

IN BRIEF**Data on farm suicide**

■ NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday told the Rajya Sabha its latest data on farm suicides had omitted the causes because the matter had become "untenable" with many states and Union Territories reporting "nil" agriculture-sector suicides.

NATION P4

US Covid death toll

■ WASHINGTON: The Covid-19 death toll in the US was approaching 200,000 on Monday.

FOREIGN P2

LOCKDOWN**181 DAYS OVER**

9 DAYS TO GO

INDIA COUNT

Updated Covid-19 figures on Monday

■ Confirmed cases: 5487580

■ Active cases: 1003299

■ Overnight addition: 86961

■ Total deaths: 87882

■ Discharged: 4396399

Law exam

■ NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Consortium of National Law Universities to conduct the All India Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) 2020 by September 28.

Kwality booked

■ NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked dairy major Kwality Ltd and its directors for allegedly cheating a consortium of 10 banks, led by the Bank of India, out of more than Rs 1,400 crore through the bloating of financial statements and diversion of loan funds, officials said on Monday. PTI

No place to stay for madrasa teachers

SUDESHNA BANERJEE AND SNEHAL SENGUPTA

Salt Lake: A group of 10 madrasa teachers from Malda who had booked a guesthouse in Salt Lake to freshen up before heading to a meeting at the state's education department headquarters were turned out of the guesthouse a few hours after they had checked in and refused accommodation in another.

One of the teachers said they got the impression that they were taken from one guesthouse to another and refused rooms because of their identity, their names, their appearance and their clothes.

The teachers told The Telegraph they had been "stunned" at hearing the reason for their expulsion. "We had come to Calcutta earlier too in connection with work and usually stay at such lodges. This time we had come after several months because of the lockdown. We have never faced any problem before.... It simply breaks our heart to think this could happen in Bengal," said Mabbubur Rahman, headmaster of Alipur Madrasah Shiksha Kendra in Kaliachak, Malda.

The teachers, eight of them headmasters at their madrasas, were forced to take shelter under the East West Metro viaduct (the ground below the overhead tracks) near Bikash Bhavan amid the morning shower and left the city directly after finishing work.

According to Rahman, they had started from Malda around 9.30pm on Sunday and reached Salt Lake around 6am on Monday.

"A bike-borne youth who introduced himself as a guesthouse employee guided us to a guesthouse near CK Market. After we submitted our identity cards, we were allotted three rooms. At the time we had clearly mentioned that we would stay till 3.30pm. After freshening up, we went to the market for breakfast," said Rahman.

The group, barring one teacher who had fallen asleep in a room, had headed out for breakfast, Rahman said. After they returned around 9.30am, a guesthouse employee told them they would have to leave as there was another booking.



Suspended Rajya Sabha MPs staging a dharna near the Gandhi statue on the premises of Parliament House on Monday. (PTI)

Stick for 8 MPs, protest on lawns

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Eight Rajya Sabha MPs from four parties who had led the protests against the farm bills in the House were suspended on Monday for the rest of the session by chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu, who disallowed the Opposition's no-confidence motion against his deputy Harivansh.

The MPs stayed put in the House, despite several reminders from the Chair that the rules mandate they leave immediately, resulting in successive adjournments. As a result, not much business was transacted in the Rajya Sabha, which adjourned for the day an hour ahead of schedule.

The eight MPs then moved to the front lawns next to the Mahatma Gandhi statue to stage an indefinite dharna. Leaders of several Opposition parties and even the TRS — which usually stands with the government on contentious issues — joined their protest through the day against the "assassination of parliamentary democracy".

As the sit-in continued into the night, several MPs, including Ahmed Patel of the Congress and the RJD's Manoj Jha, joined their suspended colleagues in solidarity. Sanjay Singh of AAP and Dola Sen of Trinamul Congress, who are among the suspended eight, kept spirits high with protest songs.

Why has

SUBHASHISH MOHANTY

Bhubaneswar: Nimai Ray, an MA in sociology and a farmer, feels the two farm bills that were pushed through in Parliament on Sunday have cost him his independence.

