

Russia blocks adoption of joint declaration on nuclear disarmament at UN



Russia blocked the adoption of a joint declaration by a United Nations conference on nuclear disarmament. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is reviewed by its 191 signatories every five years, aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Russia objected to a draft text citing grave concern over military activities around Ukraine's nuclear plants, in particular Zaporizhzhia. Participants in the last review in 2015 also failed to reach an agreement.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty, backed by 190 countries in 1970, commits signatory countries including the US, Russia, France the UK and China to reducing their stockpiles and bars others from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The U.S. sails warships through the Taiwan Strait for first time since Pelosi's visit



Two U.S. Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory. The U.S. Navy, said cruisers Chancellorsville and Antietam were carrying out the ongoing operation.

The 100 mile-wide (160 kilometer-wide) strait divides Taiwan from China.

International Day against Nuclear Tests: 29 August

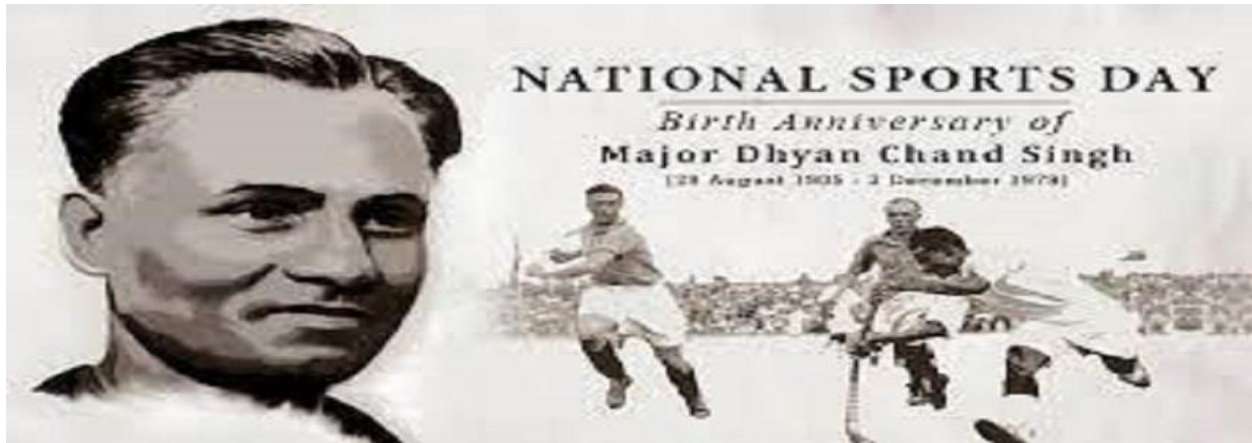


International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29th August to raise awareness about the devastating effects of testing nuclear weapons. On this day, the United Nations organises an event that creates public awareness regarding the effects of nuclear weapons tests, and detonations and further highlights the requirement for cessation of such nuclear tests.

The first nuclear test called Trinity was conducted on July 16, 1945, by the United States military in a desert in New Mexico. Nuclear technology was developed under J. Robert Oppenheimer of the Manhattan Project. After the first nuclear test, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9 in 1945, respectively, which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Successive generations in those Japanese cities suffered from radiation-induced cancer and birth defects.

Later, the erstwhile Soviet Union conducted nuclear tests in 1949, the United Kingdom in 1952, France in 1960, and China in 1964. The Cold War phase (1947-1991) saw a nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

National Sports Day: 29th August



The National Sports Day or Rashtriya Khel Divas is celebrated on 29th August in India as a tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand who was born on this date in 1905. It was 2012 when the day was first designated and celebrated as India's National Sports Day.

The president gives away sports awards such as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, and Dhyan Chand Awards on this occasion.

India, US joint special forces exercise concludes in Himachal Pradesh



The 13th edition of India- USA Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2022 culminated at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.

This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States. The 21-day joint training provided an opportunity for the Special Forces from both nations to train in Air Borne Operations, Special Operations and Counter Terrorism operations in a joint environment under United Nations Charter.

Road Transport, Highways Ministry issues notification for greater facilitation of citizens in issue of IDP across country



Road Transport and Highways Ministry have issued notification for greater facilitation of citizens in the issue of International Driving Permit, IDP across the country. India, being a signatory to the Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949 (Geneva Convention), is required to issue IDP as provided under this Convention, for acceptance in other countries.

