

Khattar quits, Nayab Saini new Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH, Mar 12 (PTI)

HARYANA BJP chief Nayab Singh Saini was on Tuesday sworn in as State's new Chief Minister, hours after the surprise resignation of Manohar Lal Khattar from the post along with his Cabinet ministers.

Five MLAs -- four from the BJP and one independent -- were also sworn in as ministers. However, former Home Minister and six-term MLA from Ambala Cantt, Anil Vij, has not found a place in the new Cabinet.

Saini, the 54-year-old OBC leader, was administered oath by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya at the oath-taking



Haryana BJP President and OBC leader Nayab Singh Saini (C) being greeted by senior party leaders Arjun Munda (2nd L), Biplab Kumar Deb (R), former CM Manohar Lal Khattar (L) and others after he was chosen as the next Chief Minister in Chandigarh, on Tuesday. (PTI)

ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan here.

BJP's Kanwar Pal, Mool Chand Sharma, Jai Prakash Dalal and Banwari Lal and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala took oath as ministers. All the five were ministers in the outgoing Khattar cabinet. Besides Vij, BJP legislators Kamal Gupta, Om Prakash Yadav, Kamlesh Dhanda, and Sandeep Singh did not find their names in the Saini-led Cabinet. Dushyant Chautala, Davinder Babbli and Anoop Dhanak of JJP were other ministers in the Khattar cabinet.

Vij, who is learnt to be sulking, was not present at the oath-taking ceremony. After the par-

ty meeting here, he headed straight to his Ambala residence. The development to bring in a new face as Chief Minister by the BJP came just weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Khattar's second term as chief minister was also to end in October, when the assembly polls are due.

Earlier in the day, Khattar and all 13 other members of the BJP-led council of ministers submitted their resignations to the Governor as a team of the party's central observers arrived in Chandigarh.

The switch in Haryana came amid the ruling BJP-JJP coalition coming apart, though (Contd on page 5)

US and UN express concern about CAA

Washington: The US govt and the United Nations on Tuesday expressed concerns about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019, with the UN calling the legislation “fundamentally discriminatory in nature.”

“As we said in 2019, we are concerned that CAA is fundamentally discriminatory in nature and in breach of India’s international human rights obligations,” a spokesperson of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights told Reuters. He added the office was studying whether the law’s implementation rules comply with international human rights law.

The US has also signalled reservations. “We are concerned about the notification of CAA on March

11. We are closely monitoring how this act will be implemented,” a state department spokesperson told Reuters separately. “Respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law for all communities are fundamental democratic principles,” the spokesperson added.

The Indian embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the state department and the UN human rights office reactions.

The Indian government denies the law is anti-Muslim and says it was needed to help minorities facing persecution in neighboring Muslim-majority nations. It has called the earlier protests politically motivated. REUTERS

NSA Doval, Israeli PM discuss ~~GAZA~~



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday. (PTI)

■ **By Harinder Mishra**

JERUSALEM, Mar 12 (PTI)

