a vital role in **emergency response,** supporting firefighters, police, and rescue teams. They provide rapid **reconnaissance** to assess disasters before teams move in. **Autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs)** help prevent drownings and assist in boat-related rescues, while drones aid in locating the injured during avalanches and other disasters.

Conservation of wildlife and historic buildings

Drones efficiently monitor wildlife, combat poaching, and aid reforestation by dispersing seeds in fire-damaged forests. They also support historic preservation by creating 3D maps of heritage sites for reconstruction and research.

Military

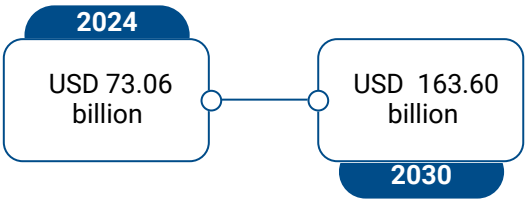
Drones were first used for military operations, supporting missions from surveillance and radar detection to transporting food, weapons, and ammunition. Modern military drones, like the MQ-9 Reaper, feature thermal imaging, laser rangefinders, and airstrike capability. The MQ-9 spans 36 feet, flies up to 50,000 feet altitude, and has a range of 1852 km.

The Global Drone Revolution Beyond Hype, Into the Future

Drones are no longer tech novelties — they are becoming the infrastructure of the skies

A market ready for takeoff

The global drone market size



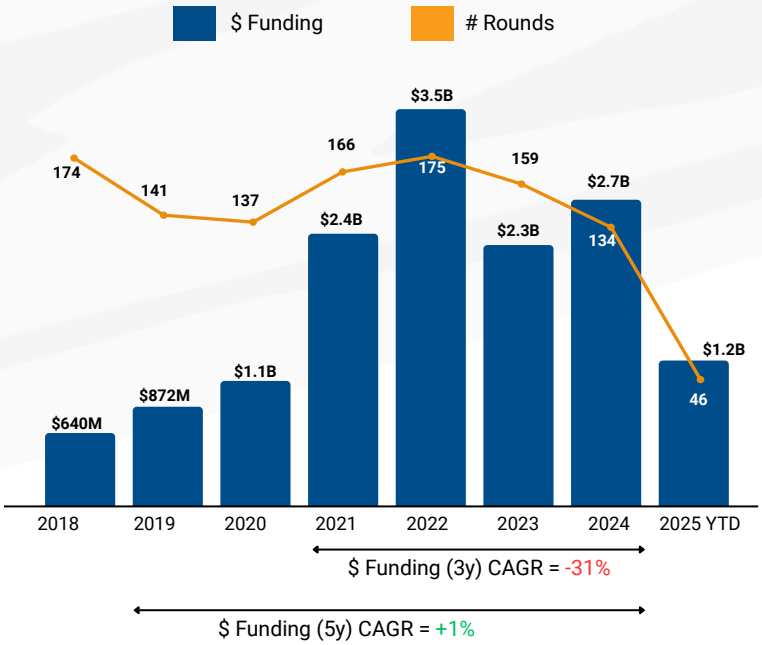
The global drone market size is estimated at USD 73.06 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 163.60 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 14.3% from 2025 to 2030. This growth is largely driven by rapid advancements in drone technology, improvements in battery efficiency, AI-powered autonomous systems, and enhanced imaging sensors, which is further expanding the capabilities of drones across industries.

Where drones are winning big:

- **Defence & Security:** Skydio's AI-driven drones are revolutionising border surveillance and critical asset protection.
- **Logistics & Delivery:** Zipline, Wingcopter, and Amazon are building drone delivery systems that slash costs and reach underserved areas.
- **Urban air mobility:** EHang (NASDAQ: EH) is trialling passenger drones in China — turning air taxi dreams into reality.

Investor hook: If airspace becomes the next logistics highway, which companies will control it?

