



## India's Nuclear Triad Complete

Indigenous ballistic missile nuclear submarine INS Arihant achieved a milestone by completing its first deterrence patrol.

- With this, India's **Nuclear Triad** stated in its **Nuclear Doctrine** is now complete.
- With Arihant, India has now entered into a club of nations that have the technological capability to design, build and operate nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines or **ship submersible ballistic nuclear (SSBNs)**.
- The US, France, Britain, China, and Russia currently have such capabilities.
- The SSBN is the **most dependable platform for a second-strike**. Because they are powered by nuclear reactors, these submarines can stay underwater indefinitely without the enemy detecting it.
- The **second submarine in the series, Arighat** is now undergoing sea trials after which it will be inducted into service.
- Arihant was indigenously made under the Advanced Technology Vessel programme which was launched in the 1990s.

### Deterrence Patrol

- Deterrence Patrol means that Arihant was sailing the deep seas carrying ballistic missiles equipped with nuclear warheads.
- A deterrence patrol is meant to deter an adversary from launching a first nuclear-strike since the SSBN can launch a retaliatory strike within minutes.

### India's Nuclear Doctrine

- India conducted its **first nuclear test in 1974** and the **second nuclear test in 1998**.
- **India declared herself a nuclear weapon state in 1998 and came forward with Nuclear Doctrine in 2003.**
- India's Nuclear Doctrine consist of the following major points:
  - India will build and maintain **a credible minimum deterrence**.
  - India will follow a **No First Use policy** i.e. **India will use the weapon only in retaliation to a nuclear attack on Indian territory or against Indian forces anywhere.**
  - Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive to inflict unacceptable damage.
  - Retaliatory attacks will be authorized only by the **civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.**
  - Nuclear weapons will **not be used against non-nuclear weapon states.**
  - India can retaliate with nuclear weapons in the event of an attack against on it with biological or chemical weapons.
  - India is committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world, through global, verifiable and non-discriminatory disarmament.

### Nuclear Triad

- Nuclear triad, a three-sided military-force structure consisting of **land-launched nuclear missiles, nuclear-missile-armed submarines, and strategic aircraft with nuclear bombs**

and missiles.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/indias-nuclear-triad-complete>

