

'Restored Trust: Our Reliable Nation'

Description

Getty Images Saab boss Micael Johansson

Micael Johansson, CEO of Saab—the Swedish company that manufactures the Gripen fighter jet—has observed that Sweden's recent NATO membership has enhanced the company's prospects of securing defense contracts within the alliance. Traditionally, war and geopolitical tensions are not considered beneficial for business. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has prompted neighboring countries like Finland and Sweden to reassess their security strategies. In May 2022, both nations applied for NATO membership, seeking to strengthen their defense postures. By March 2024, Sweden became NATO's 32nd member, marking a significant shift in its defense policy.

Johansson highlighted a growing recognition that Europe needs to bolster its own defense capabilities. This sentiment aligns with NATO's call for member states to increase defense spending to at least 2% of their GDP. As of 2024, only 23 of NATO's 32 member countries meet this target, but recent geopolitical events have spurred commitments to boost defense budgets.

Sweden has been proactive in this regard. In 2024, the country allocated over 2% of its GDP to defense and plans to further increase this spending in 2025. Similarly, Finland, which joined NATO in April 2023, has outlined plans to raise its defense budget from \$6.8 billion in 2025 to \$11.5 billion by 2032.

Johansson advocates for Europe to support its defense industry, mirroring the United States' approach to protecting its own. He welcomes competition among defense companies, viewing it as a catalyst for innovation and growth.

NATO membership has opened new avenues for private companies in Finland and Sweden. In Finland, small and medium-sized enterprises are expected to contribute advanced technologies such as drones, sensors, and digital surveillance systems. These technologies are crucial for initiatives like the "drone wall," a collaborative project among six NATO members aimed at enhancing border security with Russia.

As warfare evolves, Europe's security increasingly depends on cyber defense and the protection of critical infrastructure, including undersea pipelines and communication cables. The integration of advanced technologies by NATO's newest members underscores the alliance's commitment to adapting to modern threats and enhancing collective defense capabilities.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Defense** /dɪˈfens/ (noun): The action of protecting something from attack.



2. **Capabilities** /ˌkeɪ.pəˈbɪl.ɪ.tiz/ (noun): The power or ability to do something.
3. **Geopolitical** /ˌdʒi.oʊ.pəˈlɪt.ɪ.kəl/ (adjective): Relating to the politics of a region as influenced by geographical factors.
4. **Membership** /ˈmɛmbərˌʃɪp/ (noun): The state of being a member of a group or organization.
5. **Avenues** /ˈæv.ə.njuːz/ (noun): Various ways in which something can be approached or achieved.
6. **Collaboration** /kəˌlæb.əˈreɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The action of working with someone to produce or create something.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. In which state was Sarah when she was completely absorbed in reading a book?
Option: Ohio
Option: Texas
Option: California
Option: New York
2. Which term relates to the financial conditions of a country or region?
Option: Geopolitical
Option: Economic
Option: Cultural
Option: Defense
3. What are suggestions or proposals for a course of action?
Option: Tariffs
Option: Duties
Option: Recommendations
Option: Dispute
4. Which term refers to protecting a country against potential threats?
Option: Accessibility
Option: Defense
Option: Collaboration
Option: Reductions
5. What term describes the feeling of fascination or curiosity?
Option: Participated
Option: Projections
Option: Intrigue
Option: Acknowledged



6. Which term relates to the influence of geographical factors on politics and international relations?
- Option: Stability
 - Option: Geopolitical
 - Option: Unified
 - Option: Revitalized
7. What term refers to being a part of a group or organization?
- Option: Avenues
 - Option: Membership
 - Option: Constraints
 - Option: Intrigue
8. Which term means imitating or reproducing the conditions of a real-life situation?
- Option: Revitalized
 - Option: Engrossed
 - Option: Simulated
 - Option: Capabilities
9. Which term relates to customs arts social institutions and achievements of a particular nation people or group?
- Option: Cultural
 - Option: Acknowledged
 - Option: Unified
 - Option: Welfare
10. What are the limitations or restrictions on an individual or group?
- Option: Burdened
 - Option: Convoluted
 - Option: Constraints
 - Option: Reductions

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The company made optimistic _____ about its future growth.
12. The new marketing campaign _____ the sales of the product.
13. The government aims to improve the _____ of healthcare services in rural areas.
14. Customs _____ are taxes imposed on imported and exported goods.



15. Successful projects often require strong _____ among team members.
16. Her contributions to the field were widely _____ by experts.
17. The company implemented cost-cutting measures leading to significant _____ in expenses.
18. The team was _____ with the task of completing the project within a tight deadline.
19. The organization focuses on improving the _____ of underprivileged communities.
20. The country witnessed a sense of togetherness and purpose feeling _____ in its goals.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The students in various extracurricular activities to enhance their skills.
22. Political is crucial for the economic growth of a nation.
23. Countries may impose on imported goods to protect domestic industries.
24. Her hard work and dedication were by her peers.
25. Customs are charges levied on goods transported across international borders.
26. The research team followed a approach to analyze the data.
27. The company showcased its innovative and advanced in the technology sector.
28. Efforts are being made to achieve cost and increase efficiency.
29. The conference focused on discussing the implications of international trade policies.
30. The unexpected twists in the storyline added an element of to the movie.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Ohio 2. Economic 3. Recommendations 4. Defense 5. Intrigue 6. Geopolitical 7. Membership



8. Simulated 9. Cultural 10. Constraints

Gap-Fill: 11. projections 12. revitalized 13. accessibility 14. duties 15. collaboration 16. acknowledged
17. reductions 18. burdened 19. welfare 20. unified

Matching sentence: 1. participated 2. stability 3. tariffs 4. acknowledged 5. duties 6. systematic 7. capabilities
8. reductions 9. geopolitical 10. intrigue

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

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