Global Funding Trend



Global Market Map

Hardware

- Commercial Drones
- Military Drones
- Consumer Drones
- Drone Accessories

Software

Services

- Diversified Drone Services
- Agricultural Drone Services
- Industrial Drone Inspection
- Drone Surveying Services
- Drone Logistic Services

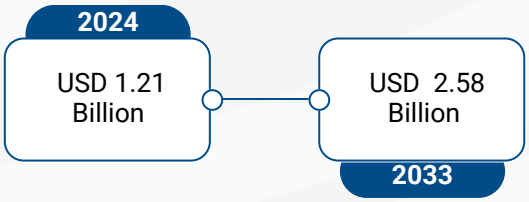
Online Drone Retailers

India's Drone Tech Ecosystem
The Sky's the Limit

India's drone sector isn't just catching up; it's setting the pace in many areas.

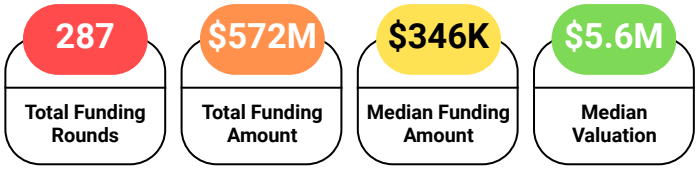
Market forecast:

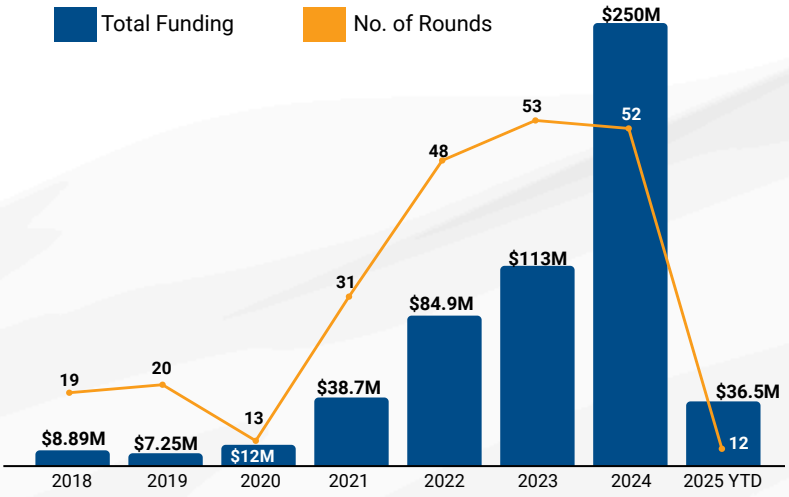
Commercial Drone Market



IMARC estimates the commercial drone market at roughly USD 1.21 billion in 2024, growing to USD 2.58 billion by 2033 (≈CAGR 8.8%). An EY/FICCI report is even more bullish, projecting India's drone manufacturing and components ecosystem to reach about USD 23 billion by 2030

