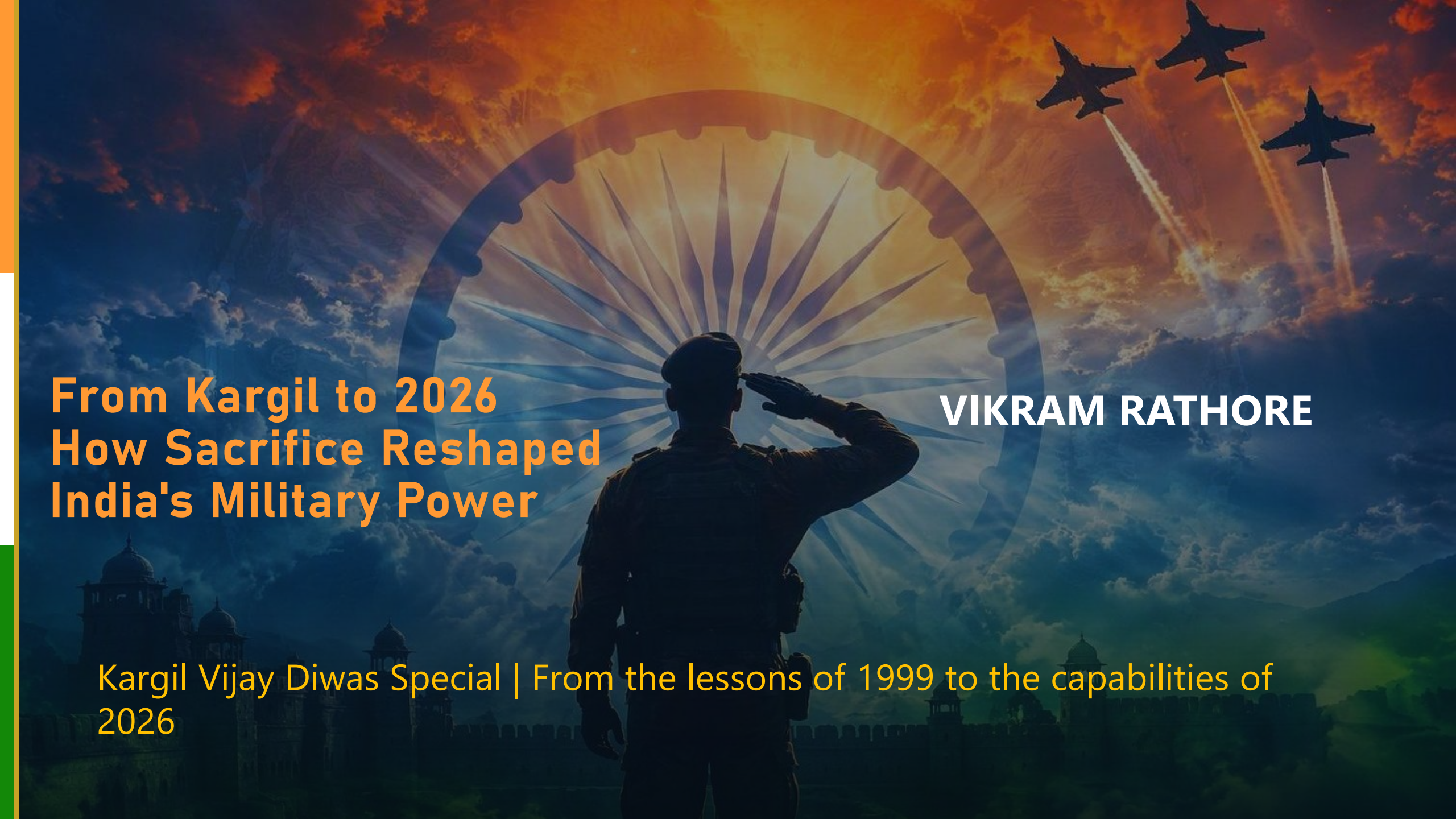




From Kargil to 2026 How Sacrifice Reshaped India's Military Power

VIKRAM RATHORE

Kargil Vijay Diwas Special | From the lessons of 1999 to the capabilities of 2026

Premise

India is ranked 4th globally in hard power – this deck makes the case for revising it upward

- Understand India's defence prowess
- Operation Sindoor highlights
- Cutting-edge indigenous weapons
- Defence exports on the rise
- Comparison with peers



