



# Security Matters April 2020



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# Security Matters

## Red Flag air exercise

### Why in the news?

- The **U.S Air Force** has recently **cancelled Exercise Red Flag** due to **Coronavirus outbreak**.



### About the Exercise Red Flag

- It is an **annual aerial combat training exercise** between the **Air Force of the United States and its allies**.
- It was held for the **first time in 1975**. It aims to offer realistic **air-combat training for military pilots** and other flight crew members from the **United States and allied countries**.

**Topic- GS Paper 3–Defence**

**Source- The Hindu**

## Patriot air defence missile

### Why in the news?

- The **United States** has recently **deployed Patriot air defence missiles in Iraq**.

### About Patriot air defence missile

- Patriot (MIM-104) is a **long-range, all-altitude, all-weather air defence system to counter tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and advanced aircraft**.
- It is produced by **Raytheon in Massachusetts and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Florida**.
- The Patriot missile is **equipped with a track-via-missile (TVM) guidance system**.

**M901 Launching Station**  
Each can carry up to four PAC-2 missiles. There are up to eight launchers in a battery.

**MIM-104C (PAC-2) missile**

Class	Ground-to-air
Diameter	0.4 m
Wingspan	0.9 m
Weight	900 kg
Warhead weight	91 kg
Max. speed	Mach 5
Flight time (min/max)	9 sec to 3 min 30 sec
Flight altitude (min/max)	60 m - 24 km
Range (min/max)	3-160 km

**Patriot components**

<b>OE-349 Antenna Mast Group</b> The masts can be extended to over 100 feet (31 m) above ground	<b>AN/MSQ-104 Engagement Control Station</b>	<b>AN/MPQ-53 Radar Set</b> Target detection range: 60 km (warheads) to 180 km (bombers)	<b>Mobile EPP-III Electric Power Plant</b> Two 150-kW diesel engines
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### How it functions?

- With **remarkable goal**, the Patriot missile system is designed to detect, target and then hit an incoming missile that may be no more than 10 to 20 feet (3 to 6 meters) long.
- It can fly at **three to five times** the speed of sound. The upgraded Patriot system can also **destroy incoming aircraft and cruise missiles**.
- It can **shoot down enemy missiles (e.g., Scud missiles)** and **protect soldiers and civilians** from a missile attack.

**Patriot missile batteries** were **activated several times in the Iraqi war** and were **used extensively in the 1991 Gulf war**. The five components of batteries are:

- a. The missiles themselves (MIM-104)
- b. The missile launcher, which holds, transports, aims and launches the missiles (M-901). This part is necessary because each missile weighs almost 1 ton.
- c. A radar antenna (MPQ-53 or MPQ-65) to detect incoming missiles.
- d. An equipment van known as the Engagement Control Station (ECS) houses computers and consoles to control the battery. (MSQ-104)
- e. A power plant truck equipped with two 150-kilowatt generators that provide power for the radar antenna and the ECS.

### Topic- GS Paper 3–Defence

Source- TOI

### Exercise NCC Yogdan

#### Why in the news?

- **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** had recently allowed **temporary employment of NCC cadets** under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan' in the fight against the **ongoing virus outbreak**.



#### About National Cadet Corps

- The **National Cadet Corps** is the **youth wing of Armed Forces** with its **Headquarters at New Delhi**.
- It is open to **school and college students** voluntarily.
- **National Cadet Corps** is a **Tri-Services Organisation**, comprising the **Army, Navy and Air Wing**, engaged in grooming the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens.

#### Types of tasks envisaged for cadets include amid viral outbreak

- Manning of helpline/call centres
- Distribution of relief materials, medicines, food/essential commodities



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- Community assistance
- Data management and queue and traffic management
- Manning of CCTV control rooms

### Topic- GS Paper 3- Defence

#### Source- DST

#### Putting the SAGAR vision to the test

#### Why in the news?

- India's recent admission as **an observer to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** will put its SAGAR vision to the test.

#### Objective

- To **enhance capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories & interests in the Indian Ocean.**
- To **deepen economic and security cooperation** in the **littoral**; action to **deal with natural disasters** and **maritime threats like piracy, terrorism.**
- It also includes engaging with countries beyond our shores to build greater trust and **promote respect for maritime rules, norms and peaceful resolution** of disputes.



#### About SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)

- Prime Minister enunciated the vision of SAGAR in March 2015, which is an **articulation of India's vision for the Indian Ocean. SAGAR has inter-related elements and underscores India's engagement in the Indian Ocean.**

#### About Indian Ocean Commission

- It is an **intergovernmental organization** comprising **five small-island states in the Western Indian Ocean: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (a French department), and Seychelles.**
- The **secretariat** is based in **Mauritius.**
- Recently the **IOC granted observer status to India** on **March 6, 2020**, at the **Commission's 34th Council of Ministers.**
- It now has **5 observers - China, India, Malta, the European Union and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.**

#### Background

- In March 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited three small but significant Indian Ocean island states — **Seychelles, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka.**
- During this tour, he **unveiled India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean: Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).**

#### Topic- GS Paper 3-Defence

#### Source- Live mint, The Hindu

#### Noor Satellite

#### Why in the news?

- Recently, Iran has successfully launched a **satellite called 'Noor.'**

#### About Noor



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- It is Iran's first **Military Satellite** into the orbit.
- The **Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)**, the official website of the **Iranian government** confirmed the successful launch of Noor.
- The satellite was launched from **three-stage carrier Ghased** and was **placed in 425-km orbit**.



### Topic- GS Paper 3–Defence

Source- AIR

#### **Pitch Black 2020**

##### **Why in the news?**

- **Australia** has recently **informed India** that **their premier multilateral air combat training exercise Pitch Black 2020** scheduled from **July 27 to August 14** has been cancelled due to the **COVID-19 situation**.

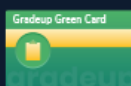
##### **About Pitch Black 2020**

- It is a **biennial warfare exercise** hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- The exercise aims **to practise Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Defensive Counter Air (DCA) combat**, in a simulated war environment.
- It provided a **unique opportunity for an exchange of knowledge** and experience with these **nations in a dynamic warfare environment**.
- The next edition of **Pitch Black is scheduled in 2022**.

##### **Other Exercise with Australia**

##### **AUSINDEX**

- It is a **bilateral naval exercise** between **India and Australia**.



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**Note:** Recently **Australian High Commissioner-designate Barry O'Farrell** made a **pitch for trilateral cooperation** among **India, Australia and Indonesia** to **"identify new ways** that our three countries can **collaborate to be the best possible custodians of the Indian Ocean"**.

**Topic-** GS Paper 3–Defence

**Source-** The Hindu

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