

Singh hands over Twitter account to Modi

NEW DELHI, INDIA: India's official prime minister's Twitter handle will be handed over to premier-elect Narendra Modi, according to an official statement a day after the account was reset sparking a furious backlash.



India's Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi who will be sworn in next week. Image: Wikipedia

A Twitter war erupted when the @PMOIndia handle was archived and its 1.24m followers "transported" to a new account by the office of outgoing prime minister Manmohan Singh.

Singh's team reset the @PMOIndia account and renamed it @PMOIndiaArchive, angering the incoming Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government which complained that it would have to start from scratch to build up followers.

The BJP called the action "disgraceful, unethical and illegal", adding that the PMO account was a national digital asset and not a personal one.

But Singh's office said that both the official account and its existing followers would be handed to Modi's government.

"The Twitter account @PMOIndia has been secured by Twitter and they are assisting in its handover to the office of the incoming prime minister along with its (existing) followers," Singh's office said in a statement.

A restored @PMOIndia account on Twitter showed 16,023 followers. Modi, who is extremely active on Twitter, has been sharing the milestones in his election campaign with his 4.2m followers.

He is set to be sworn in as India's 14th Prime Minister next Monday (26 April) after the BJP swept to power with the first parliamentary majority in 30 years at the end of a marathon general election.

The Congress Party suffered its worst defeat ever, snaring just 44 seats out of 543 up for grabs against BJP's 282.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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