

## Exercise Pitch Black

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### Exercise Pitch Black Latest News

The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently said its contingent at the multi-nation exercise 'Pitch Black' in Australia had "accomplished the mission" and "mastered" the skies, while several partnerships were "strengthened".

### About Exercise Pitch Black

- It is a **biennial and multinational exercise** hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- It is the RAAF's flagship international flying exercise.
- The name 'Pitch Black' was derived from the emphasis on **nighttime flying over large unpopulated areas**.
- **2026 Edition:**
  - It was based out of RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal in the Northern Territory, as well as RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland.
  - It featured a massive assembly of **global air forces**, providing an unparalleled platform for interoperability. **19 nations, including India**, with 100+ aircraft and 4,400+ personnel are

participating in the exercise.

- The exercise focused on highly complex aerial manoeuvres, including offensive counter-air operations, air defence tracking, and tactical coordination between completely different styles of aircraft and communication systems.
- The **IAF contingent** consisted of 145 air warriors including the IAF Commandos team, **Garuds, four Su-30 MKI, one C-130, and one C-17** for logistic support for induction and de-induction.
- For the IAF, training alongside advanced air assets from nations like the **US, UK, Australia, France, and regional partners** offers crucial exposure to contemporary air warfare tactics, electronic warfare defence, and modern network-centric operations.
- **Previous participation of India:** The IAF has previously participated in the **2018, 2022, and 2024 editions of this exercise.**

**News: TRIB**

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