

What is the Strategic Forces Command (SFC)?

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About Strategic Forces Command (SFC):

- The SFC, sometimes called **Strategic Nuclear Command**, forms part of **India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)**, which is responsible for command-and-control decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme.
- SFC is responsible for the **management and administration of** the country's tactical and strategic **nuclear weapons stockpile**.
- It was created on **January 4, 2003**.

Responsibility of SFC:

- It is the responsibility of the SFC to **operationalize the orders of the NCA** under the leadership of a Commander-in-Chief who is a Senior Officer.
- It has the sole responsibility of **initiating the** process of **delivering nuclear weapons** and warheads **after acquiring** clear **approval from the NCA**.

- Moreover, the **final target selection** is also **done by the SFC** through a calibrated, cumulative process involving various levels of decision-making, including **formal approval from the NCA**.
- The SFC **manages and administers all strategic forces** by exercising complete command and control over nuclear assets, and **producing all contingency plans** as needed to fulfill the required tasks.
- Since its inception, the SFC's command, control, and communication systems have been firmly established, and the command has attained a high state of operational readiness.
- It **consists of officers** and personnel **of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy** who are deputed from their respective services.
- The Commander-in-Chief, a 3-star General, is appointed on a rotational basis from the three services.

Key Facts about India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA):

- It is the authority responsible for **command, control, and operational decisions** regarding **India's nuclear weapons** programme.
- It comprises a **Political Council and an Executive Council**.
- The **Political Council** is **chaired by the Prime Minister**.
 - It is the **sole body** which can **authorize the use of nuclear weapons**.
- The **Executive Council** is **chaired by the National Security Advisor**.

It **provides input for** decision-making by the **NCA** and **executes the directives** given to it by the Political Council.

Source: [New generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime successfully flight-tested](#)

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