

#FOSS4GOV Challenge

Innovation

April 24, 2021

In News: To promote the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in government, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge.

Background information

- Due to the large number of 4G data subscribers in India, 96 percent of whom access the digital world through open-source based mobile operating systems, India is well placed to become a vibrant hub for Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) innovations (primarily Android).
- FOSS has also been used to build some of India's largest government projects (including Aadhaar) and several technology start-ups.
- In 2015, the Indian government released a Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software, recognising the enormous potential of FOSS.

About #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge

- Accelerating the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in government is a difficult task.
- It's an important part of GovTech 3.0, which focuses on creating safe and inclusive Open Digital Ecosystems (ODEs).
- Participants will be eligible for incubation funding, prize money, domain expert mentorship, and institutional support from eminent organisations for concept incubation and solution listing on GeM.
- The #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge calls upon FOSS innovators, technology entrepreneurs and Indian Startups to submit implementable open source product innovations

in CRM and ERP with possible applications for Govtech in Health, Education, Agriculture, Urban Governance, etc.

The #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge's Importance

- It will use the FOSS community and start-ups' innovation capacity to address crucial issues in government technology.
- It encourages FOSS innovators, technology entrepreneurs, and Indian startups to apply open source product inventions that could be used by the government in areas such as health, education, and agriculture.

Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)

- The source code of the software may be edited, modified, or reused by users and programmers
- It allows programmers to change the program's functionality by changing it.
- The word "free" denotes that the programme is not subject to copyright restrictions.
- The word "open source" denotes that the software is in the form of a project, allowing for simple software creation by expert developers around the world without the need for reverse engineering.
- The Free and open-source software may also be referred to as free/libre open-source software (FLOSS) or free/open-source software (F/OSS).