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# YASHWANT SINHA

- Former Finance Minister of India

LONDON  
SPEAKER  
BUREAU

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Yashwant Sinha is India's former Finance Minister 1990-91 and 1998-2002, and former Minister of External Affairs 2002-04. He is credited by many with transforming the Indian economy. Sinha is well respected nationally and internationally for his insights into India's economy, and India's foreign affairs. He is the buoyant voice of India in many international conferences, social and political delegations.

He is most renowned and revered for his tenure as Finance Minister. Sinha is viewed by many as responsible for pushing through several major economic reform measures that put the Indian economy on a firm growth trajectory. These included; lowering interest rates; introducing tax deduction for mortgage interests; freeing the telecommunications sector; deregulating the petroleum industry; and funding the National Highways Authority.

Sinha began his career as a civil servant. In 1960, he joined the Indian Administrative Service, and spent the next 24 years in several important posts, accruing a wealth of experience. His posts included; Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department, Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, First Secretary (Commercial) in the Indian Embassy in Bonn, and Consul General of India in Frankfurt. He also worked in the Department of Industrial Infrastructure and the Ministry of Industry. His final civil service role was Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Surface Transport.

In 1984, he joined active politics as a member of the Janatha party. He became the All-India General Secretary of the party two years later, and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1988. After the formation of the Janatha Dal in 1989, he became the General Secretary of the party. He served as the Finance Minister from 1990 to 1991 in Chandrasekhar's cabinet. In 1996, he became the national spokesperson of the Bharathiya Janatha Party. In the Atal Bihari Vajpayee ministry, Sinha returned to the role of Finance Minister from March 1998 to May 2002, and was Minister of External Affairs from 2002 to 2004.

He is the author of a comprehensive account of his years as Finance Minister, entitled 'Confessions of a Swadeshi Reformer'.

## Topics

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- Government
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