

## Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme

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### Government schemes and policies

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Defence minister launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, during DefConnect 2024.



[ref- nagalandtribune]

### **About Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme:**

- **Launched under the iDEX** (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), **Ministry of Defence**.
- A Rs 750 crore scheme for **2023-24 to 2025-26**, with the objective of developing **30 deep-tech critical and strategic technologies**.
- **Start-ups** under the ADITI scheme are eligible to receive a grant-in-aid of up to ₹25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavors in defence technology.
- The scheme will **nurture the innovation of youth**, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology.
- It also envisages to create a '**Technology Watch Tool**' to **bridge the gap** between the **expectations and requirements** of the **modern Armed Forces** and the capabilities of the defence innovation ecosystem.

#### **Eligibility of the ADITI scheme:**

- **Startups** recognized by the DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The company must be **embodied under the Companies Act 1956/2013**.
- **Individual innovators** can also apply for the ADITI scheme.
  - However, post-selection they have to register as a Startup/ MSME.

### **About DefConnect 2024:**

- Organized by **Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-**

**DIO**), the event aims to **forge partnerships and tackle emerging security challenges**.

- It serves as a pivotal moment in **India's defence innovation landscape**, uniting key stakeholders such as the Armed Forces, defence industry leaders, start-ups, academia, and policymakers.

### **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework:**

- The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework is a program launched by the Indian government in **2018** to **promote innovation and technology development** in the defense and aerospace sectors.
- The framework aims to foster innovation and technology development by engaging industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes, and academia.
- The objective of the scheme is to **provide financial support to nearly 300 Start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators** and about 20 Partner Incubators through Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).
- iDEX provides grants up to Rs. 1.50 Cr to the Start-ups/MSMEs to fund the projects in many technological areas under **Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC)** and Open Challenge through the Support for Prototype and Research Kick start (SPARK Framework).
  - To motivate young innovators **iDEX was expanded to iDEX Prime**, with the assistance increasing from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 10 crore.

### **Objectives:**

- Creating an **ecosystem to support innovation**, entrepreneurship, and technology.
- Creating corporate venture capital models to identify emerging technologies, **connect innovators** to military units, and facilitate co-creation of new technologies.
- Providing a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defense and aerospace sectors.
- Acting like an umbrella organization to oversee technology development and potential collaborations in this specific field.
- Empowering a culture of technology **co-creation and co-innovation in the sector**.

### **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).**

- The Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) is a not-for-profit company that funds and manages the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) program.
- The DIO is a Section-8 company created by the defense PSUs **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

### **11th edition of Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC):**

- The **Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)** is a program that **supports startups**, MSMEs, and innovators in creating prototypes and commercializing products and solutions for national defense and security.
- The program is a partnership between the **Ministry of defence and the Atal Innovation Mission**.
- It fosters collaboration between the **defence establishment and the start-up ecosystem**.
- DISC 11 presents 22 problem statements, distributed across Indian Army (4), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (7), and Hindustan Shipyard Limited (1).

- These statements are designed to tackle crucial defence challenges, encouraging innovators to propose creative solutions that can elevate the nation's defence capabilities and contribute to bolstering national security.