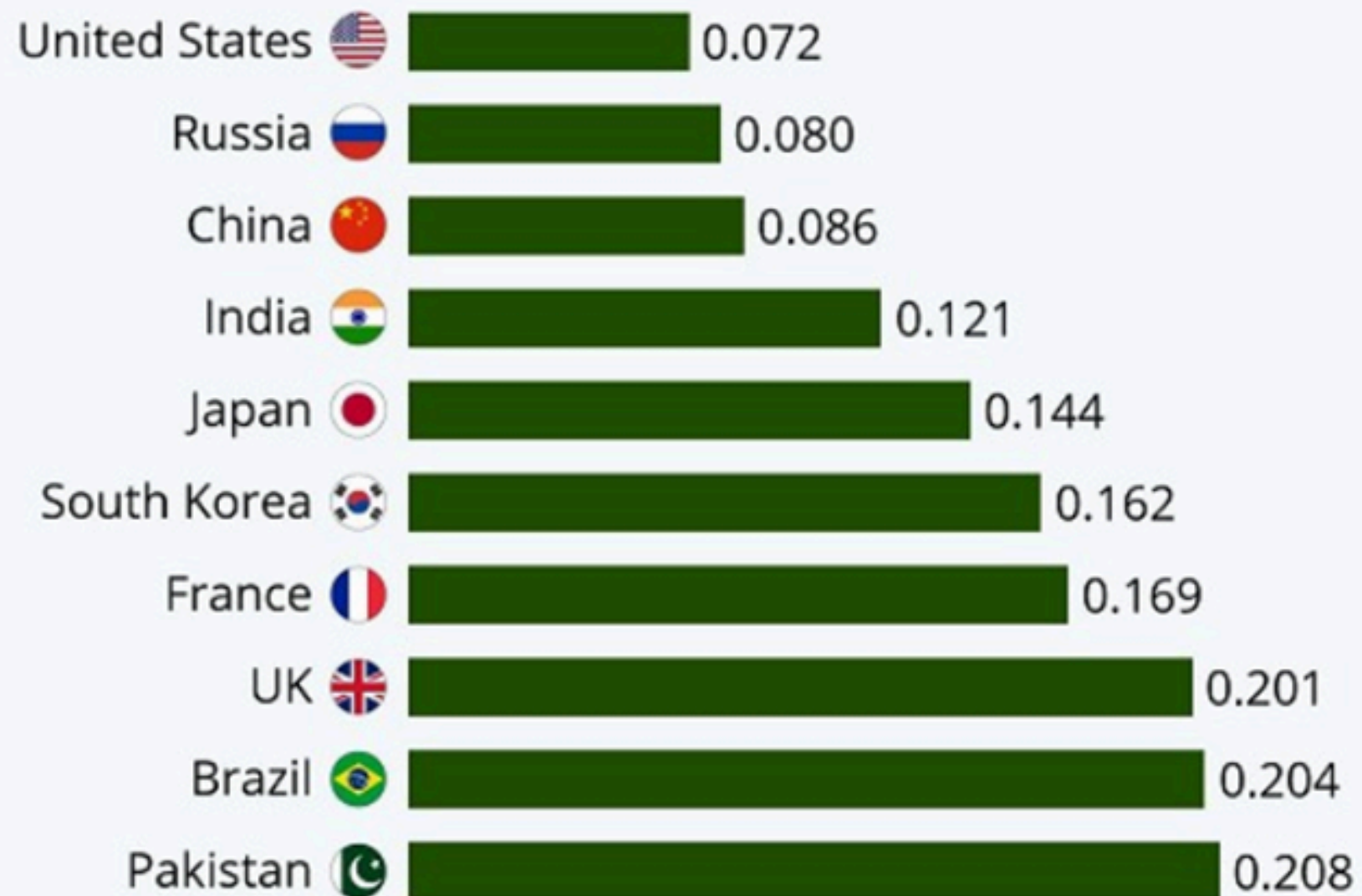


Insights Unwrapped

Defence Dynamics Across Nations

The World's Most Powerful Militaries

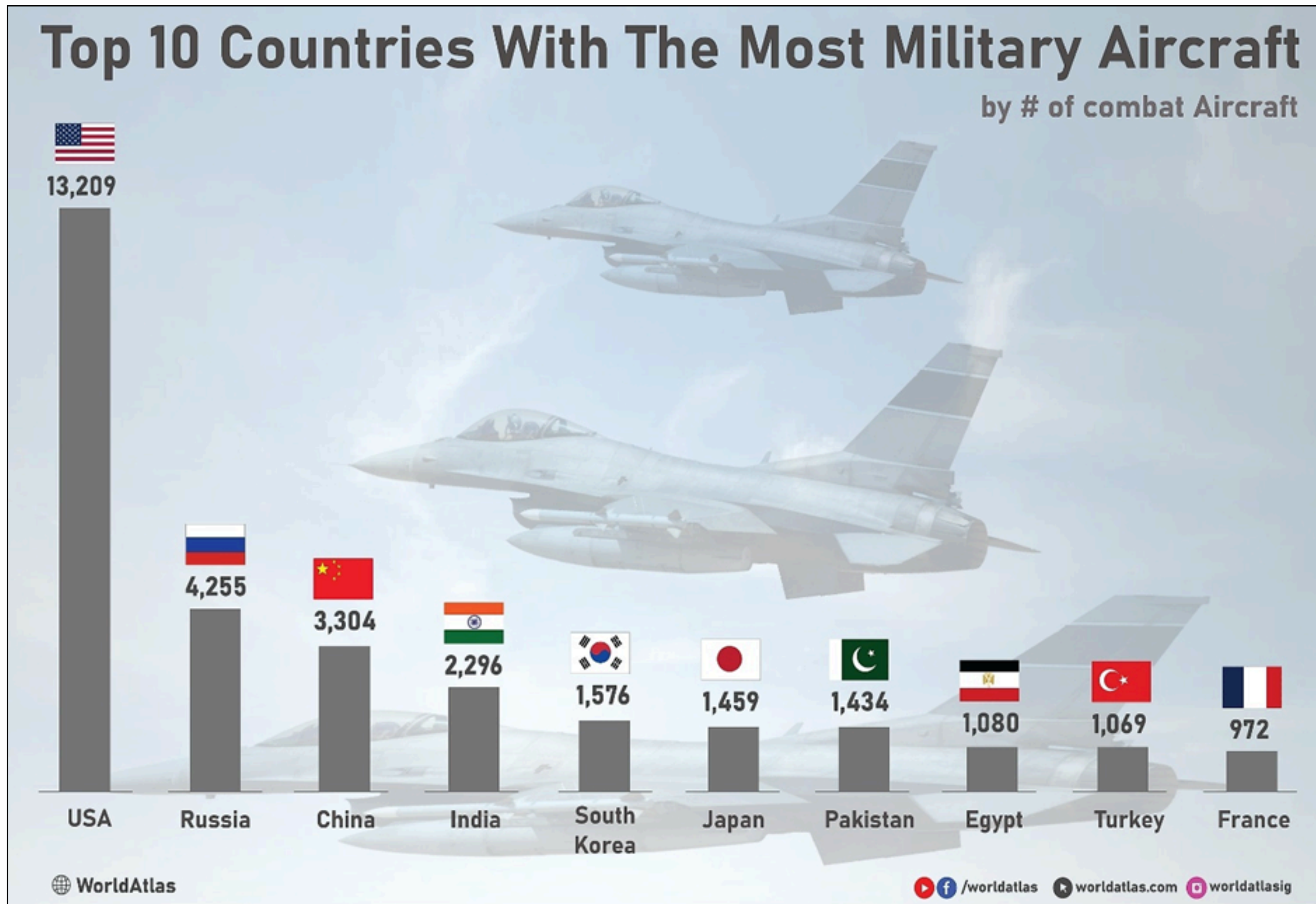
Countries ranked highest on the Global Firepower PowerIndex (0.000=perfect/most powerful)



Source: globalfirepower.com

The Global Military Ranking by Global Firepower (GFP), measured through the PowerIndex (PwrIndx), highlights global military strength. In the 2024 rankings, the U.S. remains the dominant force, followed by Russia and China, while India holds the 4th position. As of April 2024, the U.S. leads in defense spending, allocating \$831 billion—over three times China's \$227 billion budget.

