



SIPRI Yearbook 2023

Why in News?

Recently, [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#) Yearbook 2023 revealed that China could potentially have as many Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) as U.S. or Russia by the end of the decade.

- **Russia has the highest number of stored nuclear arsenals** followed by US and China while the US has deployed the highest number of nuclear arsenals followed by Russia and France.

What SIPRI Reveal About Nuclear Arsenals?

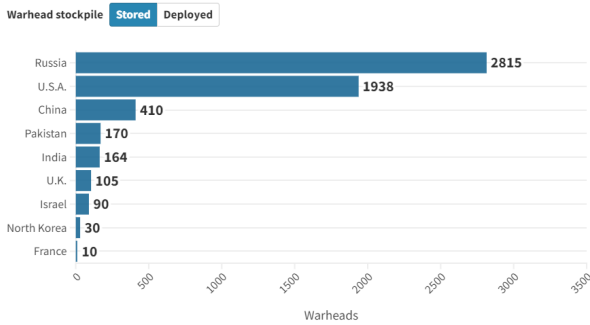
- **Global Nuclear Arsenals:**
 - **Modernization and Expansion:**
 - **The nine nuclear-armed states**, including the **United States, Russia, and China**, continue to modernize and expand their nuclear arsenals, deploying **new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2022**.
 - Other nuclear-armed countries are UK, France, India, Pakistan, the North Korea and Israel
 - **Total Global Inventory:**
 - As of January 2023, the **total global inventory of warheads is estimated at 12,512**, with **approximately 9,576 warheads held in military stockpiles for potential use**.
- **Dominance of Russia and U.S.:**
 - **90% of all Nuclear Weapons:**
 - **Russia and the United States possess almost 90%** of all nuclear weapons, with **relatively stable sizes** of their respective nuclear arsenals.
 - **Arms Control Concerns:**
 - Transparency and **dialogue regarding nuclear forces declined** between Russia and the United States following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
 - The suspension of the strategic stability dialogue and the Treaty on Measures for the **Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START)** has halted discussions for a follow-on treaty.
 - **New START Limits Maintained:**
 - Despite the strained relations, **both Russia and the United States remained within the limits set by New START** for their deployed strategic nuclear forces as of January 2023, according to SIPRI's assessment.

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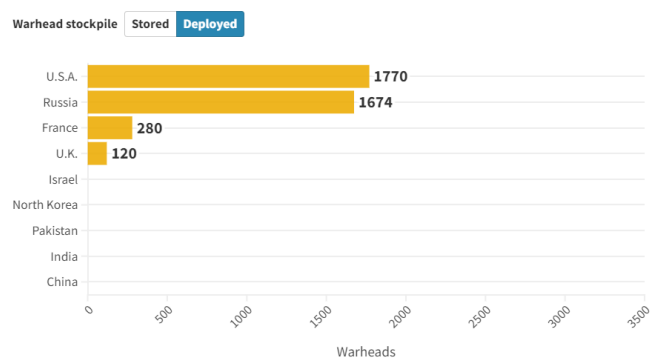
Stockpile count

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India's Nuclear Arsenal:

◦ Growth in Arsenal:

- India's **nuclear arsenal also expanded**, increasing from **160 warheads in 2022 to 164 warheads in 2023** and that of Pakistan from 165 to 170 in the same period.

◦ Focus on Longer-Range Weapons:

- India's **nuclear deterrent, while primarily focused on Pakistan**, is placing **growing emphasis on longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets across China.**

◦ Upgrading Ballistic Missiles:

- India is in the process of **upgrading its ballistic missiles**, with the development of a **submarine-launched intermediate-range ballistic missile** and the imminent induction of a new generation ballistic missile called **'Agni Prime.'**

China's Nuclear Arsenal:

◦ Increased Size:

- China's nuclear arsenal **grew from 350 warheads in January 2022 to 410 warheads in January 2023**, according to the SIPRI.

◦ Concerns About Expansion:

- The significant expansion of **China's nuclear arsenal raises concerns as it contradicts China's stated goal of maintaining minimum nuclear forces** for national security.

What is SIPRI?

- The SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- Established in 1966 at Stockholm, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

[Source: TH](#)