The Ministry said, currently, the format, size, pattern and colour of the International Driving Permit being issued was differing across States in the country. It said, due to this, many citizens were facing difficulties with their respective IDP in foreign countries. Now, through this amendment, the format, size and colour for International Driving Permit has been standardized for issuance across India in adherence to the Geneva Convention.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approves third Positive Indigenisation List



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the third Positive Indigenisation List of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units, Sub-systems and Components. They will only be procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list.

This list is in continuation to the two Positive Indigenisation Lists that were published in December last year and March this year. These lists contain two thousand Five hundred items which are already indigenised and 458 items which will be indigenised within the given timelines.

The indigenous development of these Line Replacement Units, Sub-systems and components will bolster the economy and reduce the import dependence of Defence Public Sector Undertakings.

Indian Naval Ship Sumedha visits Port Klang in Malaysia



As part of the Indian Navy's long-range operational deployment, Indian Naval Ship, INS Sumedha visited Port Klang of Malaysia.

Sumedha's visit to Port Klang is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, enhancing maritime cooperation and inter-operability between Indian and Royal Malaysian Navies. Both navies have been collaborating on various fronts and are playing a critical role in ensuring Maritime Security and Safety of global commons.

INS Sumedha is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed for multiple roles independently and in support of Fleet Operations.

PMJDY accounts hit 462.5 mn in eight yrs, deposits reach Rs 1.73 trillion



Total accounts opened under PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) touched 462.5 million in eight years since the launch of financial inclusion initiative, taking the deposits in these accounts to Rs 1.73 trillion as on August 10, 2022.

PMJDY accounts opened till August 2022 stood at 430.4 million. The scheme was launched on August 28, 2014 with the motive of 'banking the unbanked', with 179 million accounts being opened in its first year. The scheme has expanded its coverage to 67 per cent rural or semi-urban areas, and has 56 per cent of women accountholders.

Average deposits per Jan Dhan account rose to Rs 3,761 in August 2022 from Rs 3,398 a year ago. The average deposit per account was up over 2.9 times from Rs 1,279 in August 2015.

Virat Kohli becomes 1st Indian to play 100 Matches in each format



Cricket Legend Virat Kohli has become the first Indian and just the second player overall in international cricket history to have played 100 matches each in all three formats of the game.

Kohli has now 100 T20Is to his name in addition to 102 Tests and 262 ODIs since making his international debut in August 2008.

The first man to do so was New Zealand batter Ross Taylor who retired from international cricket in April this year. The 38-year-old represented his country in 112 Tests, 236 ODIs and 102 T20Is between 2006 and 2022.

Rohit Sharma overtakes Martin Guptill to become leading run-scorer in T20



Indian Skipper, Rohit Sharma overtook New Zealand's Martin Guptill to become the leading run-scorer in men's T20 Internationals. In 133 matches in the shortest format for India, Rohit Sharma has scored 4 hundred and 26 half-centuries so far. Rohit now has 3499 runs in the format. Following him is Martin Guptill, who has scored 3497 runs. Virat Kohli is the third highest scorer in men's T20 Internationals with 3341 runs from 100 matches.

India defeat Pakistan by 5 wickets in opening Asia Cup T-20 match



In Cricket, defending champions India registered victory over arch-rivals Pakistan by five wickets in their opening Asia Cup Twenty-20 match at Dubai International Stadium. Put into bat first, Pakistan were bowled out for 147 in 19.5 with opener Mohammed Rizwan's 43-run was the top-score for the team. For India, Bhuvneshwar Kumar picked up four wickets while Hardik Pandya took three and Arshdeep Singh scalped two wickets.

In reply, India overhauled the target for the loss of five wickets in 19.4 overs riding on Hardik Pandya's unbeaten quick knock of 33 runs while both Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja played knocks of 35 each. For Pakistan, Mohammad Nawaz took three wickets. Hardik Pandya was adjudged player of the match for his brilliant performance with both ball and bat. Earlier, India won the toss and elected to field first.

India have so far won the title for the record seven times. The match was Virat Kohli's 100th T20 international game. With this, Virat Kohli becomes the first Indian to play 100 matches in all three formats.