

SUSHMA SWARAJ: INDIA'S POPULAR FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DIES

Sushma Swaraj, one of India's best-known politicians, has died.

1. **Ms. Swaraj**, who served as **foreign minister** for five years, suffered a **cardiac arrest** on Tuesday, the Press Trust of India said.
2. She was a popular minister in Narendra Modi's first term as prime minister, but did not contest parliamentary elections earlier this year.
3. She became known for helping Indians stuck abroad by responding to them on Twitter.
4. Ms. Swaraj, 67, had been suffering from poor health and had a **kidney transplant** in 2016.
5. As soon as news about Sushma Swaraj's death broke, reactions and condolences started pouring in from leaders across party lines, the international community and her fans and followers on social media.
6. **President Ram Nath Kovind** said he was shocked to hear the news **while Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said this is the end of a glorious chapter in Indian politics.



DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY UNVEILED

The Committee led by **Dr K. Kasturirangan** has presented New Draft of National Education Policy. The Draft Policy is built on foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability & Accountability.



BACKGROUND

1. The Government of India has initiated the process of formulating a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and to eliminate the shortage of manpower.
2. The extant National Policy on Education, 1986 (modified in 1992) required changes to meet the contemporary and futuristic needs of our large youth population.
3. In this context, a '**Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy**' under the **Chairmanship of Late Shri T.S.R. Subramanian**, former Cabinet Secretary, was constituted. It submitted its report in May, 2016. Based on this report, the Ministry prepared 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016'.
4. To build on the extensive work already done by the TSR Subramanian Committee, the Ministry of Human Resource and Development set up a **committee to draft a new National Education Policy in June 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan**, former chief of ISRO.