

Indian Nuclear Forces

India tested its first nuclear weapon in 1974, becoming the sixth country to detonate a nuclear weapon. The country's arsenal carries weapons with estimated average yields ranging from [12 to 40 kilotons](#), though exact yields are unknown. India's "minimum, credible deterrence" [policy](#) has been called into question amidst reports that the country is [pursuing](#) multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs) for its nuclear missiles.

India is [actively](#) pursuing membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and became a member of the [Missile Technology Control Regime](#) in 2016. India has not signed the [Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty](#).

How Many?

India has never publicly released the size of its nuclear arsenal. Independent assessments approximate a stockpile between [110-120](#) nuclear weapons, all of which are believed to be non-deployed or in storage, ranking India either sixth or seventh in total nuclear inventories by country (depending on the size of Pakistan's estimated arsenal).

India possesses a full [nuclear triad](#) and is enhancing the country's nuclear weapons deliverability. India and Russia jointly developed the [BrahMos supersonic cruise missile](#), which is capable of being delivered by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force and can reportedly be mounted with a nuclear warhead. According to media reports, India is also further developing the [Nirbhay](#) subsonic nuclear-capable cruise.

Air

Though definite numbers are unclear, India possesses the ability to deliver approximately [48 nuclear gravity bombs](#) via the Mirage 2000H and Jaguar IS/IB. The Indian Air Force is also [modifying](#) 42 Su-30 MKI multirole fighters to carry BrahMos cruise missiles, as well as [developing](#) an air-launched Nirbhay cruise missile.

Sea

The INS Arihant, India's first ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), is equipped with [12 launch tubes](#) for the Sagarika (K-15) submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), which has a range of 700 kilometers. India is developing the K-4 SLBM, which was test-launched in 2014 to a range of over 3,000 kilometers. The Arihant would likely have to be modified in order to carry the K-4.

India also possesses the Dhanush nuclear-capable sea-based ballistic missile, which has a range of approximately [350](#) kilometers and can be fired from two retrofitted Sukanya-class patrol vessels. In total, India is estimated to possess approximately 14 sea-based nuclear warheads.

Ground

India's ground-based nuclear weapons program likely consists of four operational ballistic missile systems and an estimated 56 warheads, with at least three further systems in development. The short-range road-mobile [Prithvi-2](#) and [Agni-1](#) (also rail-mobile) missiles can travel 250 kilometers and 700-1,200 kilometers respectively. The [Agni-II](#) and [Agni-III](#) are both rail-mobile (Agni-II is also road-mobile) and have ranges greater 2,000-3,500 kilometers and 3,000-5,000 kilometers respectively.

India is further developing the Agni-IV and the Agni-V. [Agni-IV](#) is a rail and road-mobile ballistic missile with a range of approximately 4,000 kilometers. The [Agni-V](#) is reportedly both rail and road-mobile and has a range of more than 5,000 kilometers, potentially making it the country's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Media reports [suggest](#) the newest Indian ballistic missile, the 10,000 kilometer range Agni-VI, may make its maiden test launch in 2017.

Indian officials have said they plan for the Agni-VI, and potentially other Agni variants, to be [MIRV capable](#).