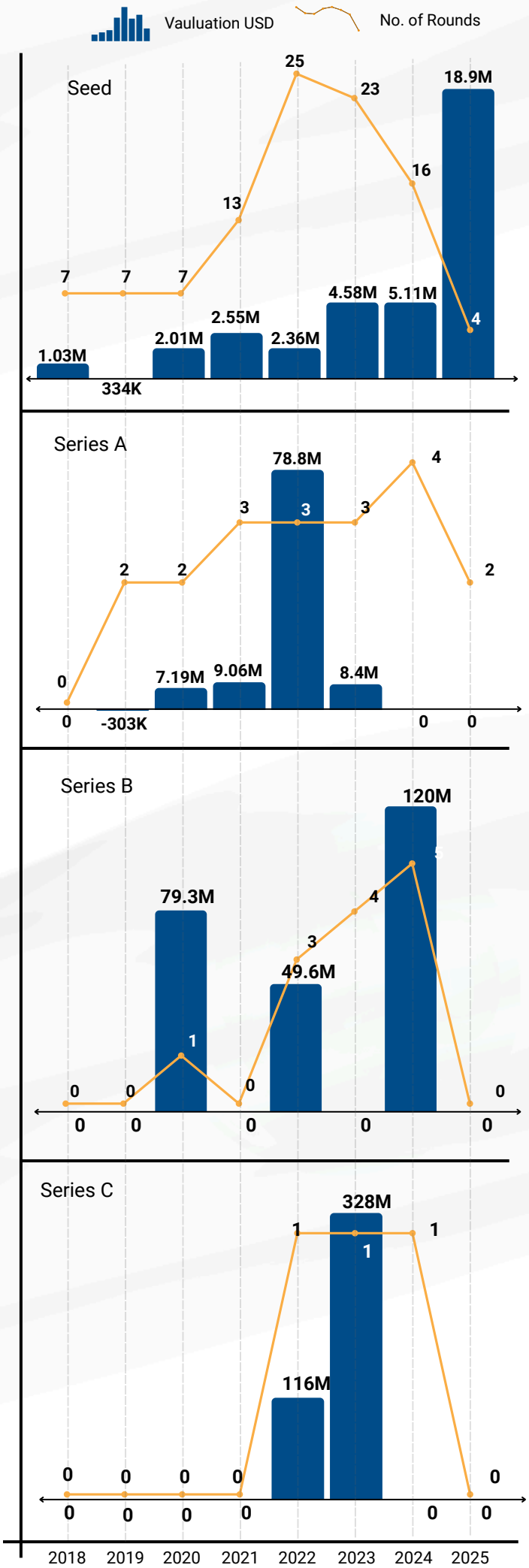
Investment Trend:





The investment trend shows steady growth in funding over the years, with a sharp rise beginning in 2021. Total funding increased from $8.89M in 2018 and $7.25M in 2019 to $38.7M in 2021, followed by $84.9M in 2022. The peak came in 2024, reaching $250M across 52 rounds, reflecting strong investor confidence and larger deal sizes. 2023 was also notable with $113M from 53 rounds. In 2025 (YTD), funding stands at $36.5M from 12 rounds, suggesting a slower start or fewer reported rounds so far. The data highlights growing momentum in investments, especially in recent years

Valuation Trend



Funding Valuation Trends (Median)

Seed Stage
- Highest: **2025 YTD** – $18.9M (4 rounds)
- Lowest: **2019** – $334K (7 rounds)
- Gradual rise from 2018 ($1.03M) to 2025

Series A
- Highest: **2025 YTD** – $141M (2 rounds)
- Lowest: **2019** – negative value (-$303K, 2 rounds, likely an error or data issue)
- 2022 also strong at $78.8M (3 rounds)

Series B
- Highest: **2024** – $120M (5 rounds)
- 2022 also notable at $49.6M (3 rounds)
- No activity in 2018, 2019

Series C
- Highest: **2023** – $328M (1 round)
- 2025 YTD – $222M (3 rounds)
- 2022 – $116M (1 round)

Series C+
- Very limited activity:
  - **2024** – 1 round, no valuation reported
  - No rounds in other years

Overall Highlights
- 2025 YTD shows the **highest Seed and Series A valuations**.
- Series C peak: 2023 ($328M)
- Seed valuations have steadily increased from 2019 lows.
- Series B and C activity has been more sporadic but with high medians when deals occurred.

What's driving India's growth?
- **Policy support:** PLI schemes, the Drone Shakti Mission, and import bans are fuelling local innovation.
- **Sector adoption:** Agriculture, mining, smart cities, and defence are already integrating drones at scale.

Emerging leaders:

Company Name	Area of Operation	Market Cap (Cr) as on 25/06/2025	Revenue (In Rs. Cr)	Profit (In Rs. Cr)
Zen Technologies Ltd	Defense training systems, drones	17,456.74	930.67	262.95
Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd	Defense & aerospace equipment, drones (through subsidiary ParasAerospace)	6,641.40	214.28	35.93
RattanIndia Enterprises Ltd.	Mobility services, drones (through subsidiary NeoSky)	199.87	35.19	6.18
Droneacharya Aerial Innovations Ltd	Pure-play drone manufacturing	8142.95	6,876	807

Drone Startups: Skypreneurs with Sky-high Ambitions

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):
Technology that captures CO_2 emissions from industrial processes or the air and stores it underground to prevent atmospheric release.

