India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise

NATIONAL NEWS

PM to Address the Grand Challenges Annual Meet 2020

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural function of Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2020, on 19th October
- The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, for the last 15 years, has fostered international innovation collaborations to address the biggest challenges in health and development
- Grand Challenges India was set up as a partnership of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2012
- The meeting is co-hosted by Grand Challenges India and Grand Challenges Canada, Ministry of Science and Technology, ICMR, NITI Aayog, US Agency for International Development and Wellcome.

BrahMos successfully test fired from Indian Navy's INS Chennai

- BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired today from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai
- BRAHMOS as a prime strike weapon will ensure the warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus making the destroyer another lethal platform of Indian Navy
- The highly versatile BRAHMOS has been jointly designed, developed and produced by India and Russia.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise

- The Eighth Edition of annual Indian Navy – Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX will be carried out in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October 2020
- Indigenously built ASW corvettes Kamorta and Kilta will be participating in the exercise along with Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and Chetak helicopter embarked onboard IN ships, and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft
- SLINEX-20 aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.

- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in September 2019.

Facts:

- The Chief of Naval Staff of India: Admiral Karambir Singh

Initiation of India – Chile Relations

- India and Chile had their first ever meeting co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chilean counterpart Andres Allamand Zavala.
- Both countries agreed to cooperate in several fields such as trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
- As an outcome of the institutionalisation of this relationship Chile will open its Consulate General in Mumbai. Also, Chile has designated India as a Priority country in its foreign policy.

Facts:

- Geographic Location: West of South America
- Capital of Chile: Santiago
- President of Chile: Sebastián Pinera
- Currency: Chilean peso

New Zealand re-elected Jacinda Ardern as the Prime Minister

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Jacinda Ardern for her being re-elected as the Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardren secured a landslide victory in the country's general election after her success in managing over the COVID-19 situation.

Facts:

- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington

BUSINESS NEWS

RBI to conduct first-ever OMO purchase of SDLs

- Reserve Bank of India will conduct its first-ever Open Market Operation (OMO) purchase of State Developments Loans (SDLs)
- The ten thousand crore rupees OMO will be conducted with an aim to improve liquidity and facilitate efficient pricing

New High in India’s FOREX Reserves

- India's foreign exchange reserves have jumped by 5.867 billion dollars to touch an all-time high of 551.505 billion dollars in the week ended 9th October
- The current Foreign Currency Assets is 508.783 billion dollars and the Gold Reserves are 36.598 billion dollars.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

- 2020 marks the 27th anniversary of the declaration of UNGA of 22nd December 1992, of 17th October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- The theme of 2020’s anniversary is “Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all”.