

India's Nuclear Arsenal Swells To 190: Which Country Has Most Nuke Warheads

New Delhi, 9 June: Russia is estimated to have the largest overall nuclear inventory, with around 5,420 nuclear warheads. Its military stockpile is estimated at about 4,400 warheads, of which around 1,796 are deployed. The United States follows closely, with an estimated 5,042 warheads in total, including a military stockpile of 3,700 and around 1,770 deployed weapons.

Among other major nuclear powers, France is estimated to have about 370 warheads, with around 290 in its military stockpile. The United Kingdom has an estimated 225 nuclear warheads, while China has expanded its arsenal significantly in recent years and is estimated to have around 620 warheads.

In South Asia, India is estimated to possess around 190 nuclear warheads, while Pakistan is estimated to have about 170. India's deployed warheads are at 12. Both countries maintain nuclear arsenals primarily as a deterrent against each other.

Smaller nuclear arsenals are held by Israel and North Korea. Israel is estimated to have around 90 warheads, while North Korea is estimated to have about 60.

"It has long been assumed that India stores its nuclear warheads separate from its deployed launchers during peacetime. However, the country's recent moves towards placing missiles in canisters and conducting sea-based deterrence patrols suggest that India could be shifting in the direction of mating some of its warheads with their launchers in peacetime," SIPRI wrote in its report. "We've made it: Europe is turning off the tap on Russian gas, forever," EU Energy Commissioner Dan Jorgensen wrote on X. "We've chosen energy security and independence for Europe. No more blackmail. No more market manipulation by Putin. We stand strong with Ukraine."

But the Kremlin hit back, saying the move would "accelerate" a decline of the EU's economy as it would force the bloc to resort to more expensive alternatives.

Under the deal, long-term pipeline contracts -- considered the most sensitive because they can run for decades -- will be banned from September 30, 2027, provided storage levels are sufficient, and no later than November 1, 2027.

For liquefied natural gas (LNG), long-term contracts will be prohibited from January 1, 2027, in line with a call by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to tighten sanctions on Moscow.

Short-term contracts will be phased out earlier: from April 25, 2026 for LNG and June 17, 2026 for pipeline gas.

The move aims "to end dependency on Russian energy following Russia's weaponisation of gas supplies with significant effects on the European energy market," said a European Council statement.

The timeline must still get final approval from the European Parliament and member states. European companies will be able to invoke "force majeure" to legally justify breaking existing contracts, citing the EU import ban.

Weaning Off Russian Energy

The overnight deal also calls on the Commission to draft a plan in the coming months to end Russian oil imports to Hungary and Slovakia by the end of 2027.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban -- the EU leader closest to the Kremlin -- thumbed his nose at Brussels last month by vowing to keep importing Russian hydrocarbons during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

No Trump-Putin Call Planned, No Timeline On US Envoys' Visit: Russia

Moscow, 9 June: There are currently no plans for a telephone call between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday, adding that American negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner continue to maintain contacts with both Russia and Ukraine.

Witkoff and Kushner had previously been involved in mediation efforts between Russia and Ukraine, which stalled in February after the United States and Israel began military action against Iran.

"The mediation process on Ukraine is currently on hold. That said, US negotiators are maintaining contacts -- discussions are continuing with us through existing channels and with the Ukrainians. There is no exact date for their visit yet, but we would be delighted to welcome them in Russia at any time," Peskov said.

On Monday Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he had a "positive" conversation with Witkoff and Kushner and praised what he called their readiness to work on a settlement of the Ukraine war in the coming weeks. Peskov said that the Kremlin had not been informed about that call by the US side. Asked about potential mediation efforts by Europe, Peskov said Russia currently views such involvement as "unacceptable."

"First of all, starting mediation efforts by putting forward certain conditions to Russia is likely illogical and wrong... But the main thing is that, as

far as we can see, the Europeans are far more inclined to focus on continuing the war rather than on peace talks," he said. The timing of the article is significant as it came days before the Russian President lands in Delhi to attend the annual India-Russia summit at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi.

Ahead of the visit, Putin has said Moscow aims to "elevate cooperation" with India and China to a "qualitatively new level". "We aim to elevate cooper-



ation with the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India to a qualitatively new level by strengthening its technological component. This is the objective of numerous joint projects in energy, industry, space, agriculture, and other sectors," he said.