KARGIL: THE TURNING POINT (1999 → 2026)

1999

🏔️ Kargil War



Lessons That Reshaped India's Defence

- 📡 Better Intelligence & Surveillance
- 🎯 Precision Strike Capability
- 🛡️ Integrated Air Defence
- 🏭 Defence Self-Reliance
- 🤝 Joint Operations



2026

- ✓ Indigenous missiles & drones
- ✓ Networked air-defence systems
- ✓ Aircraft carriers & SSBN fleet
- ✓ Growing defence exports
- ✓ Atmanirbhar defence manufacturing



DEFENCE BUDGET AND MODERNISATION



**₹7.85 LAKH CRORE
(FY 2026–27)**

Highest of any ministry
– up 15.2% (≈ US\$94
billion)



**CAPITAL
MODERNISATION**

Major outlay for new
platforms, weapons and
R&D



BUY-INDIAN PUSH

₹1.39 lakh crore
earmarked for domestic
procurement



**A DECADE OF
GROWTH**

Up from ₹2.53 lakh crore
in 2013–14

AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

- **S-400 TRIUMF**
 - Up to 400 km reach; 4 squadrons inducted and more cleared in 2026
- **AKASH**
 - Indigenous SAM (~25–30 km) that blunted drone and missile salvos in Op Sindoor
- **QRSAM (ANANT SHASTRA)**
 - Indigenous quick-reaction SAM; ~₹30,000 crore army order in the pipeline
- **LAYERED MISSILE SHIELD** codenamed ***Sudarshan Chakra***
 - India's integrated air defence shield combines S-400, Akash, MR-SAM, QRSAM and indigenous systems into one layered grid



