

1 MARCH 2019

NATIONAL POLICY ON SOFTWARE PRODUCTS, 2019

Why in News?

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology released the National Policy on Software Products, 2019 aimed at stimulating the software products ecosystem in India.

About the policy:

The policy claims that the global software products industry was valued at 413 billion USD, while the Indian software products industry's contribution stood at just 7.1 billion USD.

This policy contains 5 missions with the following objectives:

To achieve a ten-fold increase in India's contribution towards the global software product industry by 2025.

To nurture 10,000 tech start-ups which include 1000 such start-ups in lower tier cities and towns leading to employment of 3.5 million people by 2025.

To up skill a million IT professionals, motivating 100,000 students and producing 10,000 leaders for the Indian industry.

To develop 20 strategically located clusters to support software product companies with ICT infrastructure, R&D and mentorship.

NSPM:

A National Software Product Mission (NSPM) would be established under the aegis of MeitY to achieve this mission.

The NSPM would be responsible for designing strategies for the development of the industry, monitoring of the special funds created under the Policy and facilitating Government agencies in the promotion of Software Products.

KALAM INNOVATION IN GOVERNANCE AWARD

Why in News?

Our honourable Vice President awarded Kalam Innovation in Governance Award at third **edition of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Summit on Innovation and Governance, in New Delhi**

About the summit:

- Kalam Summit on Innovation and Governance is an international conclave of policy makers, civil service officers, NGOs, media and academia who are dedicated to the task of governance and its dimensions.
- The first and pioneering edition of the summit was conducted on 15th October 2016 at VigyanBhawan.

The awardees can be from any of the following categories:

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- Government services including central and state administrative services, judiciary, union and state ministers.
- Eminent personalities from academia, journalism and research who have contributed in improving a particular area of governance.
- Private companies, entrepreneurs, CSRs, NGOs and Civil Societies who have worked and contributed in improving governance.

The KIGA award is given in the following categories:

- Education
- Healthcare, Sanitation & Nutrition
- Security & Safety
- Environment
- Women & Child Welfare
- Banking, Economics & Finance
- Rural Development & Agriculture
- International Contribution
- Technology, IT & Enterprise
- Social Welfare
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Media & Entertainment
- Innovation



STARS SCHEME

Why in News?

Union Human Resource Development Minister launched STARS scheme on National Science Day (28th February)

About the scheme:

STARS' or Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science is a Rs 250 crore scheme to fund science projects.

- About 500 science projects will be funded under this scheme.
- The projects from the applications will be selected on the basis of competitions.
- The projects under STARS scheme will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

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CORE SECTOR GROWTH DECLINES

Why in News?

As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, the core sector growth rate declined to 1.8% in January 2019.

- The same sector witnessed 6.2% growth in January 2018.

About Core sectors:

- They include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- Sluggish core sector growth would impact the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) as these segments account for about 41 per cent of the total industry output.

Index of Industrial Production:

IIP is compiled and published monthly by the central statistical organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation



USHA THORAT PANEL

Why in News?

RBI established a panel led by UshaThorat.

About UshaThorat Panel:

- To assess the causes behind the development of the offshore rupee market and study the effects of the offshore markets on the rupee exchange rate and market liquidity in the domestic market.
- The terms of reference of the task force also include measures to generate incentives for non-residents to access the domestic market and examine the role, if any; International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) can play in addressing these concerns.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF NHB

Why in News?

- Cabinet approves 1,450 crore for purchasing the share capital of RBI in NHB
- Subsequent to the payment of this amount to RBI, the subscribed capital of NHB shall stand transferred to and vested in the central government.
- The NHB has been set up to operate as the principal agency to promote housing finance institutions in India

About National Housing Bank:

National Housing Bank was set up on July 9, 1988 under the National

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Housing Bank Act, 1987 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank to act as an apex level institution for housing.

PRELIMS TIT BITS

SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 in New Delhi.
- They are awarded annually for recognition of outstanding Indian work in science and technology.
- Hence scientists from the renowned institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre will be selected for this prize.

ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY 2019

- Zero Discrimination Day 2019 was observed on Friday, 1st March 2019 by the United Nations and other international organizations.
- The Zero Discrimination Day 2019 theme was “Act to Change Laws that Discriminate”.
- The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
- The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014, and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director to combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

MAINAMATI MAITREE EXERCISE 2019

Held between the border security forces of India and Bangladesh i.e. Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) held in Comilla township in Bangladesh, which is home to an ancient Buddhist archaeological site in the region.



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