Biggest Drone Startups in India:

Newspace Research & Technologies

Founded Year: 2017

Bengaluru (India)

- By Sameer Joshi, Julius Somojit Amrit & Dilip Chabria
- **What they do:** Advanced unmanned systems—industrial drones, swarm robotics, GPS-denied navigation, AI/AR/VR simulations—for defense & commercial sectors
- **Funding Stage & Total Raised:** Series B; $73.2 M over 11 rounds; $52 M bridge round in Mar 2024
- **Revenue:** ₹5.2 Cr ($0.63 M) FY2023–24; industry estimates around $61 M
- **Key Highlight:** Strong tie-ups with IAF; pioneering swarm-drone tech

ideaForge Technology

Founded Year: 2007

Mumbai (India)

- By IIT Bombay alumni—Ankit Mehta (CEO), Rahul Singh (CTO) & Ashish Bhat
- **What they do:** India's largest indigenous drone OEM—platforms like Netra, SWITCH—for defense, security, mapping; holds 20+ global patents
- **Funding:** Series A $10 M (2016); Series B $20 M (2022); ₹315 Cr pre-IPO funding (2023)
- **Orders / Revenue:** ₹192 Cr active order book (to Mar 2023); ₹137 Cr Army order for VTOL UAVs (June 2025)

Garuda Aerospace

Founded Year: 2015

Chennai (India)

- By Agnishwar Jayaprakash & Rithika Mohan; investor & ambassador MS Dhoni
- **What they do:** Drone-as-a-Service—agri sprayers, surveillance, delivery, defense UAVs; DGCA-approved with 400+ drones in 84 cities
- **Funding & Valuation:** $1 M in Jun 2025; earlier Series A $22 M (2023) valuing at $250 M
- **2024 Revenue:** ₹110.8 Cr ($13.5 M); net profit ₹15.8 Cr
- **Highlight:** 750+ clients; scaling IP & manufacturing

Optimized Electrotech (IoTechWorld Avigation)

Founded Year: 2020

Gurugram (India)

- DGCA-certified agri-drone maker
- **What they do:** Agri-drones for spraying, mapping & surveillance (Agribot, Surveybot, Heavybot, Drishti); 2,000 units active
- **Funding:** Privately-funded with governmental PLI support
- **Revenue:** Not disclosed
- **Highlight:** Empowering 1M farmers; offers finance, training & licensing

Dronacharya Aerial Innovations

Founded Year: 2018

India

- **What they do:** Drone-based photography, surveying, inspection, mapping & training emphasizes hands-on "Gurukul" style learning
- **Highlight:** Photogrammetry-grade mapping & structured education

Skylark Drones

Founded Year: 2014

Bengaluru (India)

- By Mrinal Pai & Mughilan Thiru Ramasamy
- **What they do:** Mapping, surveying & solar-inspection drones; end-to-end analytics platform
- **Funding:** Seed round from Info Edge Ventures, IKP, IAN
- **Revenue:** Not disclosed
- **Highlight:** Customer-rated 4.7/5; strong early investor support

Founded Year: 2019

Chennai (India)

Dhaksha Systems

- Roots back to 2001 & Anna University)
- **What they do:** Defense & agri drones including petrol-engine UAS; DGCA-certified; plus pilot training
- **Orders:** ₹165 Cr in contracts—Army logistics drones & IFFCO agri deal
- **Highlight:** First in India with medium-altitude logistics drone contract for Army

Founded Year: 2020

Bengaluru (India)

Botlab Dynamics

- By Tanmay Bunkar, Dr. Sarita Ahlawat & Anuj Barnwal
- **What they do:** Drone-based light shows for events & national celebrations
- **Funding:** Undisclosed
- **Highlight:** High-profile shows (India Gate tribute, Djibouti's biggest, gaming reveals)

