



Parimal Suklabidya, Forest Minister of Assam and Pijush Hazarika, Minister of Assam, standing with an elephant at Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, during the opening Pobitora wildlife sanctuary for tourist some 55 km east of Guwahati, on Sunda

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AT A GLANCE

11 dead in Haiti earthquake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, OCT 7—A 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck just off the northwest coast of Haiti late Saturday, killing at least 11 people and causing damage to buildings in the Caribbean nation, authorities said. The epicenter of the quake was located about 19 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of the city of Port-au-Prince, the US Geological Survey reported. Government spokesman Edy Jackson-Alexis told AFP that 11 people were so far reported dead, adding that a disaster response task force had been set up. (AFP)

China knife attack: Three dead

BEIJING, OCT 7—Three are dead in China after a man fleeing the scene of a stabbing ran into a crowd and attacked onlookers, police said Sunday. The 42-year-old man, surnamed Wang, got into a dispute with a companion after an afternoon of drinking and karaoke in the eastern province of Zhejiang. Angry over the confrontation, Wang purchased a fruit knife and stabbed his friend's mother and fled the scene, according to a statement on the official social media account of Ningbo city's public security bureau. (AFP)

Crores exchanged hands: TN Gov

CHENNAI, OCT 7—Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has alleged that crores of rupees exchanged hands in the appointment of vice-chancellors to universities before he took over. Reacting to his remarks, the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in the state said it had no role in the appointments of vice-chancellors. In the "appointment of vice-chancellors, exchange (of) money in crores, I could not believe that, then I decided that things had to be changed," Purohit said at an event on education here Saturday. (PTI)

Shah dares Rahul UJAIN (MP), OCT 7

—BJP chief Amit Shah on Saturday challenged Congress president Rahul Gandhi to a debate with any leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) on the development track record of the two parties in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh. "I challenge Rahul baba (Rahul Gandhi) to decide the city, forum, date and time, and I will send the chief of my Yuva Morcha (youth wing) of that city and let there be a debate on development... (during) your 55 years of rule and (chief minister) Shivraj Singh Chouhan's 14 year-rule," Shah said, addressing a gathering here. (PTI)

Pompeo ends 4th N Korea trip

SEOUL, OCT 7—US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has wrapped up his fourth visit to North Korea after meeting Kim Jong Un to seek elusive progress in efforts to persuade him to give up his nuclear weapons. Pompeo tweeted on his arrival in Seoul that he had met with Kim and that they "continued to make progress on agreements made at Singapore Summit." He said, "Thanks for hosting me and my team." (AP)

Brett Kavanaugh sworn in as Supreme Court Judge

WASHINGTON, OCT 7—Donald Trump's controversial nominee Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in as a judge of the US Supreme Court, in a major victory for the US President amid crackling tension, angry protests and high drama on Capitol Hill. Kavanaugh was officially sworn in Saturday evening as the 114th Justice of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice John Roberts who administered the Constitutional Oath in the Justices' Conference Room, hours after the 53-year-old judge was confirmed by a bitterly divided Senate by 50-48 votes. Retired Associate Justice Anthony M Kennedy administered the Judicial Oath. Wife Ashley Kavanaugh held the family Bible. Justice Kavanaugh's two daughters, Liza and Margaret, and his parents attended the ceremony. Kavanaugh, whose nomination was hit by multiple accusations of sexual misconduct against him from his past, replaces Kennedy who had announced his resignation early this year. He has vehemently denied all allegations of sexual misconduct against him when he was in high school and college. The swearing in of Kavanaugh as the Supreme Court judge comes after weeks of bit-

tly fought battle between the ruling Republican and the opposition Democratic parties. Things took an ugly turn in the last few weeks, when three women came forward with allegations that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted them. Millions of people inside US and abroad watched live on their television sets the open hearing of Kavanaugh and his first accuser Christine Ford, a professor in California. Under tremendous political pressure, Trump ordered a last-minute FBI supplemental inquiry. The FBI submitted the confidential report to the Senate committee Thursday and soon Senator Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the new FBI investigation into Kavanaugh found nothing to corroborate sexual assault allegations against him. "This investigation found no hint of misconduct," Senator Grassley said in a statement. "There's nothing in it that we didn't already know." President Trump took to Twitter on Thursday to say the FBI report vindicated his nominee and expressed optimism about Republican chances in the November midterm elections, where control of the House of Representatives and Senate could be at stake.