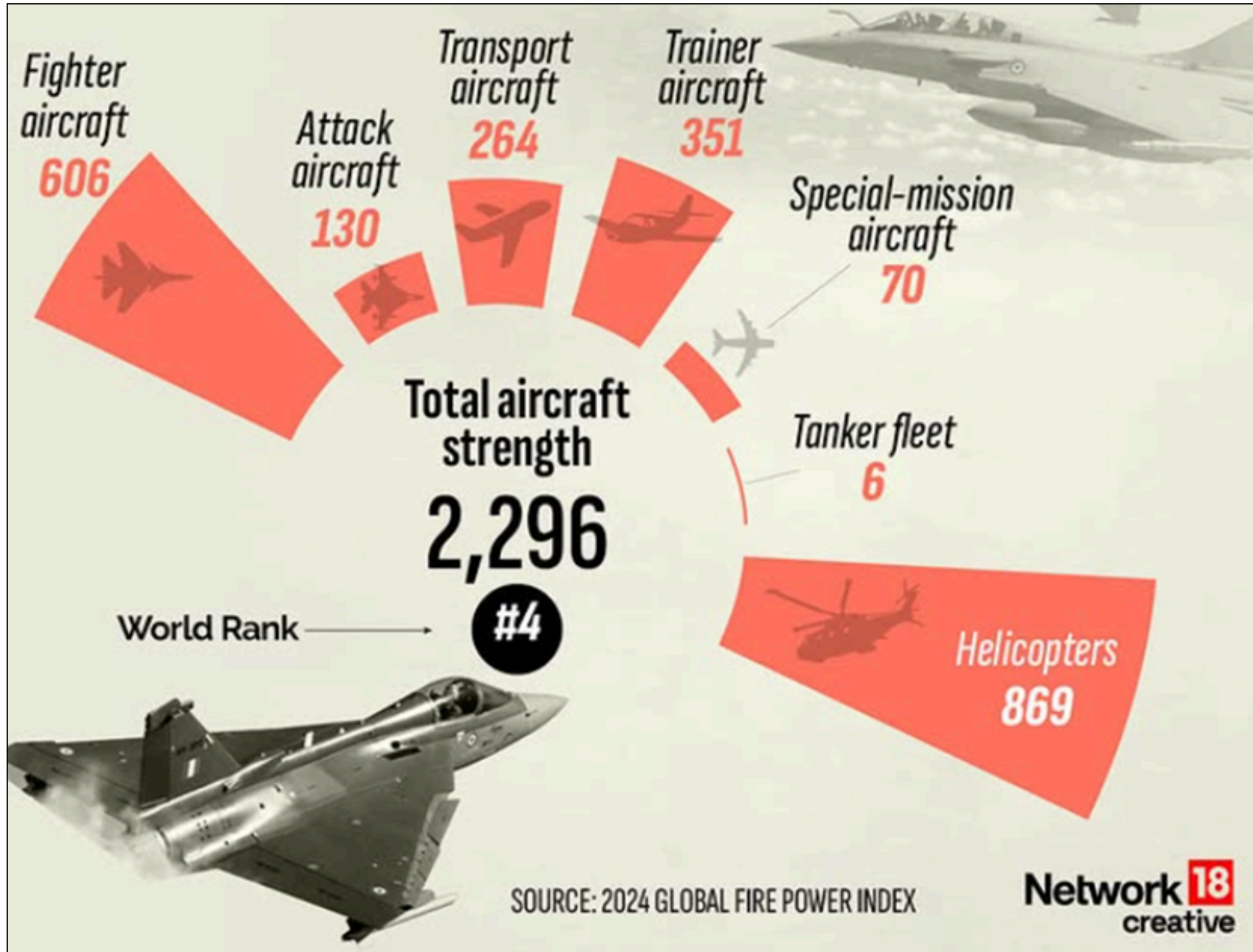
A perfect PwrIndx score is 0.0000 which is realistically unattainable in the scope of the current GFP formula, the smaller the PwrIndx value, the more powerful a nation's conventional fighting capability is.



The total active fleet comprises 53,400 aircraft worldwide. The United States holds the largest share at 25%, followed by Russia (8%), China (6%), and India (4%) of the total