MISSILES CAPABILITY



- **BRAHMOS**

- Mach ~2.8 supersonic cruise missile; precision deep strikes in Op Sindoor

- **AGNI**

- Agni-5 ICBM 5,000+ km; new Agni-Prime canisterised missile inducting

- **BRAHMOS-NG & HYPERSONIC**

- Lighter BrahMos-NG due for 2026 test; Mach 5+ hypersonic variant in works

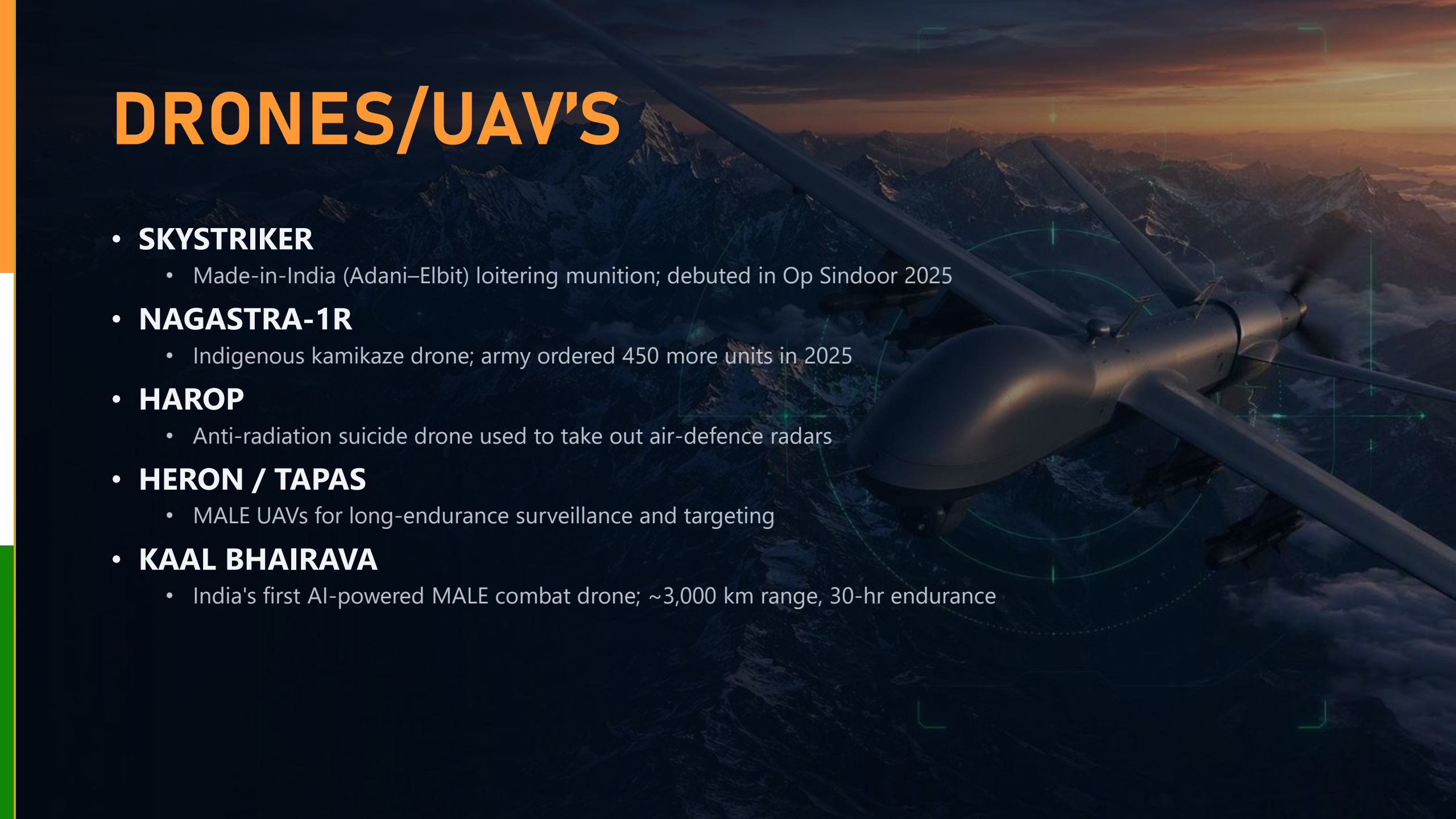
- **PINAKA LRGR**

- Guided rocket hit 120 km in Dec 2025; longer-range versions planned

- **PRITHVI**

- Battle-proven short-range ballistic missile; solid-fuel successor now in development

