

10 November 2019: PIB Summary & Analysis

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

Context:

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is organising 'Def-Connect' to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative.

About the conference:

- The conference 'Def-Connect' aims to bring together all stakeholders of the iDEX ecosystem i.e., MoD, iDEX selected start-ups, partner incubators, Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), nodal agencies (Indian Army, Navy, Air Force), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Indian Ordnance Factories (IOFs), MSMEs and industry associations.
- The objective is to showcase the growth of the defence ecosystem in the country and recognise the infinite potential of the MSMEs/start-ups for the future growth of the defence sector in the country.
- What will be launched during the conference:
 - iDEX Portal
 - Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)-III
 - This initiative was launched aimed at supporting Startups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialize products/solutions in the area of national defence and security.
 - DISC - I & II are closed.
 - More than 350 start-ups & innovators working on various defence technologies are expected to participate in the event.

About iDEX:

- The iDEX was launched by the Government of India in 2018 primarily aimed at the creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in defence and aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia, and provide them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- iDEX will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' which has been formed as a 'not for profit' company.
- iDEX will function as the executive arm of DIO, carrying out all the required activities while DIO will provide high-level policy guidance to iDEX.
- **Functions:**
 - Co-innovation/co-creation
 - Piloting of candidate technologies in important platforms
 - Indigenization of various defence and aerospace-related platforms being manufactured in the country.

