



## Pitch Black

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### Why in News

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Recently, **Australia** has informed **India** that the **exercise Pitch Black 2020**, scheduled to be held from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> August has been **cancelled** due to the **Covid-19**.

The **next edition** will be held in **2022**.

### Key Points

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- **Exercise Pitch Black** is a **biennial three-week multilateral air combat training exercise** hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.  
Its **last edition** was held in **2018**.
- It ensures that the **training and integration of forces** that occur during this exercise **directly supports the Air Force's ability** to conduct operations.

- **Cooperation between India and Australia:**

- **Defence Cooperation**

- It is based on the **Memorandum on Defence Cooperation 2006**, the **Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation 2009** and the **bilateral framework for Security Cooperation 2014**.
- Australia and India are committed to working together to **enhance maritime cooperation** and have had **AUSINDEX** since **2015**.

- Australia recently suggested **trilateral cooperation among India, Australia and Indonesia** to identify new ways for collaboration for the safety and security of the Indian Ocean.

- **India and Australia** both border the Indian Ocean and have a **shared interest in the maintenance of freedom of navigation and trade**.
- Australia recognises India's critical role in supporting security, stability and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region.

- **Civil Nuclear Cooperation**

- A **Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement** was signed in **September 2014** which came into **force in November 2015**.
- The deal ensures that **Uranium mining companies of Australia** can **supply uranium to India for civil use**.
- It also **ensures that any future bilateral trade** in other nuclear-related material or items for civil use **will also be protected**.

- **Consular Cooperation**

India and Australia signed the **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** and the **Extradition Treaty in June 2008**, which has been **ratified by both the governments**, and has come into **force since January 2011**.



**Source: TH**