



# Pitch Black

## Why in News

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

- **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](#)

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