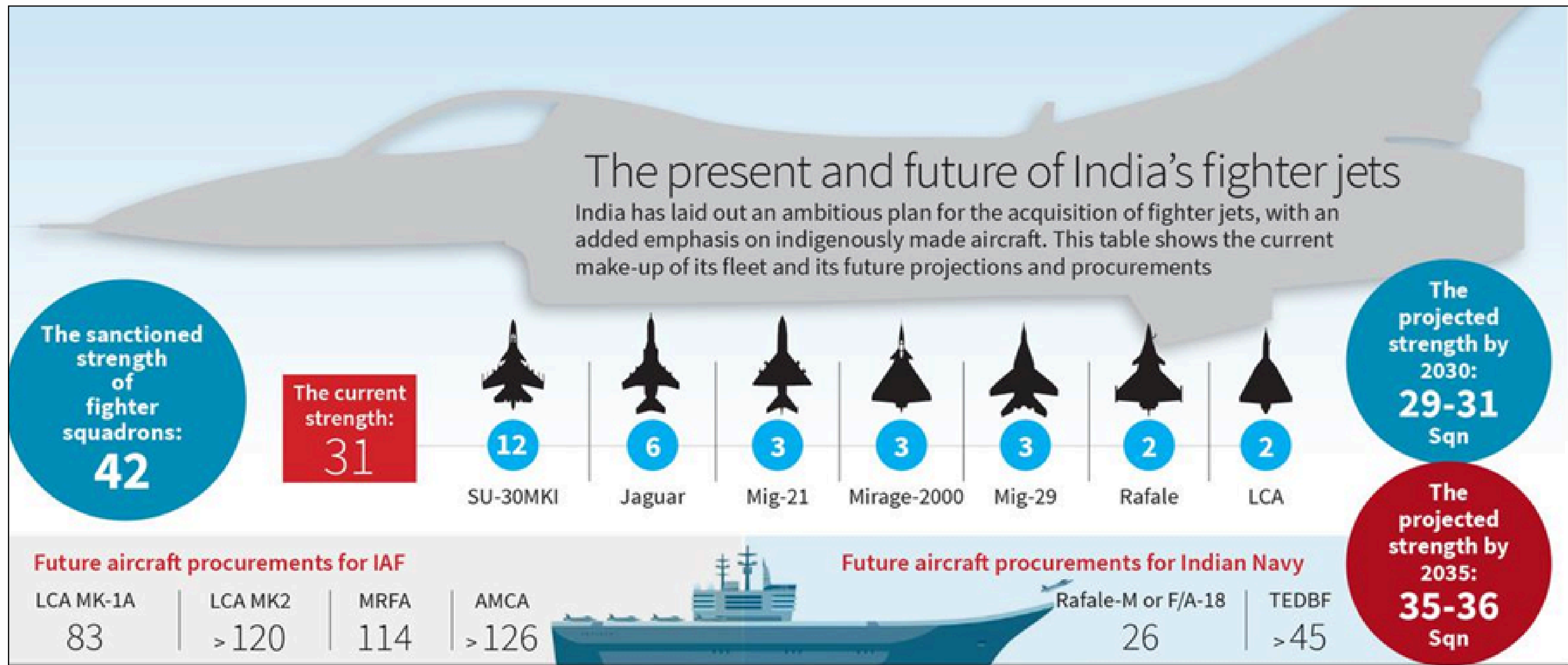
(Source: World Air Forces 2024)

India's Air Power



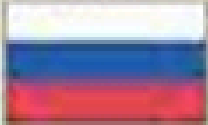







The IAF currently operates a diverse fleet, including Russia's Su-30MKI, France's Rafale and Mirage 2000, and India's indigenous Tejas