"It's like your independence has been taken away and you are working as a labourer in some company," Ray, 56, told The Telegraph on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the passage of the bills as "a watershed moment in the history of Indian agriculture" and the Opposition has labelled them a "death warrant" on the farmer.

But the fears of farmers like Ray, imaginary or otherwise, articulate loud and clear the pitfalls of securing legislative approval without adhering to the basic principles of a parliamentary democracy: proper debate, scrutiny and consultation.

The fears expressed by Ray, who cultivates multiple crops on 12 acres in Jajpur district of Odisha, underscore the importance of transparency, communication and precise drafting while dealing with topics as sensitive as land and food.

"When I got my MA in sociology in 1988, I could have opted for a government or private-sector job, but I decided to live as a farmer. I have worked hard to create my identity as a farmer," Ray said.

"With the farm bill coming into force, national and international players will come into the picture and we will not be able to hold on to our independent identity. Though there may seem to be some immediate gains for farmers as the market will open up, the bills have long-term repercussions that everyone may not realise at the moment."

THE BIG FEAR: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, one of the bills cleared on Sunday, allows growers to directly sell their produce to institutional buyers such as big traders and retailers.

Once the bill is signed into law, the farmers can take their produce beyond the premises of what are known as "APMC

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QUOTE

How many more 'Act Of Modi' will the country bear?

RAHUL GANDHI

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The group, barring one teacher who had fallen asleep in a room, had headed out for breakfast, Rahman said. After they returned around 9.30am, a guesthouse employee told them they would have to leave as there was another booking for 10am.

"They promised us better rooms and although we protested initially, we agreed to check out the other guesthouse," said Rahman.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►

on lawns

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The Opposition is also demanding that President Ram Nath Kovind return the two farm bills to the Rajya Sabha for proper consideration and approval under Article 111 of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►

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Once the bill is signed into law, the farmers can take produce beyond the prices of what are known as "A markets or mandis".

Under the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, a law more than 55 years old, it is compulsory for farmers to take their produce to regulated whole markets where committee agents help the growers.

STUDY SHOWS 25% RISE IN MORTALITY DURING

Excess deaths among dialysis

G.S. MUDUR

New Delhi: Patients in India undergoing dialysis under government health insurance cover faced 25 per cent excess mortality during the nationwide lockdown, a study to assess the lockdown's impact on health outcomes among kidney patients has suggested.

The study by Stanford University researchers has found that mortality among dialysis patients increased sharply from 2.72 per cent during March to 4.56 per cent during May, an increase never seen over the previous year.

The mortality levels reduced to 3.42 per cent in June and 2.96 per

THE SPIKE

Survey results based on samples of patients on dialysis under government insurance plans. Figures in per cent show the mortality rate

2020		2019	
Month	Mortality	Month	Mortality
March	2.72 %	March	2.66 %
April	2.91 %	April	2.77 %
May	4.56 %	May	2.83 %
June	3.42 %	June	2.44 %
July	2.96 %	July	2.65 %

death rate between April and July 2020 that was 25 per cent higher than the mortality during the same month

"We see this sharp spike in the death rate in May; it falls over the next two months but remains high

Scanned

3347 /or/ 2020

150/WBHRD/Supreme

W.B. HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
KOLKATA-27

File No. /25 / /2020

Date: 23. 09. 2020.

Enclosed is the news clipping of the 'Telegraph', an English daily dated 22nd September, 2020, the news item is captioned "**No place to stay for madrasa teachers**".

Commissioner of Police, Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate is directed to cause an enquiry into the matter and to furnish a report to the Commission within 31st October, 2020.

(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)
Chairperson

(Naparajit Mukherjee)
Member

Encl: News Item Dt. 22.09.2020

Ld. Registrar to keep NHRC posted about cognizance taken on the subject by WBHRC and upload in the website.

Asstt. Secy.(L & R Wing) / S C
is to take immediate action

pxpt
23.09.2020

SDB