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## TIMES NATION POLICES & POLICY

# Shivrai takes oath as MP CN, Scindia vows to stand by him

### **Top Priority Is** To Fight Corona, Says Chouhan

Rojendra.Skarma

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Bhopal: BJP national vicepresident Shivraj Singh Chouhan was sworn in for a fourth term as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh on Monday amid the Coronavirus outbreak.

Chouhan took oath of office in a simple ceremony at Raj Bhawan around 9pm. Governor Lalji Tandon administered the oath in the presence of select BJP functionaries, MLAs and top bureaucrats. Acting chief minister Kamal Nath and former chief minister Uma Bharti were also present.

The fight against coronavirus would be his top priority, he said, greeting everyone with a 'pranam' rather than his usual two-palmed hand-shake. "Coronavirus has hit our state as well. We will join hands to fight the outbreak and overcome the threat. You all have made janata curfew successful on the call given by Prime Minister. This is a big leap, which will help break the specific of committees.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan greets governor Lalji Tandon after taking oath as the MP chief minister at Raj Bhavan in Bhopal on Monday

Chouhan said after the ceremony. Urging people to take care of elders, Chouhan said, "Be a responsible citizen and adhere to the instructions of the government to control the "Coronavirus outbreak."

BJP functionary Jyotiraditya Scindia, whose defection with 22 MLAs brought down the Congress government, wrote on Twitter: "I will stand with you for the state's development. I am sure under your leadership, Madhya Pradesh will set new milestones."

Soon after assuming charge, Chouhan went to Mantralaya and called a meeting of senior bureaucrats where he gave instructions on measures to control the coronavirus outbreak. outher treat the first fore!

brate or burst crackers but to fight off the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

"At this time we have only one aim — to control coronavirus and secure the lives of people. This is my immediate priority. Lappeal to party workers that this is not the time to celebrate. No one should celebrate. Do not come out on the roads. Just remain in your home and pray to god that a good government is functioning. There is only one aim—to eradicate the pandemic. I also pray to the Almighty to give us strength so that we can control it," said Chouhan.

Earlier in the evening, the BJP legislature party elected Chouhan as its leader Former minister Gopal Bhargarequested bisnemoundfire

### Nath meets Sonia after govt collapse

cting Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath met Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday to apprise her of the situation in the state. According to sources, the two discussed the strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabhabypolls. Sonia also enquired about the status of coronavirus in the state. The party has fielded two candidates in the polls -Digvijaya Singh and Phool Singh Baraiya. IANS

MLAs — including former minister Narottam Mishraseconded it. All the MLAs present in the meeting supported Chouhan through voice vote. Bhargava resigned as leader of opposition after party cleared name of Chouhan for the top seat.

During the meeting, Chouhan made a scathing attack on the 15-month-long Congress government, accusing it of "destroying the state". "With collective efforts, we will put the state back on track of development and public welfarebut I urge all colleagues that it isn't a time for celebration. Coronavirus is topmost priority" he said, adding that he would start sitting in his office at Mantralaya on Monday

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