India's Current Air Force Fleet



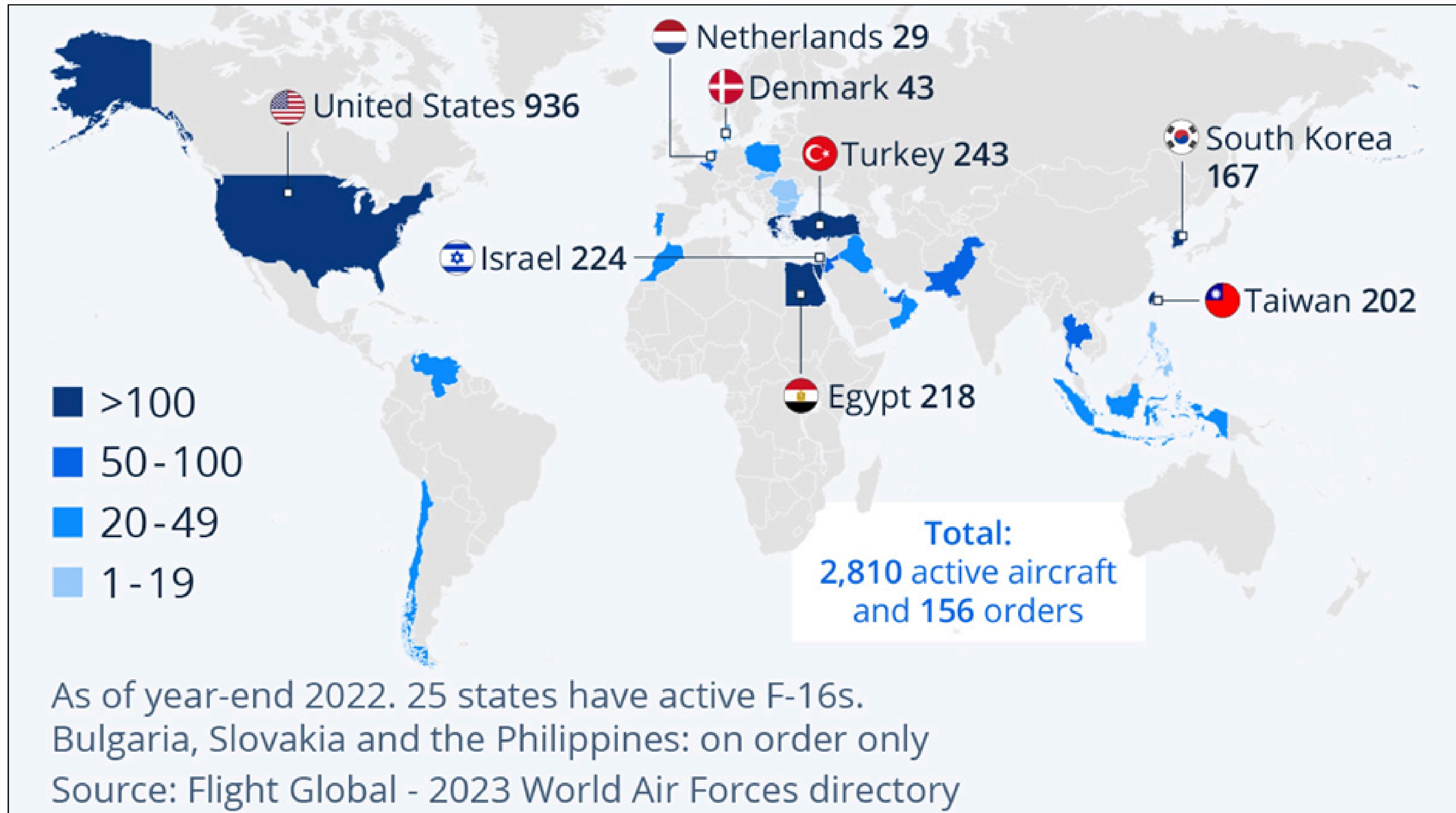
The Indian Air Force (IAF) operates with 31 squadrons, ***its lowest since 1965***, against an authorized strength of 42. This decline is due to the phased retirement of ageing Soviet-era fighters without adequate replacements.

Countries with most Fighter Aircrafts-5th generation

FIFTH-GENERATION STEALTH FIGHTERS				
Sukhoi Su-57 <i>Russia</i> 	Lockheed Martin F-22 <i>U.S.</i> 	Lockheed Martin F-35B <i>U.S.</i> 	Chengdu J-20 <i>China</i> 	
				
Length: 22m	18.9m	15.6m	20.4m	
Empty weight: 18,000kg	19,700kg	14,650kg	19,400kg	
Internal fuel: 10,300kg	8,200kg	6,125kg	11,340kg	
Maximum speed: Mach 2	Mach 2	Mach 1.6	Mach 1.7	
Service entry: 2019	2005	2015	2018	
Sources: Aviation Week, Business Insider, Global Security, Lockheed Martin			© GRAPHIC NEWS	

Fighter jets are classified by generations based on technology. **5th-generation jets** focus on stealth, computing, and situational awareness for first-strike capability, while **6th-gen jets** (in development) will feature AI, laser weapons, and supersensor fusion. The **Rafale, India's latest addition, is a 4.5-gen fighter.** China has expanded its J-20 fleet to around 195 jets, enhancing its next-gen air power.

Countries Using F-16 Fighter Jets



Modi-Trump Rendezvous on F-35 Deal

President Trump offered to sell India **F-35 stealth fighters, a privilege previously limited to NATO allies, Israel, and Japan.** This sparked speculation about India's entry into the elite fifth-generation fighter jet club, currently comprising the US, Russia, and China.

- The **US, China, and Russia are the only nations with fifth-gen fighters.**
- The US has offered India the F-35, while Russia has proposed the Su-57.

Industry experts debate whether the F-35 is a strategic asset or a costly liability for India. With INR 15,000 crore already committed to its indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, acquiring the F-35 could hinder domestic efforts and increase reliance on US military technology. Unlike the Rafale or Su-30MKI, the F-35 depends on a vast network of software, data-sharing, and US-controlled logistics, limiting operational independence.

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