

Current Affairs=17-04-2020

National directives for COVID-19 Management issued

Spitting in public is prohibited and punishable with a fine. Wearing of face cover in work places and public places has been made compulsory. No organization and manager of public spaces shall allow gathering of five or more persons. Gatherings such as marriages and funerals shall remain regulated by the District Magistrate. There will be a strict ban on sale of items such as liquor, gutka and tobacco.

Arogya Setu

Arogya Setu is a COVID-19 tracking mobile application. It is developed by the National Informatics Centre that comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. The purpose of this app is to spread the awareness and to connect essential health services to the people of India. It uses smartphone's GPS and Bluetooth features to track the coronavirus infection. It is an updated version of an earlier app called Corona Kavach (now discontinued).

Aarogya Setu has four sections:

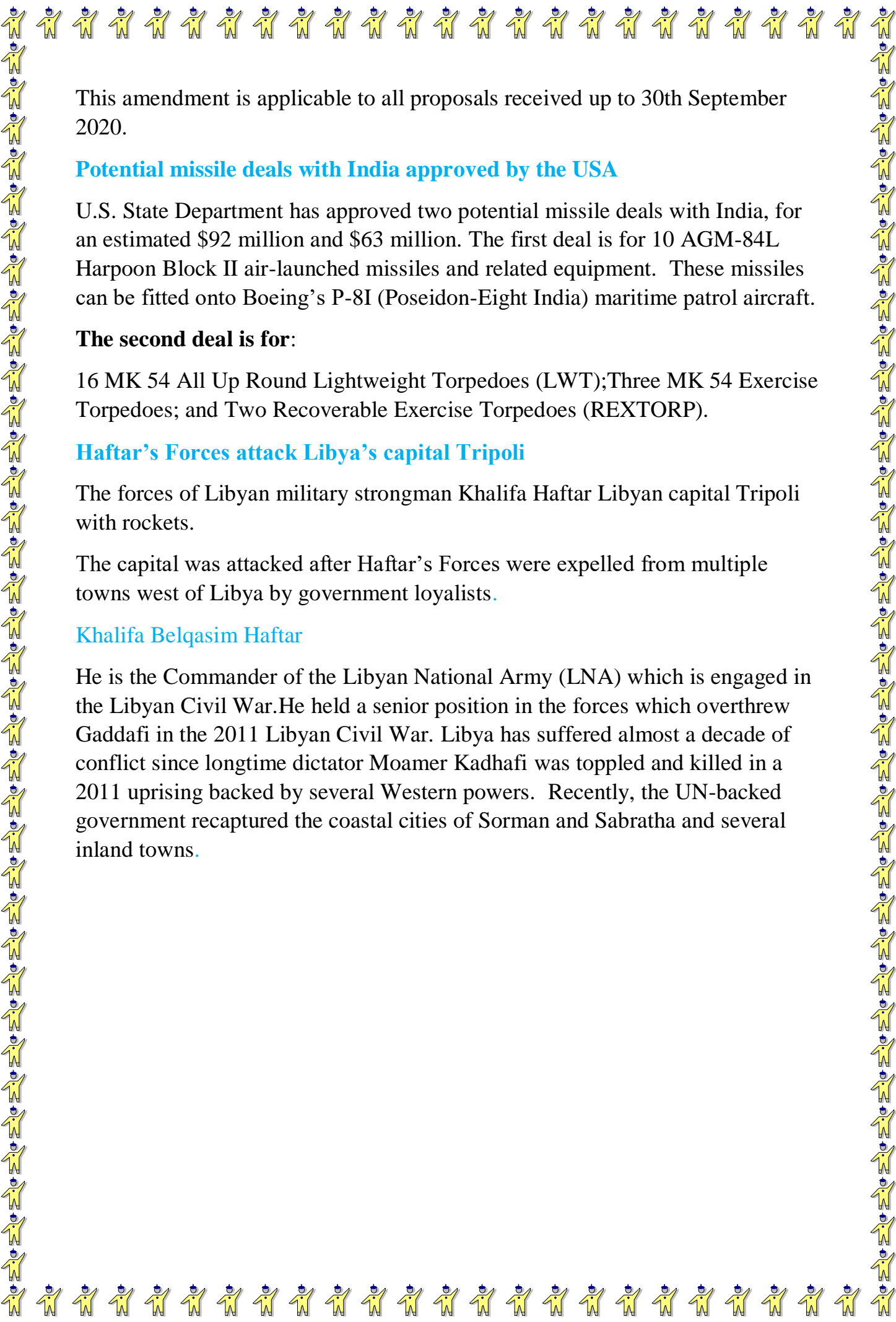
1. Your Status: tells the risk of getting COVID-19 for the user.
2. Self-Assess: lets the user know the risk of being infected.
3. COVID-19 Update: gives update on the local and national COVID-19 cases.
4. E-pass: yet to go active.

Amendments made to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 amidst COVID-19

To ramp up availability/production of various drugs against COVID-19, Ministry of Environment has made an amendment to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.

All projects or activities in respect of bulk drugs and intermediates, manufactured for addressing various ailments, have been re-categorized from the existing Category 'A' to 'B2' category.

The re-categorization of such proposals will lead to decentralization of appraisal to State Level, thus helping in fast track the process.



This amendment is applicable to all proposals received up to 30th September 2020.

Potential missile deals with India approved by the USA

U.S. State Department has approved two potential missile deals with India, for an estimated \$92 million and \$63 million. The first deal is for 10 AGM-84L Harpoon Block II air-launched missiles and related equipment. These missiles can be fitted onto Boeing's P-8I (Poseidon-Eight India) maritime patrol aircraft.

The second deal is for:

16 MK 54 All Up Round Lightweight Torpedoes (LWT); Three MK 54 Exercise Torpedoes; and Two Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORP).

Haftar's Forces attack Libya's capital Tripoli

The forces of Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar Libyan capital Tripoli with rockets.

The capital was attacked after Haftar's Forces were expelled from multiple towns west of Libya by government loyalists.

Khalifa Belqasim Haftar

He is the Commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) which is engaged in the Libyan Civil War. He held a senior position in the forces which overthrew Gaddafi in the 2011 Libyan Civil War. Libya has suffered almost a decade of conflict since longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi was toppled and killed in a 2011 uprising backed by several Western powers. Recently, the UN-backed government recaptured the coastal cities of Sorman and Sabratha and several inland towns.