Founded Year: 2020

Gurugram / Bengaluru (India)

SkyeAir

- By Ankit Kumar
- **What they do:** Drone logistics & UTM, BVLOS delivery starting 2021; segments include healthcare, e-commerce, agriculture
- **Milestones:** First BVLOS in 2021; 1,000+ flights in 6 months; partners include BigBasket, Bluedart, DTDC, Shiprocket, Flipkart, Dunzo, Aster Health
- **Highlights:** 7-minute hyperlocal delivery launched Bengaluru Mar 2025; 1000+ BVLOS flights; 103 km hub-to-hub, 60 km diagnostics route; BigBasket grocery in 10 min; multiple gov't & postal pilots

Founded Year: 2018

IIT Kanpur incubated

EndureAir Systems

- By Dr. Abhishek, Rama Krishna & Chirag Jain
- **What they do:** High-endurance helicopter drones (Vibhram, Alakh, Sabal) for defense & industrial users; heavy payloads, high-altitude performance
- **Orders & Revenue:** Delivered Sabal 20 to Army (20 kg payload, Eastern Ladakh); FY23 revenue ₹2.26 Cr (¥0.32 Cr FY21); order book ₹20 Cr; aiming ₹50 Cr fundraising
- **Highlight:** 65% indigenization; award-winning designs; Army deployments in remote frontier areas

Founded Year: 2018

Bengaluru (India)

Redwing (Bengaluru)

- By Anshul Sharma, Arunabha Bhattacharya & Rishabh Gupta
- **What they do:** Autonomous BVLOS drone logistics—healthcare, food, e-commerce; hybrid VTOL for remote areas
- **Funding:** $3.43 M (4 rounds) seed and angels; valuation ₹136 Cr as of Mar 2024
- **Revenue & Orders:** ₹3.69 Cr revenue FY24; $446K FY24; pilots in Arunachal & Odisha; Aerit (Swedish) assets acquired June 2025

Business Models: The Real Value Layers

Shift from one-time sales to recurring models:

- **Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS):** Clients pay per use or subscription for agri spraying, security, infra monitoring.
- **SaaS + Analytics:** Platforms to manage drone fleets, process data, and deliver insights.

Margin potential:

- **Hardware sales:** 15%-20% gross margin
- **DaaS:** 30%-35% potential
- **SaaS + analytics:** >40% gross margin at scale

Export ambitions:
Indian startups are eyeing Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East — regions with similar needs and challenges.

Key Investor Watchpoints

- **Tech moat:** Does the company own core IP, or rely on imported components?
- **Regulatory readiness:** Indian drone policy is pro-innovation, but could change — startups must stay compliant.
- **Battery tech:** Longer flight times will determine future leaders.

Execution scale: India's geography demands strong rollout capabilities — not all startups can scale effectively.

The Formula for the Next Drone Unicorn

What investors should look for:

- Proprietary hardware-software integration
- Scalable service and SaaS layers
- Strong regulatory navigation
- Global expansion plan

Final Thought

Drone tech is creating the **digital infrastructure of the sky**, offering investors a rare blend of **deep-tech innovation, scalable models, and vast market potential**. The future of global and Indian drone industries looks promising, driven by **technology advances**, **regulatory reforms**, and **commercial adoption**.

Key trends to watch:

- **Autonomy:** AI and machine learning will enable drones to perform complex tasks without human input.
- **Urban Air Mobility (UAM):** Flying taxis and delivery drones are becoming a reality, with eVTOL tech leading the way.

The real question isn't if drones will transform industries, but who will lead — and how early investors can get in

Terminology

1 **UAV Platform:**
The foundational drone system built to carry out specific missions or tasks.