Ever since the war in Ukraine began in 2022, India has refused to join any camp and balanced its response with its strategic interests. Prime Min-

ister Modi has repeatedly said "this is not an era of war" and called for an end to the military action. Russia is India's all-weather ally, and New Delhi also has strong ties with NATO partners, including the US, which has sanctioned Moscow over the war. New Delhi has deftly balanced these ties in a diplomatic tightrope walk.

India has earlier defended its trade with Russia, including the purchase of crude oil, after most of the

will stand by Ukraine

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that President Vladimir Putin had accepted some US proposals to end the war in Ukraine and rejected others and that Russia was ready to meet US negotiators as many times as it took to reach an agreement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was speaking after talks in Moscow between Putin and US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and son-in-law Jared Kushner went into the early hours of Wednesday morning, with a Kremlin aide saying afterwards that "compromises have not yet been found."

Peskov told reporters on Wednesday it would be wrong to say that Putin had rejected the US proposals, noting that the meeting was a first face-to-face exchange of opinions on them. Putin had accepted some of the proposals and rejected others in what was a normal negotiation process, Peskov said.

Russia could end the war tomorrow by withdrawing its forces and ending its illegal invasion, or at least by agreeing to a ceasefire and truly engaging in negotiations. Instead, Russian attacks have risen sharply in 2025, and since peace talks began, President Putin has launched 22 of his largest air attacks of the entire war on Ukraine. Every day sees new indiscriminate Russian attacks in this illegal war, targeting civilian infrastructure, destroying homes, hospitals, and schools. Attacks that continue to kill innocent civilians, including children.

West sanctioned Russia. Dr S Jaishankar had then said that the West needs to grow out of the mindset that "Europe's problems are the world's problems, but the world's problems are not Europe's problems".

It has stepped up attacks at a time when peace talks are on, showing that it has systematically chosen war, write the envoys of Germany, France and UK, while promising their countries

A War Trump, Netanyahu Started Together Is Now Driving Them Apart

Jerusalem, 9 June: Israel's latest strikes on Lebanon and Iran have made clear that US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who started the war in lockstep, want different things. Trump had publicly warned Israel not to strike Beirut in its war with Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. When it did, on Sunday, Iran responded by firing ballistic missiles at Israel for the first time since the April ceasefire. Israel then struck Iran, with which Trump has been engaged in weeks of high-stakes negotiations.

The fighting has since died down, but the differences between the two leaders are likely to persist. That's because Trump, whose party faces elections later this year, wants to wind down an unpopular war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to ease gas prices. Iran says a full ceasefire in Lebanon is key to any deal.

Netanyahu, who also faces elections this year, is under pressure to stop Hezbollah's attacks and prove that he is winning the war with Iran and its allies. He also needs to manage relations with Israel's most important ally without appearing to kowtow to it. Israel on Wednesday said it will start letting Palestinians leave

Gaza through a reopened border crossing, complying with a US-backed ceasefire deal even though it also said that partial remains returned by Hamas did not match the hostages still in Gaza. The missing remains of the two hostages threaten to stall a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in its first phase. But by promising to open the Rafah crossing, Israel showed it was moving ahead with parts of the plan.

The first phase of the plan is supposed to wind down with the return of the two remaining hostages. Hamas, which appears to be struggling to find the remains amid the rubble of war-torn Gaza, said it was searching again on Wednesday.

Following the exchanges, the 20-point plan calls for creating an international stabilisation force, forming a technocratic Palestinian government and disarming Hamas. The World Health Organisation says there are more than 16,500 sick and wounded people who need to leave Gaza for medical care. Two hostage bodies are still in Gaza: Israeli Ran Gvili and Thai national Sudthitsak Rinthalak. In a statement on Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office said forensic testing showed that the remains returned on Tuesday did not match either.



Residents stock up supplies amid the ongoing violence in PoK, where 11 people, including four police officers, were killed and hundreds injured during violent clashes, in Muzafarabad, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Tuesday.

US Army's 1st Apache Gunship Crashes Near Hormuz, Both Pilots Rescued

Afghanistan, 9 June: A United States Army Apache helicopter gunship has gone down near the Strait of Hormuz. According to US President Donald Trump, the two crew members on the aircraft were safely rescued and were 'fine'. The crash came after Iran and Israel exchanged fire a day before, imperilling talks over solidifying a shaky ceasefire in the Middle East war.