DRONES/UAV'S



- **SKYSTRIKER**

- Made-in-India (Adani–Elbit) loitering munition; debuted in Op Sindoor 2025

- **NAGASTRA-1R**

- Indigenous kamikaze drone; army ordered 450 more units in 2025

- **HAROP**

- Anti-radiation suicide drone used to take out air-defence radars

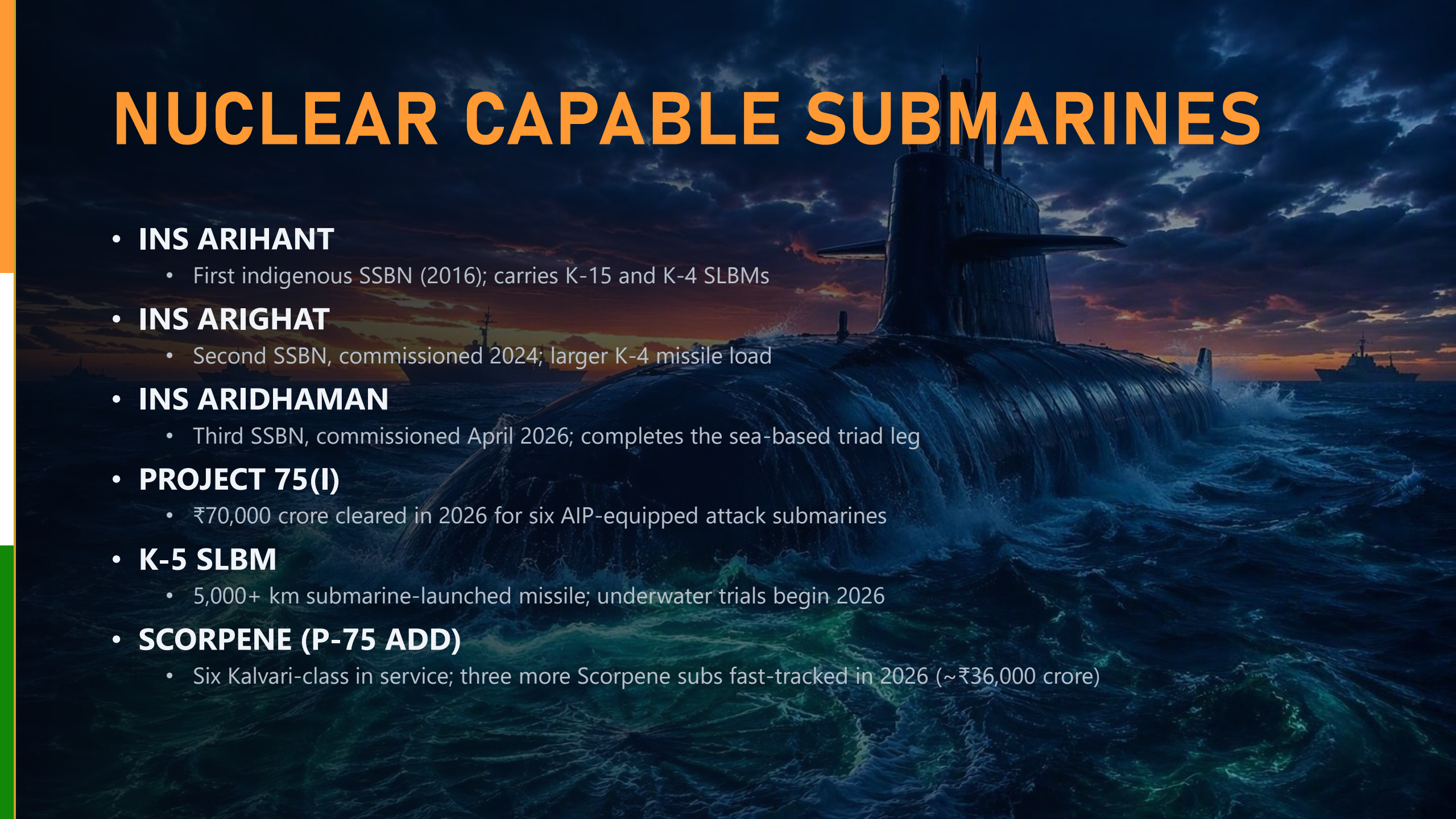
- **HERON / TAPAS**

- MALE UAVs for long-endurance surveillance and targeting

- **KAAL BHAIRAVA**

- India's first AI-powered MALE combat drone; ~3,000 km range, 30-hr endurance

NUCLEAR CAPABLE SUBMARINES



- **INS ARIHANT**

- First indigenous SSBN (2016); carries K-15 and K-4 SLBMs

- **INS ARIGHAT**

- Second SSBN, commissioned 2024; larger K-4 missile load

- **INS ARIDHAMAN**

- Third SSBN, commissioned April 2026; completes the sea-based triad leg

- **PROJECT 75(I)**

- ₹70,000 crore cleared in 2026 for six AIP-equipped attack submarines

- **K-5 SLBM**

- 5,000+ km submarine-launched missile; underwater trials begin 2026

- **SCORPENE (P-75 ADD)**

- Six Kalvari-class in service; three more Scorpene subs fast-tracked in 2026 (~₹36,000 crore)

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE



- **~190 WARHEADS**

- Arsenal up from 180; credible minimum deterrent (SIPRI Yearbook 2026)

- **NUCLEAR TRIAD**

- Delivery by land (Agni), air (Rafale/Mirage) and sea (SSBN)

- **12 WARHEADS DEPLOYED**

- First-ever operational deployment in peacetime, breaking warhead–delivery separation; assessed aboard an SSBN (SIPRI 2026)

