

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ: DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Cabinet (Central)

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6 women in, many more out

NEW DELHI: From the giant killer in Amethi to two first-term MPs, the Modi 2.0 has six women in the council of ministers but the prime minister gave a surprise by omitting senior BJP leaders Sushma Swaraj and Maneka Gandhi from his team.

Three out of the six women ministers - Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani and Harsimrat Kaur - returned to the Cabinet. In the outgoing government, there were six women Cabinet ministers.

Two new faces - West Bengal MP Debasree Chaudhuri and Chhattisgarh MP Renuka Singh - also joined the government as Ministers of State. Niranjani Jyoti (BJP), who created a controversy in her first term with her remarks 'ramzada and haramzada' (sons of

Ram and illegitimately born) also was sworn in again.

However, the omissions attracted more eye-balls. While the absence of Swaraj, whose name was speculated throughout the day by media, could be attributed to her not contesting the Lok Sabha election, she had said that she had not retired from active politics.

The decision to leave Maneka out of the government is seen as the result of her strained relationship with the BJP top leadership. Uma Bharati, who was in the outgoing Cabinet, did not contest. It is not clear whether there are any other positions waiting for them.

Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel, who is a Minister of State in the last Lok Sabha also did not find a place in Modi's team.

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes for an expansion later, the number of women in the Council of Ministers could go further up.

The incoming Parliament has record number of 78 women MPs, with the BJP having 41.

Over the years, the number of women ministers are increasing but under Modi, there were more women Cabinet ministers. Since September 2017, there were two women in Cabinet Committee of Security. Another woman minister Krishna Raj was denied ticket.

Irani (43) will be the glamour star among the women ministers. This time Irani, who came to limelight through her role in TV soap opera 'Kyon Ki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', is expected to get a plum portfolio. **DH News Service**



President Ram Nath Kovind administers oath of office and secrecy to women ministers (from L to R in the top row) Nirmala Sitharaman, Harsimrat Kaur and Smriti Irani; and (from L to R in the bottom row) Niranjani Jyoti, Renuka Singh Saruta and Debasree Chaudhuri during swearing-in ceremony at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI