

Niti Aayog Task Force headed by Ramesh Chand Recommends Linking of Sugarcane Prices to Sugar Rate

The final report of the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog



Task Force headed by Ramesh Chand, Niti Aayog

Member(Agriculture), “**Sugarcane and Sugar Industry**” recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate to maintain the financial state and stability of the industry and to clear the arrears of the sugarcane farmers.

This report of the task force was finalized in March 2020 and published

on August 20.

Recommendations of the report:

- i. The report recommended to shift sugarcane cultivation areas to less water intensive crops by providing incentives to the farmers. Currently around 3 lakh hectares are under sugarcane cultivation that produce around 20 lakh tonnes of sugarcane.
- ii. An incentive of Rs.6000 per hectare will be provided to the farmers to adopt alternate cultivation patterns with less water intensive crops.
- iii. To introduce Revenue Sharing Formula (RSF) with Price Stabilisation Fund to protect the farmers with fair and remunerative price(**FRP**).
- iv. Considering the suggested formula the prices of the sugarcane will be adjusted upwards keeping the view of improvement in the recovery rates in the past years.
- v. The minimum support price of the sugar will be reviewed after 6 months from notification.
- vi. To support the sugar mills with the cost of production, including the interest and maintenance cost the report recommends a onetime increase in the minimum sugar price to Rs.33 per kilogram.
- vii. It also recommends to levy less on sugar at Rs.50 per quintal for 3 years, while around Rs. 4500 crore would be added to the fund which will support the banks providing soft loans to the mills to clear dues and update technology.

Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash bags 1st ever Gold Medal for India in MCWC; Named 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title



Twenty-Year old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda of Hyderabad has bagged the **first ever Gold Medal** for India in **Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC)** held on August 15, 2020 by **Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO)**.

- i. The MSO was held virtually with 30 participants, who were upto 57 years of age. The participants were from 13 countries including the UK, Germany, UAE, France, Greece and Lebanon.
- ii. Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
- iii. He has created a new **All Time Record** and has beaten the records of Math Maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg.

Aerospace Scientist G Satheesh Reddy gets Two-Year Extension as Chairman of DRDO

Renowned Aerospace Scientist **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy** was given a two-year extension as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development (DoDRD) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.



G Satheesh Reddy was appointed to the post in August 2018 for a tenure of two years.

About Satheesh Reddy:

- i. Satheesh Reddy was born in Atmakuru, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh.
- ii. He was appointed as **Scientific advisor** to the Defence Minister of India in June, 2015.
- iii. Satheesh Reddy also heads Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, a Military Missile Research Centre in Hyderabad, India.
- iv. Satheesh Reddy is one of the **Chief Architects** behind India's Mission Shakti, **Anti Satellite Missile Test (ASAT)**.

IAF Launched “My IAF”, a Mobile Application to Provide Career Related Information



IAF launches 'My IAF' mobile app to provide career-related information to aspirants

Indian Air Force(IAF) Chief of the Air Staff(CAS) Air Chief Marshal (ACM)Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, launched the mobile application “My IAF”, to provide career related information and details in IAF to the aspirants.

The application was launched as a part of the ‘**Digital India Initiative**’.It was developed in association with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Purpose:

To provide career related information and job details in Indian Air Force(IAF) to the candidates.

Features:

- i.The mobile application “My IAF” provides details about the selection process, training syllabus, pay and other details for the post of air force officer and airmen.
- ii.This will provide insights about the Indian Air Force training centres and about life in IAF and helps to explore career opportunities.
- iii.The app supports entertaining videos and games to provide a new experience to the users.
- iv.The candidates can learn about the motto, history, legends and Chiefs of Air Staff.

India’s ASTROSAT Detected Extreme UV light from AUDFs01 Galaxy

On August 24, 2020, in accordance with the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune, Maharashtra,



India’s first multi- wavelength satellite observatory, ASTROSAT, has detected an extreme ultraviolet (UV) light from a galaxy called “AUDFs01” which is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The galaxy is located in the Hubble Extreme Deep field (XDF).

ii.The discovery of UV light from AUDFs01 was made by an international team of astronomers from India, France, Switzerland, the

USA (United States of America), Japan and The Netherlands which was led by **Dr Kanak Saha**, associate professor of astronomy at the IUCAA.
iii. The study is published in “**Nature Astronomy**”.



First in Indian Railways: Ahmedabad Railway Division Introduces Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping Machine

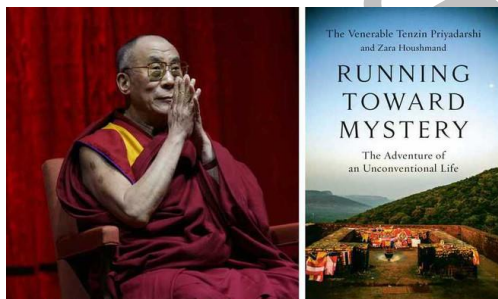


Ahmedabad Railway Division launched the Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping Machine at the Ahmedabad Railway station to ensure safe travel for the passengers during the Pandemic. The Ahmedabad Railway Division has introduced the machine after considering the increase in transport and travel services after Unlock-1

Phase.

iv. The railways has taken this initiative under the **New Innovative Non Fare Revenue Idea Scheme (NINFRIS)** scheme.

‘Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life’ Authored by Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand



book ‘Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life’ authored by **Tenzin Priyadarshi** and co-written by **Zara Houshmand** released. The book provides an account of how the Dalai Lama traced his Spiritual Teacher Khunu Lama in India. Tenzin Priyadarshi is the President and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and

Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Zara Houshmand is an Iranian American author and literary translator.

i. The author Priyadarshi talks about teachers who have influenced his life including Dalai Lama, Former Archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu and Mother Teresa.

ii. The book also shares his thoughts on Science and Technology, Meditation and Spiritual Disillusionment and the relationship between Buddhism and the modern world.