CONTEXT:

Indian and French armies will conduct joint counter-terrorism drills under 'Exercise Shakti-2019' in the Mahajan field firing range in Rajasthan.

PURPOSE:

The joint exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-desert terrain under the United Nations mandate.

ABOUT THE EXERCISE:

1. A contingent of the Sikh Regiment of south western command will represent the Indian Army in the exercise, while the French Army delegation will be represented by troops of the 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of the 6th Armoured Brigade.
2. The biennial exercise between the armies of the two countries had started in 2011.
3. The French troops will arrive in India on Saturday for the exercise which will be held at foreign training node at the Mahajan field firing range in western sector of Rajasthan.
4. The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two armies.
5. The training will culminate in a 36-hour-long validation exercise which will involve neutralisation of terrorists in a village hideout.