

State of Armaments, Disarmament and International Security

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About State of Armaments, Disarmament and International Security:

- It is an **annual assessment of the** Sweden-based think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.
- **Highlights:**
 - As on January 2023, the **world has 9,576 nuclear weapons** in military stockpiles **for potential use**.
 - That is **86 more than the number in January 2022**.
 - Of this stockpile, an estimated **3,844 warheads** were **‘deployed’ with missiles and aircraft**.
 - **Around 2,000 of these ‘deployed’ weapons** — nearly **all of which belonged to Russia or the USA**—were **kept in a state of high operational alert**, meaning that they were fitted to missiles or

held at airbases hosting nuclear bombers.

- **Nine nuclear-armed states** — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — **continue to modernise their nuclear arsenals** and deployed several new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2022.
- The estimate of the size of **China's nuclear arsenal increased from 350 warheads in January 2022 to 410** in January 2023.
- **India was estimated to have a growing stockpile of about 164 nuclear weapons, up from 160** the previous year. These weapons were assigned to a maturing nuclear triad of aircraft, land-based missiles and nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).
- **Pakistan possessed approximately 170 nuclear warheads** as of January 2023 — **up from 165 from the previous year.**

Q1) What are nuclear weapons?

A nuclear weapon is a device that uses a nuclear reaction to create an explosion. This explosion is much more powerful than that of conventional explosives (like TNT). When a nuclear weapon explodes, it gives off four types of energy: a blast wave, intense light, heat, and radiation. Nuclear weapons can be in the form of bombs or missiles.

Source: [In a year, global inventory of N-warheads rises by 86](#)

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