

Winter Session: PM urges political parties to take up issues of public interest

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday urged all parties to utilise the Winter Session of Parliament for public interest rather than political interests. Speaking outside Parliament before the start of the session, the prime minister asked leaders of various political parties to participate in debates, discuss issues of public interest and work towards resolving them. Modi hoped that the session would be constructive and members would participate in debates on key issues concerning

the public, even if sharper. He hoped the winter session would function more than its stipulated time. "I am confident that political parties will keep public interest in mind and make use of this session to utilise it for furthering public interests and not parties interests," he told reporters. Modi said this Winter Session of Parliament is important and everyone should participate in discussion. "There should be debate, discussion and dialogue," he said. The Winter Session of Parliament starts Tuesday and will end on January 8.

Goa mining dependents launch protest in Delhi

Agency
Panaji, Dec 11

Mining dependents from Goa Tuesday launched a sit-in protest at the Ram Leela Maidan in New Delhi for resumption of mining activity in the coastal state. Around one thousand people under the banner of Goa Mining People's Front (GMPEF) have gathered at the venue for the three-day-long protest. Goa Power Minister and BJP MLA Niles Cabral told PTI over phone from Delhi.

The GMPEF has been demanding that the Central government amend the mining law during the ongoing winter session of Parliament to enable resumption of mining activity, whose closure has affected livelihood of at least two lakh people in Goa. Mining activity, which used to be one of two major mainstays for revenue in Goa—the other being tourism—came to a halt in March this year after the apex court quashed renewal of 88 mining leases.

Minimum temperatures hover above normal in Pb, Hry

Agency
Chandigarh, Dec 11

Minimum temperatures in several parts of Punjab and Haryana hovered above normal limits on Tuesday. In Punjab, Amritsar recorded a low of 8.4 degrees Celsius, while Ludhiana and Patiala recorded minimum temperatures at 8.8 degrees Celsius and 9.6 degrees Celsius, respectively. A MeT Department official said here. Pathankot (9.6 degrees Celsius), Adampur (7.6 degrees Celsius), Bathinda (8.8 degrees Celsius), Halwara (9 degrees Celsius) and Gurdaspur (7.2 degrees Celsius) registered above normal minimum temperatures. In Haryana, Ambala registered a low of 10 degrees Celsius. Hisar (10.7 degrees Celsius), Karnal (8 degrees Celsius), Narnaul (8.7 degrees Celsius), Rohtak (10.2 degrees Celsius), Bhiwani (12.2 degrees Celsius) and Sirsa (11.5 degrees Celsius) also recorded

above normal minimum temperatures. Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, recorded a low of 9.6 degrees Celsius.

7.1-Magnitude Earthquake Near Antarctica, No Tsunami Warning

Agency
Antarctica, Dec. 11

A magnitude 7.1 quake struck on Monday in the southern Pacific Ocean, close to the South Sandwich Islands north of Antarctica, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake, initially reported as a magnitude 7.5, was in a remote area and fairly deep underground. The U.S. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said in an advisory that it did not cause a tsunami threat.

Election News:

Congress talks to smaller parties in Madhya Pradesh

Agency
Bhopal, Dec 11,

The contest in Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections 2018 is proving to be nail-biting and appears headed towards a photo finish. While the counting of votes is still underway, trends available for all 230 seats in MP Legislative Assembly indicate that both the Congress and the BJP may not end their respective tallies too far from each other. In the Madhya Pradesh Assembly Election 2018 held on November 28, a total of 74.61 per cent voters had cast their ballot - a jump of around two per cent from the previous elections in 2013. The Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly has 230 seats and voting was held for all of them on November 28. While the BJP is led by Chief Minister Shriyash Chouhan, MP Congress chief Kamal Nath and senior leader Jyotiraditya