- **NO FIRST USE**

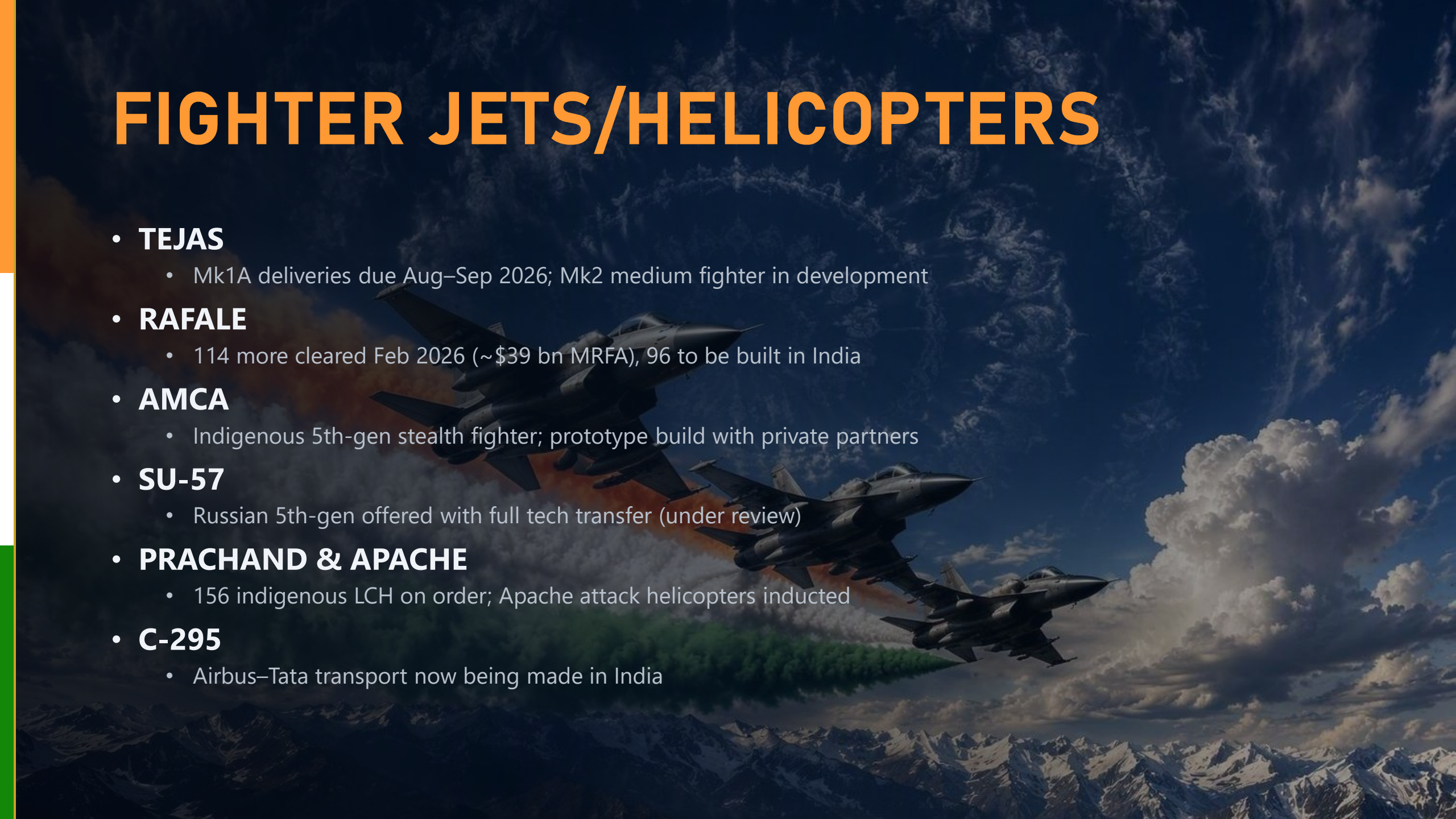
- Declared NFU posture backed by assured second-strike capability

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

- **INS VIKRANT**
 - First indigenous carrier (2022); 45,000 t, 76% indigenous, ~30 aircraft
- **INS VIKRAMADITYA**
 - 44,500 t carrier in service since 2013; operates a MiG-29K air wing
- **TWO-CARRIER NAVY**
 - Among the few navies worldwide fielding two operational carriers



FIGHTER JETS/HELICOPTERS

The background of the slide features a dramatic sky with large, white, billowing clouds. Three fighter jets, likely the Tejas Mk1A, are shown in a staggered formation, flying from the upper left towards the lower right. Below the jets, a range of dark, rugged mountains with patches of snow is visible. The overall color palette is dominated by the blues of the sky, the whites of the clouds, and the greys and browns of the aircraft and mountains.