On Saturday, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Kavanaugh by 50-48 votes, which was mostly on party lines. Kavanaugh is the second Supreme Court nominee of President Trump to be confirmed by the Senate. Trump, who was on a November 6 mid-term election campaign trail in Kansas, called Kavanaugh to congratulate him on his confirmation and swearing in. "I just congratulated him," he said. "Congratulations." It was well fought, I mean, who would have thought a thing like that would have happened - what he's been through? Everything was uncorroborated, he told reporters in Topeka, Kansas. Describing Kavanaugh as an outstanding person, Trump alleged that in recent weeks he and his family suffered a lot because of the opposition Democratic lawmakers who according to him supported an uncorroborated allegation of sexual assault against him. "We're very honoured that he was able to withstand this horrible, horrible attack by the Democrats. It's a horrible attack that nobody should have to go through," he said. "But the beautiful thing is, he is now in. He's going to be there for a long time. And he's just an outstanding intellect, outstanding

scholar, a brilliant lawyer - brilliant at everything he's ever done. So we're very happy; it was a great vote, a very historic vote," Trump said. Even as he was being sworn in inside the Supreme Court, scores of people protested down the street in the Capitol. The crowd in front of the US Supreme Court is tiny, looks like about 200 people (& most are onlookers) - that wouldn't even fill the first couple of rows of our Kan-

sas Rally, or any of our Rallies for that matter! The Fake News Media tries to make it look sooo big, cut's not! Trump said in a tweet. Of the nine-members on the powerful Supreme Court bench, two of the judges Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch have been nominated by Trump. His predecessor Barack Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, both women, on the bench in 2009 and 2010 respectively. (PTI)

Naxalism will be eliminated from India in three years: Rajnath

LUCKNOW, OCT 7—Home Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday said the menace of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be wiped out of the country in about three years. Addressing troops of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) on the occasion of their 26th anniversary celebrations here, Singh said their action should be rapid and quick but never "reckless". Singh, speaking at the CRPF camp here, said districts affected by Naxal violence in the country have come down to about 10-12 as compared to 126 some time back. The day is not far, may be a time in about 1-2 or 3 years, that the LWE will be eliminated from the country and this would happen due to your (CRPF) determination, courage and hard work and that of the state police forces, he said. "I congratulate you on the kind of work you have done in the LWE theatre of the country," Singh said. The minister said the force has killed 131 Maoists and militants this year while it has apprehended 1,278 of them and has effected 38 surrenders during the same time. The home minister also asserted that Jammu and

Kashmir, where the CRPF is deployed as the lead counter-militancy force, has been and will be an "inseparable" part of India. Some youth there (J-K) have been misled into militancy, but this force has ensured security commendably. Talking about the specific role of the RAF, a special unit under the CRPF during riots and protests, the home minister advised them to be prompt and rapid but never "reckless." All the police forces should be vigilant during crowd control and similar duties and should always know how much and when to use force, he said. Singh's comments can be seen in the context of a recent incident in Uttar Pradesh's capital where a police jawan allegedly killed an unarmed Maoist. An RAF battalion has a strength of just over 1,000 personnel and it is equipped with gadgets and non-lethal weapons like pump action guns, tear smoke grenade launchers and others to enable crowd security and law and order in case of protests or riot-like situations. The force is part of the Central Reserve Police Force, the country's largest paramilitary force or the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) with over 2 lakh personnel. It was raised and made fully operational in October, 1992. It has ten battalions (of about 10,000) based in various parts of the country in order to cut down response time to counter an incident of trouble. The ten existing RAF battalions are based in Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Aligarh, Coimbatore, Jamshepur, Bhopal and Meerut. Five of its new bases are in Jaipur, Varanasi, Mangalore, Hajipur (Bihar) and Nuh (Haryana). (PTI)



An artisan giving final touches to the idol of goddess Durga at Kumartuli, in Kolkata on Sunday

India ideal investment destination: Modi

DEHRADUN, OCT 7—Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Uttarakhnd's first investors summit and urged to make the country an ideal investment destination in the world today with major social and economic changes sweeping the country. Addressing an event of prominent leaders and industrial houses at Destination Uttarakhnd: Investors Summit 2018, Modi said the country was passing through an era of unprecedented social and economic changes at present and expressed confidence that in the coming decades India will become the engine of world economic growth. "Fiscal deficit has come down, the rate of inflation has come down. The middle class is growing and the country is full of demographic dividend." In the past 4 years, the state and central governments together have taken over 10,000 measures, which have helped the country improve its position in the ease of doing business rankings by 42 points. Modi said, describing the current times as the best for investors in the country. GST is the biggest tax reform in the country post independence which has turned the country into a single market, he said. Highlighting rapid growth in the infrastructure sector, the prime minister said 10,000 km highways have been built, which is double in comparison with what

