



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Europe Plans Independent Defence Strategy and Hormuz Mission Without US Amid Growing NATO Tensions

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European countries are preparing two major strategic plans:

A NATO fallback plan in case the United States reduces or withdraws support.

A separate mission in the Strait of Hormuz without US involvement.

Why This Is Happening?

NATO is a military alliance where the US has traditionally played the leading role in Europe's defence.

Now, doubts about US commitment are forcing Europe to become more self-reliant.

US President Donald Trump has criticised NATO and even hinted at reducing support.

This has created uncertainty about Europe's security.

NATO Fallback Plan (Europe's Defence Strategy):

Europe is preparing a backup plan to defend itself without US support.

Key features:

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Use existing NATO structure but with European leadership

Increase military coordination, production, and command systems

Reduce dependence on US troops and intelligence

Countries involved: Germany, France, UK, Poland, Nordic nations

Challenge: Europe still depends on the US for nuclear protection and intelligence, which is hard to replace.

Strait of Hormuz Mission (Without US):

Europe is planning a naval mission to secure the Strait of Hormuz.

This mission will:

Be independent of the US, Israel, and Iran

Focus on mine-clearing and safe passage for ships

Start after the ongoing conflict ends

Objective:

Ensure global oil and trade routes remain open

Restore confidence in shipping through the region

Background: Why Hormuz is Important

Around 20–25% of global oil trade passes through it.

The ongoing conflict led to:

Closure of the route by Iran

Major disruption in global energy supply and prices

In Simple Terms:

Europe is preparing to defend itself and manage global security issues without depending on the US, showing a major shift in global power dynamics and NATO relations.