

## **REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR**

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The State Election Commission today announced by-elections to 54 Gram Panchayat and two Zilla Parishad constituencies spread over 23 districts in the State on November 6 next. The date of issuance of 'public notice' is October 9, while the last date of filing nomination will be on October 16, date of scrutiny of nominations is fixed on October 18 and last date of withdrawal of nomination will be October 21. Counting of votes will take place on November 8. State Election Commissioner Rinchin Tashi today told media that with the announcement of the by-elections, the Model Code of Conduct has come into force in the jurisdiction of the respective Zilla Parishad and Gram Panchayat constituencies. Tashi said that polling will be held in 73 polling stations and over 500 election officials will be involved excluding security personnel in the process.

The Centre today approved the release of around 45 crore rupees disaster assistance to the flood-affected Sikkim. The amount is the Central share from the State Disaster Response Fund to the state for the year 2023-24. The move is aimed at helping the state in providing relief measures to the affected people. The Union Home Ministry has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team to make an assessment of damages caused due to flash floods. The Ministry said the team will visit the affected areas of the state shortly and based on its assessment, further additional Central assistance to Sikkim will be approved. Two days back, due to incidents of cloudburst and flash floods, a sudden surge in flows in the Teesta river washed away several bridges, parts of NH-10, the Chungthang Dam and impacted several small towns and infrastructure projects in Sikkim.

In a remarkable display of expertise and innovation, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University made a significant impact at the recently concluded Megha Start-Up Expo 2023, organized by North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya. The RGU team led by Dr Arindam Barman, Associate Professor and HoD Horticulture, showcased their prowess in the event. The team received a prestigious award on being adjudged as the best stall exhibitor.

Meanwhile, RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha lauded the team's exceptional achievements and encouraged them to

continue to bring laurels to the faculty in particular and RGU in general.

As part of 69th National Wildlife Week (October 2-8) celebration, Environment & Forests Minister Mama Natung today inaugurated a photo exhibition themed 'Wildlife Photographs of Arunachal Pradesh' at Biological Park, Itanagar. He also released a book titled 'Splendid Wildlife Habitat of Arunachal Pradesh'. Addressing the gathering, Natung appealed to the people to respect the wildlife, and not to disturb the ecosystem. As part of the weeklong celebration, essay writing and drawing competitions were earlier held among the school children. Prizes for these competitions were also distributed today to the winners.

Home Minister Amit Shah has said that Central and State agencies have succeeded in firmly curbing all forms of terrorism in the country in the last nine years. Shah was speaking after inaugurating a two-day anti-terror conference organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi yesterday. He said, Model Anti-terrorism Structure should be established under the purview of NIA. He said the hierarchy, structure, and Standard Operating Procedures of Investigation of all anti-terrorism agencies in all states should be made uniform for better coordination between central and state agencies. The Home Minister emphasised that all anti-terrorism agencies must adopt such a ruthless approach so that a new terrorist organisation cannot be formed.

India beat Japan 5-1 in the men's hockey final to win gold medal at the ongoing Asian Games in Hangzhou on Friday. With this win, the men's team also booked a ticket for the 2024 Paris Olympics. India equalled South Korea for second most gold in men's hockey with four after Pakistan, the most successful team with eight gold medals in the Asiads. India had previously won the Gold medal in 1966, 1998, and in 2014. Harmanpreet Singh (32', 59'), Manpreet Singh (25'), Amit Rohidas (36'), and Abhishek (48') scored the goals for India.