was done by earlier governments. The aviation sector is growing at a record speed with 100 new airports and heliports coming up across the country. Type II and Type III cities are getting air connectivity. With the high speed rail projects and metro lines in various cities and the Centre's policies of housing for all, power for all, fuel for all and banking for all, scenario of an ideal investment destination being created. "My message to investors is make in India but not just for Indians but for the whole world," he said. The prime minister said schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana will provide health insurance coverage to a huge population and it will also open up huge opportunities for investors in the health sector. Describing Uttarakhnd as a shining jewel in the crown of emerging new India, Modi extended an invitation to top industrial houses to invest in the state, which has taken huge strides in its development since its creation. When former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee decided to create Uttarakhnd, the challenges were big but now the scenario has changed, with major steps taken in terms of infrastructure building and connectivity. "The state government's new policy on tourism, which gives it the status of an industry, is going to give a big advantage to investors coming to

the state. The new policies framed by the state government like support subsidy for investors in the MSME sector will another boon," he said. With its unique blend of nature-adventure-culture and yoga, Uttarakhnd has enough to stimulate the growth of investors, he said, adding that it has the potential to emerge as the country's "Spiritual Eco Zone" (SEZ). Noting that the states had been competing for investment, Modi said India is able to channelise its strength though can stop it from growing expeditiously. Emphasising that the strengths of each of India's states surpass those of many European countries, Modi said if every state recognises its strengths and develops accordingly nothing can stop the country from growing by leaps and bounds. Citing his own experience after he took over as the chief minister of Gujarat for the first time, he said journalists decided to grill him as he was new in the office and asked him what model he had in mind for the development of the state. "I said, I will follow the model of South Korea. They were puzzled to hear my answer because they had little idea about South Korea. But, I explained to them how that model could work for Gujarat as it had a similar size of population and a similar geography," Modi said. (PTI)

India follows an independent policy, says Army Chief

NEW DELHI, OCT 7—Amid fears of US sanctions over the S-400 deal with Russia, Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat Sunday asserted that India follows an independent policy and has not seen on getting the Kamov helicopters and other weapon systems from Moscow. India and Russia on Friday signed a multi-billion-dollar deal to procure the S-400 Triumf air defence system, which could attract sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). The act is primarily aimed at countering Russia, Iran and North Korea. India and Russia concluded the deal notwithstanding the US warning that it would be a "focus area" for it to implement punitive sanctions against a nation undertaking "significant" business deals with the Russians. Gen. Rawat, who returned Saturday night after a six-day visit to Russia, held talks with military officials of that country to enhance bilateral cooperation. He said the Russians were very keen on associating with the Indian Army and defence forces. Because they do understand that we are a strong Army, capable of standing up for what is right for us, based on our strategic thought process, he said. The Army chief was speaking at the

Gen. K V Krishna Rao Memorial lecture here. On his Russian visit, Gen. Rawat recalled a question posed to him by a Russian official that India seemed to be looking westwards at America, which has put sanctions on Russia, and that Washington has also threatened to impose restrictions on New Delhi for dealing with Moscow. To this, Rawat responded saying, "Yes, we do appreciate that there could be sanctions on us, but we follow an independent policy. Rawat also sought to assuage Russian concerns over India's growing ties with the US. You (Russia) can be rest assured (that) while we may be associating with America in getting some technology, but we follow an independent policy. I told them while we are talking sanctions and you are questioning on sanctions, President Vladimir Putin and Mr. Narendra Modi, at this juncture, are signing the treaty on purchase of S-400 weapon system in spite of the fact that we may face challenges from America in the future, the Army chief said. Rawat said India was looking forward to procuring Kamov helicopters and other weapon systems and technology from Russia. He said New Delhi was looking to get space based systems and technologies from Moscow to enhance its space capabilities. (PTI)

Plea in SC to bring UP CM's office under Lokayukta

NEW DELHI, OCT 7—A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Uttar Pradesh government to amend the law to bring the office of Chief Minister under the purview of state ombudsman, Lokayukta. The plea said that the existing status of the Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta Act, 1975 does not make the ombudsman "powerful enough to serve the purpose and

object for which it was enacted". The PIL, filed by advocate Shiv Kumar Tripathi, has sought a direction for amending the 48-year-old state law to bring the Chief Minister under purview of the ombudsman to ensure effective control over corrupt activities. "The Lokayukta of the state of Uttar Pradesh is not competent to proceed against the Chief Minister for any corrupt activity in which he has been found guilty

of favouritism, nepotism or lack of integrity therefore there is need to bring the Chief Minister under the purview of Lokayukta for proceeding against him for his corruption," it said. The plea has also sought direction to bring under the ambit of Lokayukta law the institutions like state and deemed universities and private institutions, committees, boards, commission, established under the state laws. Besides seeking

power to "search and seizure" for the Lokayukta, the plea said that the ombudsman should also be provided the administrative control over state police for carrying out the probe. "The Lokayukta/Up-Lokayukta should be given independent police force which shall be placed under his administrative control," the plea said. Up-Lokayukta is not "effective enough" in probing corruption, it said. He servants and has to depend on



The Lokayukta building in Lucknow