



IDEX and Defence India Start-Up Challenge

For Prelims: Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime, Defence India Start-up Challenge, DefConnect 2.0, Defence Innovation Organisation

For Mains: Atal Innovation Mission, Startups/MSMEs, Government Initiatives Regarding Indigenization

Why in the News?

Recently, **the Ministry of Defence** has launched **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime** and the sixth **Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 6)** during **DefConnect 2.0** in New Delhi.

- DefConnect 2.0 is a one-day event to bring together start-ups, big companies and armed forces personnel to boost indigenous innovation in the defence sector.

What is 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 the 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 innovators, R&D institutes and academia to carry out research and development.
- The **iDEX-Prime** aims to support projects requiring support beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore, to help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.
- 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.

What is Defence India Start-up Challenge?

- DISC aims at supporting **Startups/MSMEs** (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) / Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialize products/solutions in National Defence and Security.

- The **First Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)** was launched on **4th Aug 2018** at Bengaluru.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Defence** in partnership with **Atal Innovation Mission**.
 - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of **India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship** across the length and breadth of our country.
- Under the program, the start-ups, Indian companies and individual innovators (including research & academic institutions) can participate.
- DISC 6 witnessed the **participation of newly-formed seven defence companies**, the **Indian Coast Guard** and organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs for the first time.

What are Government Initiatives Regarding Indigenisation?

- [First Negative Indigenisation](#)
- [Positive Indigenisation List](#)
- [New FDI Policy in Defence Sector](#)
- [Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020](#)
- [Defence Industrial Corridors](#)

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