



DATE: 17 JUNE 2026

1 Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) (Source: The Hindu)

It is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 Member States bordering the Indian Ocean and 9 Dialogue Partners.

Need To Know

- It was formed in 1997
- Its secretariat is in Mauritius.
- The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.
- It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.
- The members include Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South-Africa, SriLanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Maldives and Yemen.



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2 Exercise Pitch Black 2026 (Source: The Hindu)

- *It is a premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia's Northern Territory from July 20 to August 7, 2026.*
- *It aims to provide a platform for participating air forces to enhance operational interoperability, strengthen military cooperation, and refine air combat tactics in realistic and complex scenarios.*
- Along with India, participating countries include Brunei, Canada, Fiji, Finland, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and host nation Australia



Other India – Australia Exercise

- **AUSTRAHIND:** An annual bilateral army training exercise, hosted alternately by India and Australia.
- **AUSINDEX:** A biennial bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- **Exercise Malabar:** The premier naval exercise featuring the Quad nations (India, Australia, the United States, and Japan), focusing on high-end tactical naval maneuvers.