Scindia spearheaded the party's fight in the central Indian state. A total of 2,899 candidates were in the fray in Madhya Pradesh. Over 5 crore people were eligible to cast vote in Madhya Pradesh, as per the Election Commission of India. Congress makes moves to secure allies With the Congress party sensing that it may emerge as the single largest party in Madhya Pradesh but may not touch the halfway mark, the party has started approaching smaller parties and Independents to secure additional numbers. As per latest Election Commission trends, the party is ahead in 115 seats while the BJP is leading in 105. Agency report says that Congress leaders have established contact with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) and Independents who are leading as per trends. MP Congress president Kamal Nath and party's

campaign committee chief Jyotiraditya Scindia are personally leading the effort, sources said. In fact, Kamal Nath was believed to be in touch with BSP supremo Mayawati and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Gloom at BJP HQ Meanwhile, the headquarters of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Delhi is wearing a relatively deserted look on a day when the party has lost the election in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, where it was in power. In Madhya Pradesh as well, the incumbent party appears to be on a way out. Congress workers, on the other hand, are celebrating their party's good show in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Minister loses election in MP Minister Antar Singh Arya has lost the election from Sendhwa seat in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh. Several other ministers in Shriyash Chouhan Cabinet are trailing. Congress leading in 115 seats, as per EC trends The Congress is leading in 115 seats, just one short of the halfway mark in Madhya Pradesh, as per official Election Commission trends available for 230 seats at 3:45 pm. The BJP is second with leads in 105 seats, while the BSP is ahead in 4 seats. Others are leading in 6 seats. Status of key candidates Among the key candidates, Chief Minister Shriyash Chouhan is leading in Budhni seat while State Sports Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia is ahead in Shivpuri. Women and Child Development Minister Archana Chitnis is ahead in Burhanpur, while Agriculture Minister Gaurishankar Chaturbhuj Bisen is leading in Balaghat. Revenue Minister Umashankar Gupta is leading in Bhopal South West seat by a slim margin of 249 votes.

First result goes to BJP The first result has been declared in Madhya Pradesh and the incumbent BJP has claimed it. Chetanya Kasyap has won from Ratlam City with 35,000 plus votes margin. BJP's focus changed from development to Ram Mandir, admits BJPM P BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kakade has admitted that the party forgot the issue of development because of which it has lost in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. "I knew we would lose in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh but MP trends have come as a surprise. I think we forgot the issue of development that Modi took up in 2014. Ram Mandir, statues and name changing became the focus," Kakade said. SC/ST Act amendments to blame for BJP's poor show: UPMLA As votes are being counted in five states, a BJP MLA from Uttar Pradesh has put the blame on amendments to the SC/ST Act for the BJP's poor show. BJP's Baira legislator Surendra Singh said the party cannot win polls by hurting sentiments of upper castes. Official EC trends at 2 pm As per official trends provided by the Election Commission of India at 2 pm, the BJP and the Congress are both leading in 110 seats each. Mayawati's BSP is leading in 3 seats while the Others are ahead in 7. Trends are available for all 230 seats. Rahul Gandhi at Sonia's residence Congress president Rahul Gandhi may soon address the press, as picture is becoming more or less clear in Madhya Pradesh as well as in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Mizoram. Rahul Gandhi has now reached UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's residence - 10, Janpath.

Blood screening report confirms, Guwahati scribes maintain good health

From our Correspondent
Guwahati, Dec 11,

The city based scribes maintain good health as most of them have performed well in a recent blood screening camp conducted by Assam's celebrated healthcare institute Dispur Hospitals. Nearly 80 scribes, age limit from 30 to 60 years, participated in the free camp, where their blood samples were collected to test thyroid, haemoglobin and sugar. Only 11 scribes were diagnosed with high thyroid stimulating hormone (more than 7 milli-international units

per liter or mIU/L), where four participants were with low haemoglobin (less than 12 gm/dl) and five with high random blood sugar (more than 140 mg/dl), said a statement from Guwahati Press Club, where the camp was organized last week. Dr Jayanta Bardoloi, managing director of Dispur Hospitals offered free consultations to the participating member-journalists, so that they can start medication in need. Interested scribes may arrive at his hospital in Ganeshguri locality of the city for necessary consultation and medications.

Results in Telangana unexpected, says CPI

Agency
Hyderabad, Dec 11

The Communist Party of India Tuesday alleged that the TRS resorted to "huge distribution of money and liquor" to influence voters, and described the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led party's performance in the assembly polls as a "technical victory and not a moral one". "It's not expected", CPI General Secretary Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy told PTI on the Congress-led alliance of which his party, TDP and the Telangana Jana Samiti (TJS) were a part, coming a cropper in the December 7 polls. "Huge distribution of money, particularly on

the last day (before the election)... purchasing votes... this must have resulted in this victory for TRS," Reddy alleged. "He (TRS chief Chandrasekhar Rao) played the Telangana sentiment card once again," he said. "Most important: this election was not free and fair. Distribution of money and liquor... I don't think it's a moral victory for him (Rao), it's only a technical victory for TRS," Reddy said. He said the opposition alliance should have arrived at the seat-sharing deal earlier than they actually did, adding it would have given the grouping more time for campaigning.

