



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# Innovations for Defence Excellence

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**Why is in news?** Indian Army has signed the second procurement contract through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

- Continuing with the commitment towards 'Make in India' initiative the Indian Army has signed the second procurement contract through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) on 09 June 2023.
- Tactical LAN solution is **being developed indigenously for creating secure tactical LAN in remote and difficult terrain.**
- 'Tactical LAN Radio' is a state of the art high bandwidth **backhaul wireless radio equipment** for provisioning of reliable and failsafe communication.
- The solution offers an **enhanced range of communication and embedded frequency hopping mechanism** to preclude chances of interception and long-range point-to-multipoint high-bandwidth communication.
- The system also incorporates the **enhanced safety features and can operate continuously for 48 hours** on a single set basis without any breakdown.

## iDEX:

- iDEX - Innovation for Defence Excellence
- iDEX was launched on 12 April 2018 during Defence Expo India 2018.
- One of the first aims of India as a nation since Independence has been to achieve self - reliance in the field of defence and defence production.
- **India is the world's largest defence equipment importer** and is expected to spend around USD 220 Billion in the coming decade to modernize its armed forces.
- In the recent years, the government of India has **initiated various schemes** like Make In India, Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), etc. to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in the Indian commercial ecosystem.
- This has also made increasingly evident that **achieving the goal of self - sufficiency** for the Indian military will require a means to incorporate innovation rapidly in the weapons procurement process.
- iDEX aims at **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.

## Objective:

- Facilitate rapid development of new, indigenized, and innovative technologies for the Indian defence and aerospace sector, to meet needs for these sectors in shorter timelines
- Create a culture of engagement with innovative startups, to encourage co-creation for defence and aerospace sectors
- Empower a culture of technology co-creation and co-innovation within the defence and aerospace sectors.

## Defence Innovation Organization:

### **Kamaraj IAS Academy**

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- iDEX will be **funded and managed by a ‘Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)’** which has been formed as a **‘not for profit’ company** as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder members i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL & BEL.
- 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.
- The modalities of implementation of DIF will be managed by a specialized team known as the Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) within the DIO. DIO will provide high level policy guidance to iDEX. **iDEX will have functional autonomy.**
- The **CEO of iDEX will be selected and recruited by the DIO** and will be a professional person of sound technical, scientific and engineering background with divergent knowledge and experience in innovation and research.
- The iDEX team will need to **undertake the following activities:**
  - Setting up and managing of the iDEX network in form of Independent Defence Innovation Hubs.
  - Communicate with innovators/startups through the Defence Innovation Hubs regarding defence and aerospace needs.
  - Organizing various challenges/hackathons to shortlist potential technologies for defence and aerospace use.
  - Facilitate scale-up, indigenization and integration in manufacturing facilities for successfully piloted technologies.
  - Evaluate technologies and products coming from innovators/startups in terms of their utility and impact on the Indian defence and aerospace setup
  - Interface with the military (Army/Navy/Airforce) top brass about key innovative technologies and encourage their adoption into the defence establishment with suitable assistance (financial if required).