INSIDEFPV: SOARING AT THE FOREFRONT OF INDIA'S DRONE INNOVATION

2020 **Surat**

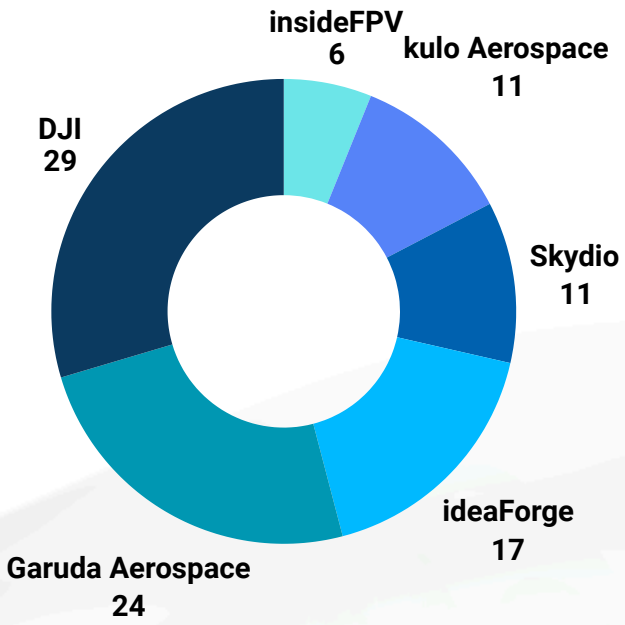
Rs. 1.47 Cr As on Mar 31,2024 (79% YOY growth)

Surat-based **InsideFPV** is a young, deep-tech drone startup that burst onto the scene in 2020. Foundedby co-founders Arth Chowdhary, Deyvant Bhardwaj and Oshi Kumari, the company set out to simplify aerial robotics with **"plug-and-fly"** drones made in India. Their founding vision was to merge high-end technology with affordability – essentially delivering world-class FPV (first-person-view) drones and accessories for hobbyists, students and professionals alike. In just four years, InsideFPV has grown from a small garage in Surat into a team of 40+ innovators, operating 30+ "Drone Experience Arenas" nationwide and serving some 30,000+ enthusiasts. This rapid trajectory underscores the firm's roots as a Make-in-India success story, backed by notable media and investor attention.

InsideFPV's innovation pipeline sets it apart. The company has filed **10+ patents** and tackled cutting-edge challenges. For example, its engineers demoed a system to remotely pilot a drone **7,000+ km away** (from the Netherlands to India) with live video feed – a first-of-its-kind zero-lag link. Its flagship **Elevate Z1** surveillance drone even shattered endurance records with a 141-minute flight in extreme conditions. These feats – from omni-directional obstacle-avoidance systems to advanced long-range transmitters – highlight InsideFPV's R&D depth. In effect, the company isn't just selling drones, but pioneering new drone capabilities.

InsideFPV offers a full lineup of FPV-ready products, each tailored to different users and use cases. Notable offerings include:

Market Share:



BIR V2 – Educational Micro-Drone:

A foldable palm-sized quadcopter for beginners, designed for STEM learning. It packs 20+ min flight time, gesture controls and omnidirectional (540°) obstacle avoidance for safe indoor/outdoor use. Its one-key takeoff/land and Wi-Fi FPV make it ideal for students and hobbyists to capture aerial video without complex setup.

Vidyut – Advanced FPV Training Drone:

Built for defense and pilot training, Vidyut features a robust frame, responsive controls and both analog (810p) and digital (1080p/4K) camera options. It can reach 70+ km/h, fly 20+ minutes per charge and cover 2–3+ km distance – delivering a realistic FPV experience for drill practice. (It even comes with a cinewhoop frame and pilot kits for comprehensive training.)

Elevate V1 – Surveillance Drone:

A professional-grade drone for security and inspection missions. It boasts 60+ min flight time, a 20MP/4K Sony CMOS camera, and a secure 2–3+ km line-of-sight link. Intelligent features like intelligent Return-To-Home, multi-mode navigation and IP53 weather resistance ensure reliable performance in harsh conditions.

Advik & Citrya – Specialized FPV Platforms:

Advik is an FPV variant optimized for 360° maneuverability in surveillance, while Citrya is a cinewhoop-style craft for films/media, offering smooth 4K aerial cinematography. All InsideFPV models emphasize plug-and-play convenience and Make-in-India quality.