The New York Times first reported that a US Army Apache attack helicopter went down near the Strait in unclear circumstances, as it remains unclear whether the chopper was shot down by Iranian fire or experienced mechanical failure or some other problem.

The US Department of State and US Central Command have not yet issued any statement on the matter.

The US military has used Apaches, along with MQ-9 Reaper drones and F/A-18 and

F-35 fighter jets, as part of Central Command's operation challenging Iran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz to most commercial traffic.

Iran has shot down at least 30 Reaper drones and a handful of US fighter jets during the hostilities that started on February 28. But this would be the first Apache lost in the conflict. Speaking to journalists at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Trump said his team is going to issue a report on the crash tomorrow. Trump also expressed renewed optimism over negotiations with Iran. "We have a good chance" of signing a deal in "two or three days," Trump said. But he didn't provide any details on why there was reason for new optimism.

"We're very close to having a very, very good, strong, powerful deal," the president said. "If we go and bomb --

which we could do very easily if we want, and we spend another two or three weeks bombing -- they'll have nothing left whatsoever. But you won't have the strait open for months." He added, "If we do the bombing, you know, a lot of people are going to be killed. Who wants to do that? I don't." Mediators, led predominantly by Pakistan, have been trying for weeks to get a deal across the line. However, both Iran and the U.S. have taken hard-line positions.

The US wants to see Iran give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which is believed still to be entombed in the country after American airstrikes in the 12-day war in 2025. But Iran is refusing that and demanding relief from sanctions. It also wants the release of frozen assets even before a final agreement is in place, something rejected by Trump.

War In The Middle East Is Flaring Again. How Each Side Sees The Stakes

London, 9 June: The tenuous ceasefire in the Middle East has held up, sometimes barely, despite being shaken by repeated flare-ups over the past two months. But it is now coming the closest yet to blowing apart and sending the region back into full-scale war - and the detonator is Lebanon.

Israel and the US remain locked in a standoff with Iran and Hezbollah to shape the future regional order, with each side convinced it is acting from a position of strength. US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, both facing key elections, have diverging interests.

Israel is heading into its first national elections since Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel that triggered the region's wars. Netanyahu is under pressure to project strength after repeatedly vowing to destroy Hezbollah. Despite repeated wars and rounds of fighting, Israel has not

been able to definitively end Hezbollah fire into northern Israel.

So even as Israel has entered direct negotiations with Lebanon's government and reached several ceasefire agreements with it over the past weeks, Netanyahu has pressed ahead with operations in southern Lebanon, seizing a large part of the territory and pushing further north of Lebanon's Litani River. It has continued raids in the south it says target Hezbollah's rocket and drone arsenals.

Netanyahu wanted a show of power after Hezbollah targeted northern Israel with rocket fire on Sunday - a step Israeli officials have warned would trigger Israeli strikes on Beirut.

Hezbollah has rejected the ceasefires agreed to by Israel and the Lebanese government and said it will not cease fighting so long as Israel continues its strikes and its forces remain in southern Lebanon. The militant group has continued attacks

on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon as well as volleys into northern Israel.

Iran largely left Hezbollah to fend for itself during much of an earlier 2024 war. After that war, Hezbollah stopped its missile fire into Israel - though Israel continued regular strikes on what it called Hezbollah targets in Lebanon. But when Israel joined the US in attacking Iran on February 28, Hezbollah launched strikes on northern Israel in support of its ally.

Iran's retaliation against Israel over the Beirut strikes signaled its willingness to risk renewed war in the region for the sake of its interests in Lebanon and its most important regional ally.

A source in Steinmeier's office said the visit reflects "a new era in relations between our two countries".

After a post-Brexit period in which "Great Britain distanced itself from Europe ... we now have the impression that they are moving back", the source said.

32,000 Displaced As Buildings Reduced To Rubble In Philippines Earthquake

Manila, 9 June: Rescuers searched ruined buildings in the southern Philippines on Tuesday to ensure no one was still trapped a day after one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the country in a half-century killed at least 37 people and displaced more than 32,000.

Only four people were considered missing on official records in the southern provinces near where the 7.8 magnitude quake struck Monday morning, but the Office of Civil Defence acknowledged several collapsed and heavily damaged buildings must be thoroughly inspected for possible survivors or casualties.

The earthquake centred off Mindanao, the second most populous Philippine island, injured nearly 500 people and displaced more than 32,000, most of whom fled to emergency shelters.

