



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (22-26 December)

India tests K-4 Submarine Launched Nuclear Missile. Here's How it deepens India's footprint in the Indian Ocean (Dec 25)

India on Tuesday tested an intermediate range ballistic missile K-4, from the nuclear powered submarine INS Arighaat. The missile's reach ensures that it can hold command in the Indian Ocean, which enhances its strategic deterrence and stability. A source mentioned to Times of India, "A comprehensive analysis will determine whether Tuesday's test actually met all laid down technical parameters and mission objectives or revealed some shortcomings. It usually takes several tests for ballistic missiles, especially those launched from submarines, to achieve full operational status". Although there was no official word from the Ministry of Defence.

[URL:https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-test-fires-3500-km-missile-from-nuclear-submarine/articleshow/126167025.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-test-fires-3500-km-missile-from-nuclear-submarine/articleshow/126167025.cms)

'India our Closest Partner': Maldives Ex VP Endorses Delhi's Role as Trusted Leader In South Asia (Dec 25)

Former Maldives VP Faisal Naeem delivered the 8th Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture at the India Habitat Centre in Delhi. He described India as "closest ally and partner" and first responder of the Maldives in times of crisis. On maritime security, in the Indian Ocean, he said, "We work very closely with India, especially [on] Indian Ocean security. We work with the Indian government to protect the Indian Ocean from illegal fishing and also other kinds of peace that are harming the people." He further added India's image as an ally continues to gain validation from its neighbours, reinforcing its position as a stabilising force across South Asia.

[URL: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/news/india-our-closest-partner-maldives-ex-vp-endorses-delhis-role-as-trusted-leader-in-south-asia/videoshow/126170914.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/news/india-our-closest-partner-maldives-ex-vp-endorses-delhis-role-as-trusted-leader-in-south-asia/videoshow/126170914.cms)

China wants nine Aircraft Carriers by 2035, says New Pentagon report (Dec 24)

According to a Pentagon report, on Beijing's military power, China plans to field a force of nine aircraft carriers by 2035. The report reads, "The PLAN aims to produce six aircraft carriers by 2035 for a total of nine". The report makes the case, while the U.S. is pursuing friendly relations with China, but the Asian giant has increased its capabilities in several strategic domains, including space, cyber, and nuclear disciplines. The report also noted that in 2024 China "tested essential components" off Taiwan invasion options, "including through exercises to strike sea and land targets, strike U.S. forces in the Pacific, and block access to key ports".

[URL:https://breakingdefense.com/2025/12/china-military-buildup-leaves-us-increasingly-vulnerable-pentagon-report/](https://breakingdefense.com/2025/12/china-military-buildup-leaves-us-increasingly-vulnerable-pentagon-report/)