Mizoram's Five-Time Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla Loses Both Seats, His Congress Trails

Agency
Aizawl, Dec 11,

Five-time Chief Minister of Mizoram, Lal Thanhawla, who contested from Champhai South and Serchhip, has lost both the seats. While he lost Champhai to Mizo National Front's (MNF) TJ Lalnunthlang, Serchhip was snatched by Zoram People's Movement's (ZPM) chief ministerial candidate Lalduhoma. The 76-year-old Congress leader has been ruling the state since December 2008. In the 2013 assembly elections, he became the chief minister for the fifth time, a record in Mizoram. The ruling Congress was aiming for a third consecutive victory, but

the MNF, the main opposition and an ally of the BJP at the centre, has left the party behind in Mizoram, among the last few states and the only one in the northeast with the Congress. The Congress is ahead in only five. The MNF, which has been out of power for 10 years, has been optimistic about the win. Their hope is hinged on the fact that the governments change every 10 years in Mizoram. "I have a strong belief that I don't need any other party and particularly the BJP to form government," said MNF president and former Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga, who ran the state between 1998 and 2008.

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Myanmar delegates coming to attend interaction prog. at MU delayed



Myanmar today is a deeply divided society along ethnic and religious line. Ethnicity and ethnic mobilization has always been part of its political set-up structure and growth. Successive Govt in Myanmar since 1948 have pursued policies of racial chauvinism. In 1947 a negotiation between leaders of ethnic minority groups and the Burma majority resulted in the Pang long Agreement that agreed to jointly attend independence from the British colony and embraced the principals of peaceful co-existence and equality among all different ethnic groups. Foremost, the country's constitution promulgated in 1948 was create on a unitary state instead of federal union as agreed at pang long. In 1974 the country's military regime adopted a socialist program and highly centralized constitution that completely denied the political rights minority groups' political rights and further marginalized them. The country's current constitution that took the military regime more than 13 years (1995-2008) in drafting, officialised the military's domination in Myanmar's politics. Today the military has a permanent guaranteed representation in the country's law making assemblies from provincial to national level. Ethnic minority groups in Myanmar have been struggling for their right and self determination since 1948. Many of them have chosen armed struggle for many years. However, federalism has long been perceived as the most fitting struggle solution to the deep rooted ethnic issues. In 2001 a number of ethnic organization from CSOs, Political parties and armed group alike gathered together and lunched a state constitution drafting process call the national Reconciliation program and formed a state constitution supporting committee. By 2008, after a series of consultation with various stakeholders, eight states constitutions were drafted, however Myanmar's political environment at that time did not allow that state constitution drafting process to realize its goals. The current Myanmar's peace process began in August 2011. It has paved new ideas and ways for searching the answer to future federalism in Myanmar. A key principal in the National wide ceasefire Agreement signed in October 2015 where eight ethnic armed organizations agreed to enter political dialogues, to build a federal union based on equality and self determination for all ethnic groups. In 2016 the National League for Democracy (NLD), the political party leads the current Govt. in Myanmar, reaffirmed its commitment to federal system and self-determination for ethnic groups. Mind while Mr. Victor Biak Lian, leader of the Myanmar Delegate introduces all together 33 delegates from different state of Myanmar's, some are Myanmar CSO and some from the kachin state, Mon state. Armed group which has ceasefire and kayah state Democratic party, federal Tanning teams, Arakan national party. They visited Mizoram, Assam and in Manipur this morning.

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LIBERAL FEMINISM

They shifted their emphasis to struggling for equality of conditions rather than merely equality of opportunity. This meant the demand that the state play a more active role in creating the conditions in which women can actually realise opportunities. The demand for childcare, welfare, healthcare, unemployment wage, special schemes for the single mother etc have been taken up by liberal feminists. The struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has also been led by this section among feminists. The work of the liberal section among feminists has been through national level organisations and thus they have been noticed by the media as well. A section among the liberal feminists like Zillah Eisenstein argue that liberalism has a potential as a liberating ideology because working women can through their life experiences see the contradiction between liberal democracy as an ideology and capitalist patriarchy which denies them the equality promised by the ideology. But liberalism was not the influential trend within the movement in this phase.