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# INS Aridhaman Strengthens India's Nuclear Deterrence

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India has inducted INS Aridhaman, its third indigenously developed nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), into the Indian Navy. This marks a significant advancement in India's maritime defence and strategic capabilities.

## Strategic Importance

The induction of INS Aridhaman enhances India's nuclear triad, which includes land, air, and sea-based nuclear delivery systems. It strengthens the country's second-strike capability, ensuring credible nuclear deterrence. The submarine operates under the Strategic Forces Command, responsible for managing India's nuclear arsenal.

## Key Features

INS Aridhaman belongs to the Arihant-class submarines and is more advanced than its predecessor INS Arihant. It has an approximate displacement of 7,000 tonnes and can carry K-15 (Sagarika) and K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project, it reflects India's growing indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities.

## Global Context

With this induction, India joins a select group of nations possessing nuclear-powered submarines, including the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China.

## Additional Facts

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SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear) are crucial for strategic deterrence, as they can remain underwater for extended periods and launch nuclear missiles from sea. India is also working towards achieving Continuous At-Sea Deterrence (CASD), ensuring at least one nuclear submarine is always on patrol. Earlier submarines in this class include INS Arihant (2016) and INS Arighaat (2024), highlighting India's steady progress in strengthening its naval nuclear capabilities.