



## Indian Diaspora Council International

*Shared heritage, aspirations and interests*

[www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org](http://www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org)

August 6, 2019 (EST-USA)

### ***Press Statement***

## **Passing of Smt Sushma Swaraj, India's former Minister of External Affairs**

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) is saddened at the news of the passing of **Smt Sushma Swaraj**, prominent Indian politician and former Minister of External Affairs in charge of Indian Diaspora matters from 2014 thru' 2019 during the first term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Smt Sushma Swaraj was the second woman to hold the office of India's Minister of External Affairs after the late Indira Gandhi.

Smt Sushma Swaraj was born on February 14, 1952 in Haryana passed away in New Delhi, India on August 6, 2019 at the age of 67 years.



Smt Sushma Swaraj suffered a cardiac arrest on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 according to news reports. She was a popular minister in PM Narendra Modi's first term as prime minister, but she did not contest parliamentary elections earlier this year. She became known for helping Indians stuck abroad by responding to them on various matters of urgency and need. Smt Sushma Swaraj had been suffering from poor health and had a kidney transplant in 2016.

The news of her death prompted an outpouring of grief and condolences from fellow politicians and from Indians in India and worldwide.

"A glorious chapter in Indian politics comes to an end. India grieves the demise of a remarkable leader who devoted her life to public service and bettering lives of the poor. Sushma Swaraj Ji was one of her kind, who was a source of inspiration. Sushma Ji was a prolific orator and outstanding Parliamentarian. She was admired and revered across party lines. She was uncompromising when it came to matters of ideology and interests of the BJP, whose growth she immensely contributed to. An excellent administrator, Sushma Ji set high standards in every Ministry she handled. She played a key role in bettering India's ties with various nations. As a Minister we also saw her compassionate side, helping fellow Indians who were in distress in any part of the world." - *India's PM Narendra Modi*

"Extremely shocked to hear the passing of Smt Sushma Swaraj. The country has lost a much loved leader who epitomised dignity, courage & integrity in public life. Ever willing to help others, she will always be remembered for her service to the people of India" – *India's President Ram Nath Kovind*

"An extraordinary political leader, a gifted orator and an exceptional Parliamentarian, with friendships across party lines" - *Rahul Gandhi, former president of the Indian National Congress.*

**IDC** conveys profound condolences to Smt Sushma Swaraj's surviving husband Swaraj Kaushal and daughter Bansuri.

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*Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.*

