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Incian-origin MP in NZ takes oath in Sanskrit

WELLINGTON



Dr Gaurav Sharma, one of the youngest and newly-elected Members of Parliament in New Zealand, on Wednesday took oath in Sanskrit in the country's House.

Sharma, 33, hailing from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur, was recently clected as the Member of Parliament from the Labour Party for Hamilton West in New Zealand. India's High Commissioner to New Zealand and Samoa, Muktesh Pardeshi said on Twitter that Sharma took oath first in "New Zealand's indigenous Maori language, followed by India's classical language — Sanskrit, showing deep respect for cultural traditions of both India and New Zealand."

Sharma, who did his MBBS from Auckland and MBA from Washington, is working as a General Practitioner

(GP) in Nawton, Hamilton.

Replying to a Twitter user who asked why he didn't take oath in Hindi, Sharma said it is hard to keep everyone happy so he decided Sanskrit as it pays homage to all the Indian languages.

"To be honest I did think of that, but then there was the question of doing it in Pahari (my first language) or Punjabi. Hard to keep everyone happy. Sanskrit made sense as it pays homage to all the Indian languages," he tweeted.

Sharma, who had unsuccessfully fought elections in 2017, defeated Tim Macindoe of the National Party in this year's election.

Earlier this month, Priyanca Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister after PM Ardern inducted five new ministers into her executive.



Dr Gaurav Sharma (L) with his colleagues. A picture he shared on Twitter