Many people who left their homes feared a tsunami. Waves up to 1.4-metres (4.6-feet) above tide level were measured in the Philippines, but the only tsunami

damage reported was to six shanties on stilts in a coastal village. Smaller waves washed ashore in Indonesia and Palau and as far away as southern Japan.

"We were just coming out of the economic crisis when we were hit by this disaster, which is the biggest challenge faced



by any government," Dissanayake told his top officials on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka declared a sovereign default on its \$46 billion external debt in April 2022 after the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance even the most essential imports, such as food, fuel and medicines. The country secured a \$2.9 bil-

lion bailout loan from the IMF, which has said the economy has since stabilised, but Sri Lanka must maintain its reforms, including austerity measures.

The crisis in 2022 led to months of street protests which forced then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to step down.

Floodwaters in the capital Colombo were receding Wednesday after major flooding over the weekend. Over 1.5 million people in the country have been affected by the natural disaster, with some 200,000 in state-run shelters.

Some of the worst-affected areas in the central hills remain inaccessible, and authorities were working to clear the roads and restore communication lines. Despite the disaster, the tourism-reliant country welcomed a luxury cruiser to Colombo port on Tuesday, authorities said. The arrival sends "a clear message to the world: Sri Lanka is safe, open, and ready to embrace visitors once again," the country's tourist board said.

Protests, Poverty And Power: The Story Of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

To understand PoK, one must go back to 1947. When British India was partitioned, the Indian Independence Act gave princely states three choices

Washington, 9 June: More than 30 people were killed, and around 200 injured after Pakistani security forces opened fire on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) ahead of the region's legislative elections scheduled for 27 July.

The immediate flash-point was a decision to reserve 12 of the 45 assembly seats for refugees in the upcoming elections. The rights group, Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), had called for a demonstration against this move, arguing it amounted to political manipulation and a suppression of local voices. The clashes broke out a day before that planned gathering.

How PoK Came To Be? To understand PoK, one

must go back to 1947. When British India was partitioned, the Indian Independence Act gave princely states three choices: join India, join Pakistan, or remain independent.

Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, signed the Instrument of Accession to India on October 26, 1947. The document was legally valid under the Government of India Act (1935), the Indian Independence Act (1947), and international law. More than 560 other princely states signed similar instruments without incident.

Earlier in the meeting, Trump repeated his claim of resolving several global conflicts, including the one between India and Pakistan, and said that he should receive the

Nobel Prize for the "eight wars" he ended. Speaking about the Russia-Ukraine war, he said, "We ended eight wars... But we're going to do one more, I think, I hope."



When the newspaper asked the White House about Trump's MRI results and reports that he had been "falling asleep in the Oval Office",

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt instead defended his energy and shifted attention to former President Joe Biden, 82, the report added.

Leavitt on Monday dou-

bled down on her criticism, accusing the newspaper and its reporter of making politically motivated claims. "I will point out one fake

news story over the weekend... that said that he's doing less than he did in his first term or he might not be fit for the job. That is unequivocally false," she said.

Calling out the same reporter for previously praising Biden's health after a fall, Leavitt said, "Same outlet, same reporter who wrote that President Trump is not fit for the job. Are you kidding me? You all see him almost every single day. He is the most accessible president in history... I can assure you he absolutely is." She added that Barbabella's memo provided "quite a bit of detail in the effort of transparency," saying, "The president promised it last night and we have it delivered today."

According to the memo, imaging revealed no arterial narrowing, no abnormalities in the heart or major vessels, and no issues affecting blood flow. Trump's cardiovascular system, Barbabella wrote, "shows excellent health."

The abdominal scan also showed that "everything evaluated is functioning within normal limits with no acute or chronic concerns." The physician described such imaging as standard for an "executive physical" at Trump's age.

The White House had faced scrutiny for declining to explain why Trump needed an MRI during his October physical. Trump later said the scan, conducted at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, "was perfect." Barbabella

said the imaging was done preventatively, to "identify issues early, confirm overall health, and ensure he maintains long-term vitality and function."

Trump has been seen this year with swollen ankles, bruising on his right hand, and has occasionally appeared to nod off during meetings. In July, the White House disclosed that he had been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency, a vein disorder that can cause leg swelling.

US President Donald Trump has "excellent" cardiovascular health, his doctor said Monday, citing an MRI taken during an unannounced hospital visit that ignited fresh scrutiny over his medical condition.