

2019



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

25<sup>th</sup> November- 30<sup>th</sup> November



BusinessLine



## **1. Mitra Shakti**

### **Why in News?**

The seventh edition of **India-Sri Lanka** joint training exercise, exercise MITRA SHAKTI– 2019 is scheduled to be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Pune from 01 - 14 December 2019.

### **Objectives**

- To build and promote positive relations between armies of India and Sri Lanka for counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations in urban and rural environment under United Nations mandate.
- To focus on achieving the desired level of interoperability and cohesive operational ability of the troops from both India and Sri Lanka.

## **2. U.S to Cut Spending on NATO Budget**

### **Why in News?**

The United States is to cut its contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) operating budget, with Germany increasing the payments.

- European members have often been criticised for lagging behind on alliance commitment to spend at least 2% of their GDP on defence.

### **Key Points**

- Member countries contribute to these NATO budgets in accordance with an agreed cost-sharing formula **based on gross national income**.
- All allies have now agreed on a **new cost-sharing formula**.
  - Under the new formula, cost shares attributed to most European allies and Canada will go up, while the US share will come down.
- Under the new agreement, the U.S. will cut its contribution to 16.35% of the total, Germany's share will rise to the same level and other allies will pay more.
  - At present, **only 8 of 29 members** meet the target.
- All members pledged to reach the 2% level by 2024 but not all of them currently have plans to do so.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

- NATO is a **military alliance** established by the **North Atlantic Treaty** (also called the **Washington Treaty**) in 1949.
- It was set up by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations **to provide collective security** against the Soviet Union.
- NATO's purpose is *to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means*.
- As of 2019, there are 29 member states, with **Montenegro** becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

- **Key Provision of the Treaty: Article 5**
  - It states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be **considered an attack on all members**.
  - This effectively puts Western Europe under the "**nuclear umbrella**" of the US.
  - NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on September 12, 2001, following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.
- NATO's protection does not extend to **members' civil wars or internal coups**.

### 3. Exercise SURYA KIRAN

#### Why in News?

The military exercise 'SURYA KIRAN – XIV' between India and Nepal will be conducted at Salijhandi, in Nepal in December 2019.

#### Objective:

- To enhance coordination in counter insurgency and terrorism operations.
- To increase interoperability in jungle warfare in mountainous terrain, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, medical and environmental conservation including aviation aspects.

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