

**Declaration by Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius**

On the demise of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj

It is with great sadness and shock that we have learnt of the passing away of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, former External Affairs Minister of India. Sushma ji was held in high esteem by all of us. We admired her versatility and efficiency in the handling of various responsibilities, whether as External Affairs Minister of India, Chief Minister of Delhi, youngest Cabinet Minister in the Haryana Government, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Minister of Education, Employment or as the Minister of Health who coined the term Ayush.

Sushma ji was a great friend of Mauritius. Her love for this country was sincere and unwavering and she has played a pivotal role in the conclusion of numerous projects and the support Mauritius has obtained from India to take our country to its next level of economic and social development. She visited Mauritius on several occasions and each time, it was a pleasure to meet and converse with her. But we can surely not forget the indelible manner in which she marked India's presence at the World Hindi Conference last year both through her command of the language and her natural eloquence as well as the deepness of her thoughts. She was an excellent spokesperson for India, a country she served with high distinction.

Sushma ji will remain a strong inspiration for many across the world and will always remain alive in our thoughts as a parliamentarian par excellence and a high calibre politician. She was undoubtedly a desh sevak.

We offer to the family of Shrimati Swaraj, to Prime Minister Modi and to the people and Government of India our deepest condolences on this loss. We mourn alongside them the passing away of this exceptional lady.

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