

June 11th and 12th news:

International:

PM Modi puts forward a unique concept of 'SECURE' at the SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit that concluded on 10th June, highlighted that the grouping is working with mutual respect and benefit for all members.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also provided a mantra, 'S' for security for citizens, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for connectivity, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and 'E' for environment protection.

The two-day SCO summit in Qingdao had a number of important takeaways. The SCO is one of the world's largest regional organizations, by population and geographical areas, and the presence of three global powers China, Russia and India adds to its stature.

More than ten documents were exchanged related to security, economy and culture. In his address, PM Modi put forward a unique concept of 'SECURE' which in essence describes the purpose of the grouping.

Emphasis on Security

Member countries pledged to work together on issues of regional security and sustainability. The SCO expressed a renewed resolve to fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism and called for unified global counter-terrorism front under the coordination of the U.N.

They emphasized the importance of putting in place measures for peaceful resolution of international and regional conflicts. They strongly opposed technical or financial support to terrorist groups in any form. PM Modi raised the issue of terrorism prominently.

Emphasis on Unity

The summit emphasized working together towards good neighborhood relations and enhanced cooperation towards achieving the 2025 SCO development strategy

A New Engine of Growth

The SCO summit decided to strengthen development cooperation in the spirit of mutual respect and benefit for all. All countries agreed to improve ease of doing business and facilitate small and medium enterprises.

Emphasis on connectivity

The SCO Members agreed to improve connectivity between the regions. PM Modi highlighted the importance of transport corridors and said connectivity should increase people to people linkages. PM said that India welcomes projects which are inclusive, and transparent, and respect sovereignty and

territorial integrity of member countries. PM Modi said connectivity is important for the economic development of the region.

Close Cultural Ties

SCO members vowed to increase cultural exchanges to promote respect for cultural diversity and social values of the region. PM Modi suggested organizing an SCO Food Festival and a Buddhist festival to promote connectivity.

Message to the World

The SCO sends out an important message from Asia in that it took place when the G-7 summit was also taking place in Canada and while the G-7 was marred by reports of discord among its members, the SCO showed a commitment to shared values and harmony between member countries.

Agreement with China

On the sidelines of the SCO summit, India and China signed two important bilateral agreements, one on exchange of information related to flow of water in the Brahmaputra river and the second on the purchase of rice including non-basmati rice from India.

All in all, the SCO summit provided a blue print for improved connectivity and economic development, accompanied by enhanced cooperation in the area of regional security.

Adopts declaration to combat terrorism: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit concluded with the adoption of the Qingdao declaration. The declaration calls for implementing the three-year plan to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. It also calls for implementation of the treaty on long-term good neighbourliness, friendship and co-operation.

National:

DoT launches 5,000 WiFi choupals in partnership with CSC

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on 11th June proposed to open extended banking counters across all 2.9 lakh common service centres (CSCs) that are operated by village level entrepreneurs to provide government services in rural areas.

Railway Minister Goyal, who is also the interim Finance Minister, said that WiFi service is already being made available at CSCs. The Department of Telecom (DoT), on the occasion, launched 5,000 WiFi choupals in partnership with CSC which will provide 60,000 WiFi hotspots in rural areas.

Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan said that every ministry and government department is exploring opportunities to utilise the reach of CSCs in rural areas. She said that the DoT is looking to maintain BharatNet network; and the higher education department is looking to deliver its education content in gram panchayats through CSCs. Under the agreement signed between IRCTC and CSC e-Governance, all 2.9 lakh common service centres (CSC) will be able to book both reserved and unreserved train tickets.

With this development, all 2.9 lakh CSCs will be connected with technology for railway ticket booking. Around 40,000 CSCs are providing this service, and IRCTC should accelerate and make sure that in the next 8-9 month every CSCs should have this facility

CSC e-Governance CEO Dinesh Tyagi said, there will be no limit on number of tickets that can be booked from a CSC.

Goyal also accepted the proposal of CSC e-Governance to allow all CSCs to operate as banking correspondents and also proposed to disburse 'Mudra Loan' through CSCs.

Law and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that government will provide opportunities to CSCs and they should come forward to grab all this. He too emphasised that all CSCs should focus on honesty and convince others not to make any mistake.

'SUBHADRA VAHINI' launched

With the inspiration of 'Beti Bacho-Beti padao' programme being initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, East coast Railways, Waltair Division has launched 'SUBHADRA VAHINI' programme for the security and protection of Women.

Waltair Division, Divisional Railway Manager, Mukul Saran Mathur has formally launched this programme on 11th June at Visakhapatnam Railway Station. A 32 member- women team consisting of RPF police and TC women employees will monitor the security of the women passengers in Trains and Railway stations in the division.

Science and Technology:

India to soon start producing first indigenous Lithium-Ion batteries

India will soon start producing first indigenous Lithium Ion batteries. A memorandum of understanding for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project was signed between CSIR's Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd.

At present India depends on countries like China, Japan and South Korea for import of Lithium Ion batteries. India imported Li-Ion batteries worth 150 million dollar in 2017 and is one of its largest importers in the world.

Sports:

Bangladesh Wins Asia Cup T-20 Women cricket

Bangladesh's women defeated India to win the Asia Cup Twenty20 for the first time - and inflict a first defeat in the final on their opponents. India, winners of all six previous tournaments, were restricted to 112-9, captain Harmanpreet Kaur making 56.

Bangladesh needed nine off the final over and, despite losing two wickets, Jahanara Alam hit two off the last ball to secure a thrilling win.

India beat Kenya to lift Intercontinental Cup football title

India has lifted the Intercontinental Cup football title. In the summit clash in Mumbai, India defeated Kenya 2-nil. Both the goals were netted by skipper Sunil Chhetri.

Sunil Chhetri has become the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine superstar Lionel Messi with his 64th strike for the country against Kenya.