

IMPORTANT DAYS**July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day**

- Nelson Mandela International Day, also known as Mandela Day, is held on July 18 each year. The day remembers Mandela's achievements in working towards conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, peace, and reconciliation.

July 18 - World Listening Day

- World Listening Day is an annual global event that was started in 2010 by the World Listening Project. July 18th is the birth date of renowned Canadian composer, music educator, and author, R. Murray Schafer. His World Soundscape Project developed the fundamental ideas and practices of acoustic ecology in the 1970s. These inform the current, burgeoning interest in our changing acoustic environment. Thus, World Listening Day honors Schafer's contribution to understanding our world.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS**ARUNACHAL PRADESH****CCEA approves 2880 MW Dibang Project in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has approved 2880 Megawatt Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh at the cost of 1600 crore rupees. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said, this will be the highest dam in the country with a height of 278 metres, once completed.

MADHYA PRADESH**Madhya Pradesh to start 'housing project' for stray cows**

- As part of 'Project Gaushala', the Madhya Pradesh State government plans to move 7 lakh stray cows and bulls to shelters close to villages. 1,000 shelters to come up in Madhya Pradesh to accommodate 7 lakh animals

BUSINESS**India permits 1,239 tonnes raw sugar export to US**

- The government has permitted the export of 1,239 tonnes raw sugar under its tariff-rate quota (TRQ) to the US, which enables shipments to enjoy relatively low tariff. TRQ is a quota for a volume of exports that enter the US at relatively low tariffs. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies on additional imports.

ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7%

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for the current year on the back of fiscal shortfall concerns. For the south Asian region, ADB said the outlook remains robust, with growth projected at 6.6% in 2019 and 6.7% in 2020.

MoU & CABINET APPROVAL**Cabinet extends 15th Finance Commission's term up to Nov 30**

- Cabinet has approved the extension of the term of Fifteenth Finance Commission up to 30th November this year. It will enable the Commission to examine various comparable estimates for financial projections in view of reforms and the new realities to finalise its recommendations for the period 2020-2025.
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted by the President on 27th November, 2017. It was to submit its report on the basis of its Terms of Reference by 30th October this year covering a period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2020.

Cabinet approves setting up of National Medical Commission

- The Union Cabinet has approved National Medical Commission Bill, 2019. The bill provides for setting up of a National Medical Commission in place of Medical Council of India and repeal the Indian Medical Council Act 1956. The features of the bill include, the Common final year MBBS Exams will be know as National Exit Test(NEXT) which would serve as Licentiate Exam, for entrance to Post Graduate medical course and as screening test of foreign medical graduates.

AWARDS**Incredible India Campaign Wins Pata Gold Award 2019**

- The Incredible India "Find the Incredible You" campaign released globally by the Ministry of Tourism during 2018-19 has been declared winner of the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019 in the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category. This year's awards attracted 198 entries from 78 organisations and individuals worldwide.

SPORTS**Hima Das wins fourth gold in 15 days**

- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched her fourth gold in a fortnight as she won the 200m race with a creditable timing in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.

Deepika Kumari bags silver in Tokyo Olympics test event

- India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari clinched a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics test event after losing to 18-year-old Korean An San in straight sets. This was Deepika's first individual final in a world event since she won a gold at the third stage of the World Cup in Salt Lake City in June, 2018.

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