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Parliamentary Session

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# Session ends on a bitter note

24/9/20

## Boycott, suspension mar Parliament proceedings

SAGAR KULKARNI &  
SHEMIN JOY  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The 10-day monsoon session of Parliament ended on a bitter note on Wednesday amid a boycott by the Opposition over the suspension of eight of its members for unruly behaviour in the Rajya Sabha.

The session, which was held under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, saw growing distrust between the government and the Opposition, which moved a confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

Another first, perhaps, was the overnight protests on Parliament lawns by eight Rajya Sabha members who were suspended for unruly behaviour when the House had taken up two bills ushering in farm sector reforms, which were passed amid a din on Sunday.

In a rare stand-off, the eight



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha. PH

opposition members refused to withdraw from the Rajya Sabha chambers after the House, on Monday, adopted a motion for their suspension despite repeated directives by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. The situation led to repeated adjournments, forcing the Chairman to call off the business for the day.

As the Rajya Sabha adjourned the proceedings, members had stayed put in the chamber for a couple of hours before moving their protests against the Deputy Chairman to the Parliament lawns.

Earlier, an angry Opposition submitted a notice for moving a no-confidence motion against the Deputy Chairman, which was rejected by Naidu.

Deputy Chairman

## 3 labour codes passed

Paving the way for enacting labour codes, the Rajya Sabha passed three bills that remove stringent conditions on winding up companies and easing restrictions on firing from 100 to 300 employees by firms without government sanction, moves the government believes will attract investment and create jobs. PAGE 8

Harivansh made a peace gesture to the agitating Rajya Sabha members on Tuesday by offering them tea and snacks, only to be rebuffed. He later announced a day-long fast with the hope of instilling a feeling of "self-purification" in the protesting members, which was seen by the Opposition as a political ploy with an eye on the upcoming Bihar elections.

Naidu slammed the suspended MPs for justifying their unruly conduct instead of expressing regret.

FCRA Act amendments cleared; Don't sign farm bills: Opp to Prez, Page 8