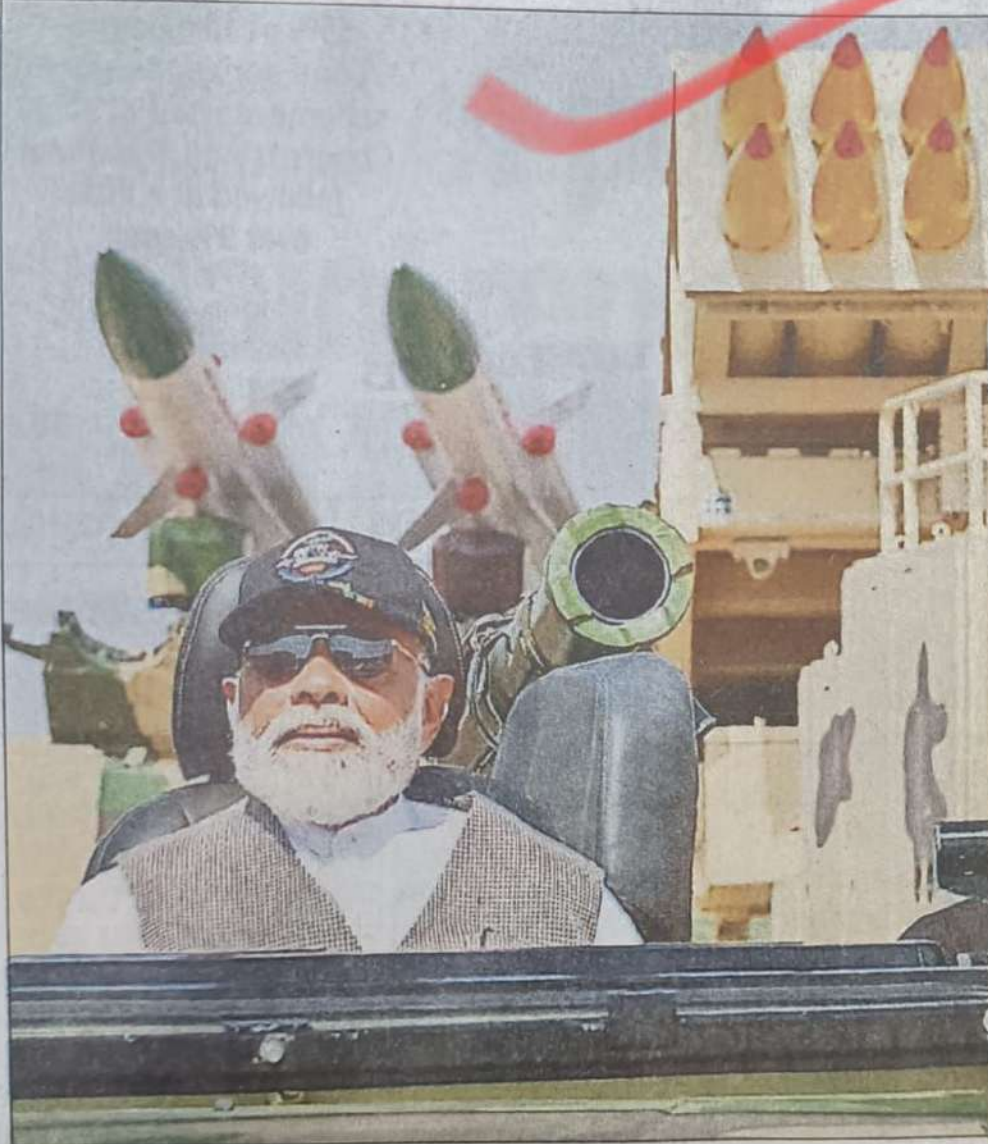
NATIONAL Security Advisor Ajit Doval has called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss regional developments and the urgent need to address the issue of humanitarian assistance to Gaza which is facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

“Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met today with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and updated him on recent developments in the fighting in the Gaza Strip,” the Israeli Prime Minister posted on X from his official handle. More than 30,000 Palestinians were estimated to have been killed during the operation in Gaza, which Israel launched in response to the October 7 attack by Hamas militants that left approximately 1,200 Israelis dead and about 250 taken hostage.

The sides also discussed the effort to release the hostages and the issue of humanitarian assistance,” he said.

PM: Trinity of self-reliance, belief & pride at Pokhran

ANI



PM Modi witnessed a synergised demonstration of indigenous defence capabilities in the form of a tri-services live fire and manoeuvres exercise 'Bharat Shakti' in Pokhran Tuesday. "Today, once again Pokhran became a witness of the trivene of India's *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance), belief & pride," Modi said, adding, "It is the same Pokhran that witnessed India's nuclear test, and today we witness the power of...indigenisation." He said those who "ruled" for decades were "not serious" about India's defence and were "even afraid" to build modern infra at border areas.

From Tejas fighters to Akash missiles, K-9 self-propelled guns, Dhanush howitzers and Pinaka multi-launch rocket systems, all proved their mettle in Thar before the PM, ministers and dignitaries from 40 nations. **P 18**

President conferred with honorary doctorate by University of Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, Mar 12 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu was on Tuesday conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius, demonstrating the depth of bilateral ties.

Murmu, 65, is here on a three-day State visit during which she will be the chief guest at the country's National Day celebrations on Tuesday.

"A special honour emblematic of the depth of India-Mauritius relations! President Droupadi Murmu @rashtrapatibhvn conferred with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law by @UniOfMauritius," the Ministry of External Affairs posted on X. In her address, President Murmu exhorted Mauritian youth to stay connected with India to nourish their proud past and invest in their bright future, it said.

She conveyed best wishes from the people of India on Mauritius' National Day.

"I feel especially honoured to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law from this prestigious university today. I hope that it will inspire all



President Droupadi Murmu being conferred with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius Chancellor Dr. Louis Jean Claude Autrey at the University of Mauritius on Monday.

(ANI)

Now, 7th-generation Indian-origin Mauritians eligible for OCI Card

PORT LOUIS, Mar 12 (PTI)

IN A goodwill gesture, India has approved a special provision to make 7th-generation Indian-origin Mauritians eligible for the Overseas Citizen of India Card to reconnect them with the land of their ancestors, President Droupadi Murmu has announced.

young people, particularly youngwomen to discover their

unique passion and pursue their dreams," she said.