

IN BRIEF

**'PM upper caste by birth, backward on papers'**

PATNA
RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday rebuffed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion of belonging to an "ati-pichhda" (most backward) caste, insisting that he saw this coming from the PM a week ago. "The fact is that he is an upper caste by birth and backward on papers," Mr. Yadav said. PTI

Father killed over property dispute in U.P.

MUZAFFARNAGAR
Two siblings were arrested for allegedly killing their father over a property dispute in Shamli district, the police said on Sunday. The body of Panna Lal, 65, who was missing since February 18, was found at the house of his son, they said. During investigation it was found that he was killed by his children, as there was some property dispute between them. PTI

1 dead, two hurt after car falls into gorge in J&K

DODA
A man was killed and two women were critically injured on Sunday when the car they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge here, the police said. The accident occurred near Dunadi village in the district when the car was on its way from Gandoh to Doda, they said. PTI

Four injured in clash over alleged love affair

MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)
A suspected love affair in Bhangela village here led to a clash between two families in which those from the girl's side allegedly attacked four persons with stones, leaving them critically injured, the police said on Sunday. The girl's alleged lover was among the four assaulted on Saturday, SHO Khatoli, Harsharan Sharma said. PTI

Ailing jail inmate dies in police custody in Kota, family cries foul

Two policemen sent to lines as disciplinary action after protest

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR**

An ailing jail inmate died in police custody at a hospital in Rajasthan's Kota town on Friday night after the police guards accompanying him for his treatment allegedly assaulted him. Two of the policemen have been sent to the police lines as disciplinary action after family members of the deceased staged a protest outside the mortuary.

Mohammed Ramzan, 60, a resident of Baran district's Mangrol town, was serving a sentence in the Baran District Jail following his conviction under Section 347 (wrongful confinement to extort property) of the Indian

Penal Code, after the Rajasthan High Court rejected his appeal. He was shifted to the New Medical College Hospital in Kota for treatment of liver diseases, including hepatitis, when he complained of pain.

Shifted from Jaipur

Ramzan was admitted to Saiwai Man Singh Government Hospital in Jaipur from April 21 to 25 for treatment when his condition deteriorated. The family, which met him once in Jaipur, was informed that the patient had been transferred back to Kota, where he died in the ward for prisoners at the New Medical College Hospital.

A video, which surfaced

before Ramzan's death, shows him telling that three police guards had beaten him with metal pipes. He said in the video, recorded by a family member during his treatment in Jaipur, that the guards were inebriated and would thrash him when he cried in pain.

The family members alleged that the jail authorities did not give proper medical treatment to Ramzan when he fell sick. The deceased also faced communal slur, according to the family.

After the family members, accompanied by the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) members, staged a protest and refused to accept the body, Kota Superinten-

dent of Police Deepak Bhargava assured them of an inquiry by a Judicial Magistrate. The post-mortem was conducted by a medical board and the body handed over to the family.

PUCL petition

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has shot off a petition to the National Human Rights Commission with the demand for registration of FIRs against the police guards allegedly involved in custodial violence that led to Ramzan's death. It also sought an inquiry by the hospital into the violence in the prisoners' ward and payment of compensation to the family of the deceased.

10 dead, 25 hurt in H.P. bus accident

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA**

Ten people, including three women, were killed and 25 injured when a bus they were travelling in fell into a 200-foot-deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district on Saturday night, the police said.

The accident occurred on the Dalhousie-Pathankot road near Banikhet after the driver lost control of the vehicle, SP Monica Bhutunguru said on Sunday.

