

## India's Nuclear Deployment Policy Shift

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### Why in News?

Recently, SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) Report 2026 stated that India has deployed 12 nuclear warheads, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

- **Stockpile** - Estimated at 190 warheads (Jan 2026), up from 180 in 2025.
- **Policy Shift** - India earlier kept warheads and launchers separate in peacetime, now by deploying them on an SSBN - Deterrence patrol, it signals higher readiness.

*Deterrence Patrol - An SSBN sails secretly with nuclear weapons onboard, ensuring second strike capability so India can retaliate from sea even if attacked.*

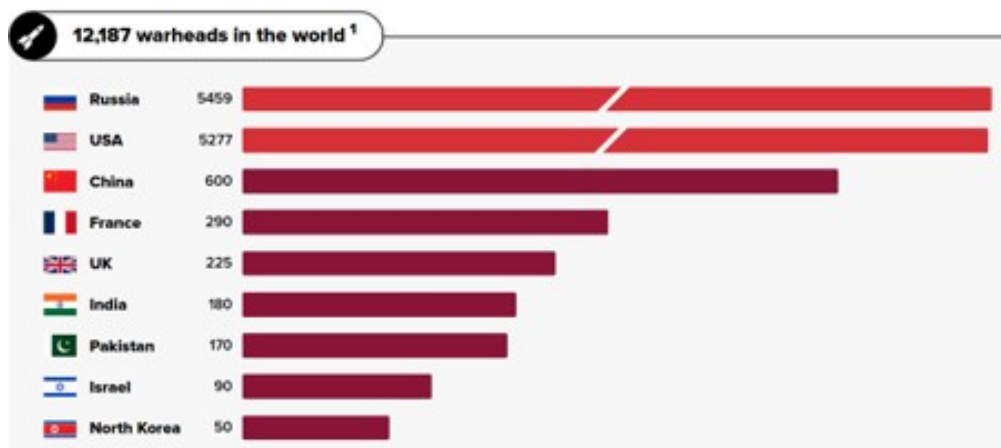
- **Recessed Deterrent Policy** - (De-mated Posture) - Nuclear warheads and delivery systems kept separate in peacetime to prevent accidental use.
- **India's Nuclear Policy** - It is guided by the 2003 doctrine, based on No First Use (NFU) and Credible Minimum Deterrence.

*Credible Minimum Deterrence - A nuclear doctrine where a nation keeps a (limited but survivable arsenal) of nuclear weapons.*

- In case of a nuclear strike on India, the doctrine mandates a massive retaliatory response to inflict unacceptable damage on the adversary.
- **Nuclear Triad** - 5 are officially recognized as possessing a nuclear triad: the United States, Russia, China, India, and Pakistan.

*Triad - Military capability to deliver atomic weapons via 3 distinct methods Aircraft, land-based missiles, and SSBNs (sea-based)*

deterrence).



## References

1. [Indian express | Nuclear Deployment](#)
2. [NDTV | Nuclear Deployment](#)