- **TEJAS**

- Mk1A deliveries due Aug–Sep 2026; Mk2 medium fighter in development

- **RAFALE**

- 114 more cleared Feb 2026 (~\$39 bn MRFA), 96 to be built in India

- **AMCA**

- Indigenous 5th-gen stealth fighter; prototype build with private partners

- **SU-57**

- Russian 5th-gen offered with full tech transfer (under review)

- **PRACHAND & APACHE**

- 156 indigenous LCH on order; Apache attack helicopters inducted

- **C-295**

- Airbus–Tata transport now being made in India

COMMS/DETECTION SYSTEMS

- **IACCS**

- Integrated Air Command and Control System networked the Op Sindoor air defence

- **NETRA & AWACS**

- Indigenous Netra plus Phalcon AEW&C give airborne early warning

- **MILITARY SATELLITES**

- GSAT-7 / 7A provide secure comms across the three services



DEFENCE EXPORTS AND INDIGENOUS MANUFACTURING

RECORD EXPORTS

- ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26, up ~63%, to 80+ countries including Greece, Cyprus, Armenia and talks with Russia, UAE, Indonesia, Vietnam underway

PRODUCTION AT A HIGH

- Defence output reached ₹1.78 lakh crore (+15.6%)

ATMANIRBHAR LEAP

- Exports up from just ₹686 crore a decade ago in 2013–14

KEY PLATFORMS

- BrahMos, Akash, artillery and drones lead the order book

RECENTLY COMMISSIONED & IN THE PIPELINE

- **114 RAFALE JETS**
 - Part of a record ₹3.6 lakh crore DAC clearance (Feb 2026); 96 built in India
- **PROJECT 75(I) SUBMARINES**
 - ₹70,000 crore for six AIP attack submarines under Make in India
- **AMCA STEALTH FIGHTER**
 - Indigenous 5th-gen jet; prototype phase with Tata, L&T and Bharat Forge
- **156 PRACHAND LCH**
 - Largest-ever indigenous attack-helicopter order for high-altitude combat
- **PROJECT 17A FRIGATES**
 - 3 Nilgiri-class stealth frigates inducting toward a 200-ship navy by 2035
- **ZORAWAR LIGHT TANK**
 - DRDO-L&T light tank for the China border; induction by 2028–29
- **DRDO DEVELOPED SMART SUBMARINE KILLER**
 - Supersonic missiles fired, track submarines upon reaching above water location, torpedo fired into water using parachute from missiles and reach the sub underwater
- **INS MALVAN**
 - Operate near coast in shallow waters to detect and destroy subs operating in the area
 - 18 vessels, stealth frigates, support ships and sub killers to be launched by end of the sea
- **KUSHA MISSILE**
 - Integrated in air defence of India

DEFENCE PARTNERSHIPS

- **RUSSIA**
 - Legacy partner: S-400 air-defence shield, the BrahMos supersonic-missile joint venture and a Su-57 5th-gen jet offered with full tech transfer
- **FRANCE**
 - 114 Rafale jets (~\$39 bn MRFA), six Scorpene submarines built with Naval Group and jet-engine co-development talks with Safran
- **ISRAEL**
 - Heron and Harop UAVs, SkyStriker loitering munitions, Phalcon AWACS and the co-developed Barak-8 / MR-SAM
- **UNITED STATES**
 - 31 MQ-9B Predator drones, Apache gunships and foundational defence pacts
- **STRATEGIC AUTONOMY**
 - Sources cutting-edge systems from rival powers alike — a multi-aligned posture few nations can sustain
- **MAKE-IN-INDIA CO-PRODUCTION**
 - Partnerships increasingly tied to technology transfer and local build, not off-the-shelf imports

COMPARISON WITH PEERS

- **BATTLE-TESTED**

- Combat-proven across 1999, 2016, 2019 and 2025 (Op Sindoor)

- **RIVALS/PEERS STRETCHED**

- Russia tied down in Ukraine; US spread across theatres (Middle East, Europe, South China Sea); China untested in combat since 1979

- **CHINESE TECHNOLOGY UNDER FIRE**

- China lost JF-17 jets in Op Sindoor , air defence system neutralized LY-80 fire radars, ENTPQ-43 automatic tracking radars, and HQ-9 fire units , In Iran HQ-9B neutralised and in Venezuela , failed to detect or intercept US attacks

- **GLOBAL RANK**

- 4th of 145 nations and climbing (Global Firepower 2026)

Conclusion : India seeks its rightful rating not to dominate but as a responsible power. Its doctrine is defensive by design — strength held in restraint, force answered only when attacked. As capabilities rise multi-fold and are proven in live combat, that rating must be revised.

Tribute to our Heroes , our Pride

- Dedicated to the brave officers, JCOs and soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the Kargil War.
- Their courage did not merely defend our borders.
- It transformed India's military thinking for generations to come.
- **Jai Hind! Jai Bharat! Vande Matram!**