Speedy action by quick reaction teams of the Dalhousie Cantonment and the civil administration helped in saving the lives of the 25 injured passengers, who were evacuated to nearby hospitals, a Jammu-based defence spokesperson said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:30 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heatwave conditions likely in isolated parts of Vidarbha, east Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, north-central Maharashtra, Odisha and Gujarat; heavy rain likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, south interior Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	35.9	27.2	Kozhikode	...	37.0	26.8
Ahmedabad	...	43.7	26.3	Kurnool	0.5	42.6	30.3
Aizawl	18.2	Lucknow	...	42.7	23.4
Allahabad	...	45.0	25.2	Madurai	...	40.2	27.2
Bengaluru	...	32.8	24.9	Mangaluru	...	35.6	26.3
Bhopal	...	43.3	25.4	Mumbai	...	35.5	28.1
Bhubaneswar	...	38.8	27.4	Mysuru	...	35.0	21.2
Chandigarh	...	39.0	22.2	New Delhi	...	41.2	25.4
Chennai	...	35.4	28.6	Patna	...	42.6	23.4
Coimbatore	...	36.5	26.0	Port Blair	...	33.9	28.0
Dehradun	...	37.9	17.2	Puducherry	...	36.0	27.2
Gangtok	6.4	22.0	15.6	Pune	...	43.0	25.4
Goa	...	33.8	28.5	Raipur	...	43.5	29.0
Guwahati	26.6	29.2	23.6	Ranchi	...	40.0	24.0
Hubballi	...	38.0	25.0	Shillong	1.6	25.7	16.5
Hyderabad	...	41.2	27.3	Shimla	...	39.0	22.2
Imphal	...	32.4	20.3	Srinagar	...	26.4	10.2
Jaipur	...	41.8	28.0	Trivandrum	...	33.9	28.3
Kochi	...	33.6	28.6	Tiruchi	...	40.2	28.2
Kohima	...	26.5	13.6	Vijayawada	...	39.8	28.4
Kolkata	...	37.4	28.8	Visakhapatnam	...	34.0	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	46	60	29	182	...	...	...
Bengaluru	3	28	61	224	...	...	...
Chennai	5	6	23	75	...	...	...
Delhi	28	36	24	190	362	...	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Loni Dehat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 395 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution.
Hyderabad	8	39	18	94	121	...	In contrast, Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 43
Kolkata	3	28	13	93	102	...	...
Lucknow	11	...	46	380	...	...	...
Mumbai	29	35	95	39	99	...	...
Pune	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visakhapatnam	4	24	28	41	95	...	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Agrarian distress a major issue in Rajasthan's Hadoti

"Piecemeal steps, such as farm loan waiver and payment of MSP are not going to solve the problem"

ELECTION 2019

**MOHAMMED IQBAL
KOTA**

Agrarian distress in south-eastern Rajasthan's Hadoti region is getting reflected in the Lok Sabha election with farmers' groups alleging that the BJP is skirting the issue because of suicides by a large number of farmers during the party's rule in the State between 2013 and 2018.

The Congress faces a stiff challenge in the region's two Lok Sabha constituencies, considered as BJP strongholds.

The farmers, who were earlier mulling over fielding their own candidate from the Kota Lok Sabha seat, dropped the plan following



Hadoti Kisan Union general secretary Dashrath Kumar.

their inability to get the support of at least 400 polling booths. The Hadoti Kisan Union had decided to field a candidate if 30% representatives of about 1,300 polling booths in the rural areas and 750 in urban areas agreed to contest the polls.

At the national level, the Rashtriya Kisan Samanvay

Samiti's plan to field 20 candidates from Lok Sabha constituencies where farmers comprise the majority of voters has also not met with success. The major political parties in Rajasthan and other northern States have not evinced interest in extending support to the concept of farmers' direct entry into active politics.

The farmers of the Hadoti region have been suffering losses since 2015, when rain and hailstorm caused extensive damage to their crops. The crop loss and debt burden led to suicides by about 50 farmers during the previous BJP regime.

The agrarian community was peeved over the State government's claims that "natural deaths" were being projected as suicides to claim

compensation.

Hadoti Kisan Union general secretary Dashrath Kumar told *The Hindu* that a consensus had emerged among the farmers that no political party would be able to resolve the agricultural distress as their actions were guided by "political expediency". "Piecemeal measures such as farm loan waiver and payment of minimum support prices are not going to solve the problem," he said.

Sitting MPs fielded

The BJP, which has fielded sitting MPs Om Birla from Kota and Dushyant Singh from Jhalawar-Baran, expects to get support of its traditional voters among higher castes and Other Backward Classes.

The entry of erstwhile royal family's Ijyaraj Singh into the BJP just before the 2018 Assembly elections has come as a major relief for the party, as his candidature from the Congress would have posed a formidable challenge. Mr. Singh was elected an MP from Kota in 2009 on the Congress ticket.

Congress candidate Ram Narayan Meena, a senior leader who had won the Kota seat in 1998, has raised the issue of farmers facing difficulties after levying of GST on agricultural equipment and pesticides in his election campaign.

Pramod Sharma fielded by the Congress in Jhalawar-Baran is a lesser-known face. The BJP has not lost any Lok Sabha election from Jhalawar since 1989.