Each product line is backed by custom drone kits and spares (frame, motors, controllers, FPV goggles, etc.), and InsideFPV provides crash warranties and free pilot consultations – underscoring its focus on user experience and affordability. The market tailwinds are strong. India's drone industry is in a takeoff phase: domestic sales are projected to grow from roughly $654 million (2024) to $1.44 billion by 2029 (≈17% CAGR). Growth is driven by rising demand in agriculture (crop-spraying, field survey), infrastructure, and security. Even more striking is the defense UAV market: it generated about $1.53 billion in 2024 and is expected to hit ~$4.08 billion by 2030. Globally, the drone market exceeded $30 billion in 2023 and is on track to double by 2030 techjury.net. InsideFPV's focus on made-in-India FPV drones and diversified segments (consumer, agri, defense) positions it well to ride this boom. The company itself notes that India has become "the next hub for manufacturing" drones, and its products leverage government support such as the Drone Shakti initiative. In short, the addressable market is vast, and InsideFPV is among the startups ready to capture it.

Key Milestones and Recognition: InsideFPV has quickly amassed an impressive list of accolades. Its achievements include:

- Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 (Consumer Technology, 2024) – co-founders Arth, Deyvant and Oshi were honored on the prestigious list.
- Shark Tank India (Season 2) – the founders secured investment commitments from four Sharks on the hit TV show, making InsideFPV the first Indian drone maker funded on Shark Tank.
- Strategic MoU with Israel's UAV Dynamix – a partnership to exchange tech and jointly explore Indo-Israeli markets.
- Winner, TiESmashUp 2024 Startup Contest – a national pitch competition for deeptech startups.
- Government & Media Recognition – featured in Electronics ForYou magazine (Dec 2024), listed among India's Top 500 Startups (India 500), and recognized under the Startup India (Robotics) initiative.

These honors reflect both technical innovation and business momentum – endorsements that resonate with investors and customers alike.

Team and Expertise: InsideFPV's co-founders, CEO Arth Chowdhary and CTO Deyvant Bhardwaj, both Forbes Asia awardees, lead a skilled team of drone pilots, engineers, and designers. Arth showcased their technology on national TV, highlighting the startup's journey. COO Oshi Kumari adds operational expertise, while a partnership with IIIT-Surat establishes a drone lab and funds student projects, bringing in fresh talent.

Together, the team's credentials – dozens of patents, contest wins and media features – convey a strong track record of execution.

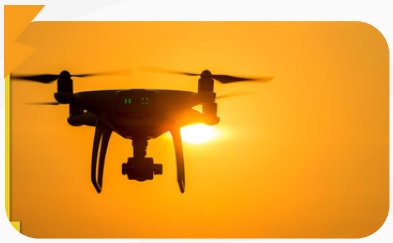
FUNDING NEWS & UPDATES

MGF Kavachh Backs Robotics Startup Coratia Technologies

Underwater robotics startup Coratia Technologies has raised $2 Mn (INR 17.1 Cr) in a Pre-Series A round led by MGF Kavachh, the deep-tech VC founded by former defence secretary Ajay Kumar. Incubated at NIT Rourkela, Coratia develops autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and tethered ROVs for maritime security and infrastructure inspection. Investors say the deal boosts India's self-reliant defence capabilities amid rising global demand for unmanned underwater systems..

Drone startup Vayudh raises $10 Mn led by Dharana Capital

Defence technology startup Vayudh has raised $10 million in a funding round led by Dharana Capital, with participation from investors like Deepinder Goyal and Ajay Aggarwal. The funds will enhance research, expand manufacturing, and accelerate deployments for the Indian defence forces. Founded in 2016 by Tanmay Bunkar, Anuj Barnwal, and Sarita Ahlawat, Vayudh specializes in drone platforms for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, logging over 300,000 autonomous flying hours. The company recently launched Atri, a nano surveillance drone, and received the iDEX Grant to develop India's smallest surveillance drone.



