Table 1. Indian nuclear forces, 2024.

Type/designation	No. of launchers	Year deployed	Range (km)[a]	Warheads x yield[b]	No. of warheads
Aircraft[c]	**48**[d]				**48**
Mirage 2000H	32	1985	1,850	1 × 12 kt bomb	. .[e]
Jaguar IS	16	1981	1,600	1 × 12 kt bomb	.
Rafale[f]	(36)	2022	2,000	[1 × 12 kt bomb]	.
Land-based missiles	**80**				**80**[g]
Prithvi-II	24	2003	250[h]	1 × 12 kt	24
Agni-I	16	2007[i]	700+	1 × 10–40 kt	16
Agni-II	16	2011[j]	2,000+	1 × 10–40 kt	16
Agni-III	16	2018	3,200+	1 × 10–40 kt	16
Agni-IV	8	2022	3,500+	1 × 10–40 kt	8
Agni-V	.	(2025)	5,000+	(1-3 × 10–40 kt MIRV)[k]	.
Agni-VI	.	(2027)	6,000+	(1-3 × 10–40 kt MIRV)	.
Agni-P	.	(2025)	1,000–2,000	(1 × 10–40 kt)[l]	.
Sea-based missiles	***2/24***[m]				***24***
Dhanush	0	2013	400	1 × 12 kt	0[n]
K-15 (B-05)	24	2018	700	1 × 12 kt	24
K-4	.	(2025)	3,500	1 × 10–40 kt	.
K-5	.	(2028)	5,000+	(1-3 × 10–40 kt MIRV)	.
Total stockpile	***152***				***152***
Other stored warheads					20[o]
Total inventory	***152***				***172***

Abbreviations used: km: kilometers; kt: kilotons; MIRV: multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle.

Notes:

[a]Range listed is unrefueled combat range with drop tanks and is intended for illustrative purposes. Actual combat range will vary depending on flight profile, payload, and other circumstances.

[b]The yields of India's nuclear warheads are not known. The 1998 nuclear tests demonstrated yields of up to 12 kt. Since then, it is possible that boosted warheads have been introduced with a higher yield, perhaps up to 40 kt. There is no open-source evidence suggesting that India has developed two-stage thermonuclear warheads.

[c]Aircraft listed in this table are only those estimated to hold nuclear strike roles in the Indian Air Force.

[d]Indian Air Force squadrons typically include 18 aircraft per squadron; however, we estimate that not all of the available aircraft will necessarily be fully operational or assigned a nuclear strike role.

[e]Two dots (. .) imply the number is unknown or premature. Numbers between parentheses indicate weapons in the process of entering service but not yet operational.

[f]The Rafale is used for the nuclear mission in the French Air Force, and India could potentially convert it to serve a similar role in the Indian Air Force, with an eye toward taking over the air-based nuclear strike role in the future. However, as of July 2024 there had been no official confirmation that the Rafale will be used for the nuclear strike role with the Indian Air Force.

[g]This table assumes an average of one warhead for each launcher.

[h]The US Air Force's National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) has estimated the range of the Prithvi-II as 250 kilometers (155 miles) but we assume the range has probably been increased to about 350 kilometers (217 miles) as stated by the Indian government.

[i]Agni-I was inducted with the 334th Missile Group in 2004 but did not become operational until 2007.

[j]Agni-II was inducted with the 335th Missile Group in 2008 but did not become operational until 2011.

[k]Agni-V was tested in March 2024 with a MIRV capability. Indian media has speculated that the missile could hold anywhere between four and 12 MIRVs; however, given the missile's size, likely payload capacity, and India's relatively small warhead stockpile, we assess that it is more likely that it will be deployed with one to three MIRVs, as well as decoys and penetration aids.

[l]The Agni-P was reportedly test-launched in 2021 using two decoy warheads; however, it is unclear whether this indicates an aspiration to equip the Agni-P with multiple warheads. Once the Agni-P becomes operational, it will likely take over the nuclear strike mission from India's Prithvi-II and Agni-I SRBMs.

[m]The first figure is the number of operational vessels (two nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, or SSBNs); the second is the combined maximum number of missiles that they can carry. India has launched three SSBNs, but only two—INS *Arihant* and INS *Arighat*—were operational as of August 2024. Each of India's first two SSBNs has four missile tubes, each of which can carry three K-15 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), for a total of 12 missiles per SSBN. Each missile tube could also carry one K-4 SLBM, once the missile becomes operational. Satellite imagery indicates that India's subsequent SSBNs will likely have eight missile tubes.

[n]Until recently, India deployed two Sukanya-class patrol ships equipped with Dhanush missiles, each of which was thought to have one reload. The effectiveness of these vessels in combat nuclear strike roles was highly questionable given their slow speed and relative vulnerability, and recent imagery indicates that this capability has likely been retired.

[o]In addition to the 152 warheads estimated to be assigned to fielded launchers, we estimate that India is producing (or has produced) approximately 20 warheads for launchers nearing deployment: additional Agni-III MRBMs and Agni-IV MRBMs, and future Agni-V IRBMs and Agni-P MRBMs, for an estimated total stockpile of 172 warheads.