



Def Connect 2019

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The Ministry of Defence had organised the inaugural session of '**Def Connect 2019**' to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative in New Delhi.

iDEX portal and Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC)-III was also launched.

Innovation for Defence Ecosystem (iDEX)

- iDEX, launched in 2018, is an ecosystem to foster innovation & technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging innovators & entrepreneurs to deliver technologically advanced solutions for modernizing Indian Military.
- **Core Objectives:**
 - **Indigenization:** Rapid development of new, indigenized and innovative technology.
 - **Innovation:** Creates a culture of engagement with innovative startups to encourage co-creation.
- It provides funding/grants to MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovator, R&D institutes and academia to carry out research and development.
- iDEX is funded and managed by "**Defence Innovation Organisation**".
- iDEX portal was launched to provide wider publicity and better visibility of iDEX activities and enable more efficient running of future challenges through better information management.

Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)

- DIO is a **not for profit organisation** formed under section 8 of the **Companies Act 2013**.
- It is funded by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.
- It provides high level policy guidance to iDEX.

Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)

- DISC aimed at supporting Startups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialize products/solutions in the area of National Defence and Security.
- It has been launched by the Ministry of Defence in partnership with **Atal Innovation Mission**.
- The vision of the DISC is two-fold:
 - **Prototyping:** Help create functional prototypes of products/technologies relevant for national security, and spur fast-moving innovation in Indian defence sector.
 - **Commercialization:** Help new tech products/technologies find a market and early customer in the form of the Indian Defence Establishment.
- Under **DISC-III**, three challenges from the ARMY, Navy and Air Force were thrown open to prospective start-ups.
- Under the program, the start-ups, Indian companies and individual innovators (includes research & academic institutions) can participate.

Source: PIB