

June 10th news:

International:

U.N. Security Council elects five members for 2-year term

The United Nations General Assembly voted on 8th June to elect Germany, Belgium, South Africa, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia for a two-year term in the Security Council starting on Jan. 1, 2019.

The council is the only U.N. body that can make legally binding decisions and has the power to impose sanctions and authorize the use of force.

Indonesia drew more votes than the Maldives in the contested election for one Asia-Pacific seat by 144 to 46, while the other four candidates ran unopposed. Uncontested candidates still need to win more than two-thirds of the overall General Assembly vote to be elected. There were 190 ballots in vote.

Germany received 184 votes, Belgium had 181, South Africa got 183, and the Dominican Republic had 184 after one round of voting. Regional groups generally agree upon the candidates to put forward and competitive races are increasingly rare

The five members giving up their seat at the end of this year are the Netherlands, Sweden, Ethiopia, Bolivia and Kazakhstan

National:

Eight states, Four UTs sign MoUs with health ministry to implement Ayushman Bharat mission

Eight states and four Union Territories have signed MoUs with the Union Health Ministry to implement the government's ambitious scheme Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission. The schemes aim to provide a cover of five lakh rupees per family annually to ten crore vulnerable families.

A beneficiary will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public and private empanelled hospitals across the country.

The eight states which signed the MoUs include Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand. The Union Territory of Chandigarh is among the four UTs.

He said, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Tamil Nadu are among those that will sign the agreement soon.

Through the MoUs, the states and Union Territories formally committed to implementing the health programme. The MoU outlines the role of central and state governments in implementing the scheme.

High uranium in groundwater of 16 states

Scientists have found widespread uranium contamination in groundwater from aquifers across 16 states in India, much above the WHO provisional standard for the country.

The findings published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters are the first to demonstrate the predominant prevalence of uranium in India's groundwater. The researchers from Duke University in the US unveiled new data showing that the occurrence of uranium in Indian groundwater — a primary source of drinking water and irrigation — is an emerging and widespread phenomenon.

They compiled data on groundwater uranium from 16 Indian states and new data from 324 wells in Rajasthan and Gujarat that shows a high prevalence of uranium concentrations above the World Health Organization (WHO) provisional guideline value across India.

The WHO has set a provisional safe drinking water standard of 30 microgrammes of uranium per litre for India, a level that is consistent with US Environmental Protection Agency standards. Despite this, uranium is not yet included in the list of contaminants monitored under the Bureau of Indian Standards' Drinking Water Specifications, researchers said. Several studies have linked exposure to uranium in drinking water to chronic kidney disease

Bilateral

India-China 2 ink agreements

India and China inked two agreements after the bilaterals. The first Agreement enables the Chinese side to provide hydrological data about the Brahmaputra River in flood season. It also enables the Chinese side to provide hydrological data if water levels exceed mutually agreed levels during non-flood season. The second agreement relates to facilitation of export of rice from India to China.

Sports:

New Zealand women's cricket team posted highest ever total in ODI

New Zealand women's cricket team posted the highest ever total in One-day cricket by scoring an incredible 490 for four against Ireland in the first match in Dublin.

New Zealand skipper Suzie Bates leading from the front with a blistering 151 off 94 balls. The total posted by the 'White Ferns' is the highest ever in ODIs including men's matches.

In men's cricket, the highest total in ODI is 444 for three, made by England against Pakistan in August 2016 at Nottingham.

With their incredible batting, New Zealand women team bettered their own 21-year old world record of 455 for five against Pakistan at Christchurch in January 1997.

It's only third time that a 400-plus score has been made in women's ODIs. In men's ODIs, a 400-plus score has been achieved 18 times by different teams.