Indian drone startup Raphe mPhibr raises $145 million in funding after Operation Sindoor success

Following the success of Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, drone demand in India surged. Noida-based UAV startup Raphe mPhibr, whose drones were deployed during the mission, raised a record $145 Mn in a round led by General Catalyst, valuing it at nearly $900 Mn. The Indian Army is now keen on acquiring suicide drones, and Raphe plans to boost its R&D to meet growing defence needs.

Drone startups chart path to shake off import dependence

India's drone startups are accelerating local manufacturing to reduce import reliance, driven by defence demand, policy support, and rising investor interest. While most core components were historically imported, companies are now investing in end-to-end domestic development—from propulsion to AI systems. Initiatives like PLI, iDEX, and TDF are aiding this shift. Funding grew to $108 Mn in 2024, with global security concerns boosting demand for non-Chinese alternatives. Startups now seek policy consistency and patient capital to build a self-reliant, globally competitive ecosystem.

Vaimanika Aerospace: Drone Innovation from Bihar to Bharat

Vaimanika Aerospace, founded by Manish Dixit in July 2022 and based in Bihar, began from his passion for teaching robotics and UAVs. The startup tackles agricultural inefficiencies using precision drone tech, blending the ancient Sanskrit-inspired name "Vaimanika" with cutting-edge autonomy. Within just three years, it has emerged as a national innovation hub—developing smart UAVs for farming, logistics, and more—highlighting Manish's decade-long commitment to robotics education.

SWARM TROOPERS: HOW SMALL DRONES WILL CONQUER THE WORLD

IMAGINE A FUTURE WHERE ARMIES DON'T MARCH—BUT BUZZ.

Tiny drones, no bigger than insects, flying in coordinated swarms, dodging bullets, collecting intelligence, and even launching surgical strikes. This isn't science fiction—it's the fast-approaching reality that David Hambling uncovers in his electrifying book, Swarm Troopers.

In a world where drone innovation is accelerating faster than legislation, Hambling paints a vivid picture of the **next leap in drone warfare and technology.** But this book isn't just for defense geeks—it's for anyone building, investing in, or fascinated by drone technology.

What makes Swarm Troopers so gripping is how it blends **deep technical insight with thrilling storytelling.** Hambling walks us through real-world experiments and secret military projects, where countries like the U.S. and China are racing to control swarms of autonomous drones. Picture thousands of flying bots communicating with each other—**learning, adapting, and executing complex missions without human control.**

But here's the twist: these same technologies aren't just limited to the battlefield. Hambling also dives into how swarming drones are being tested in **disaster response, smart agriculture, infrastructure monitoring**, and even **urban crowd control**. He makes a strong case that those who understand swarm intelligence today will shape the industries of tomorrow.

For Indian startups and drone innovators, this book hits close to home. As India invests heavily in Make-in-India drone hardware and FPV systems, Swarm Troopers challenges us to **think bigger**. Not just about single drones—but ecosystems of them. It's a wake-up call: if we aren't thinking about autonomy, AI, and swarm coordination, we might be building tech that's already obsolete.

What you'll love about this book:

- It's rich in **fascinating use-cases**, from insect-inspired bots to flying reconnaissance packs.
- It explores both **the promise and the danger** of drone swarms.
- It inspires readers to reimagine what drones can do— **beyond cameras and quadcopters.**

In a nutshell, Swarm Troopers is part thriller, part tech roadmap, and 100% relevant for the future of drone innovation. If you're in the drone space—or simply intrigued by what's coming next in aerial robotics—this book is your next must-read.

Author,
David Hambling

TERMINOLOGIES

Payload Integration:
Customization of drone equipment (e.g., camera, sensors) to match customer use cases.

Drone Stack
End-to-end layers in a drone tech company — includes hardware, software, data, and AI.

Autonomous Drone Fleet
A startup offering fleets of AI-driven, self-flying drones.

Edge AI for Drones:
Onboard real-time AI processing for object detection, tracking, and decision-making.

AgriDrone / AgTech Drone:
Drones for agriculture – crop monitoring, spraying, soil analysis.

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