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## A soldier-turned-politician bids adieu

An MP for over two decades, Jaswant Singh made a mark in Vajpayee govt.

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh passed away on Sunday morning after a long illness at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi. He was 82.

He is survived by wife and two sons, including former Barmer MP Manvendra Singh.

Hospital officials said he had been admitted on June 25 and was being treated for sepsis and multi-organ dysfunction syndrome and ef-



■ R.V. MOORTHY

fects of a severe head injury sustained earlier. He suffered a cardiac arrest this morning.

### Storied career

A veteran leader who held the positions of Finance, Defence and External Affairs

Minister in the Union governments headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr. Singh's career was storied and eventful, reflecting much of India's strategic turns in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of

the former Union Minister, tweeting: "Jaswant Singhji served our nation diligently, first as a soldier and later during his long association with politics. During Atalji's Government, he handled crucial portfolios and left a strong mark in the worlds of finance, defence and external affairs. Saddened by his demise."

Mr. Singh, a former Army man had dabbled in politics in his native Rajasthan in the 1960s after leaving the Army, but came into the limelight in 1980, being elected to the Rajya Sabha by the newly formed BJP, which had shed its old Jan Sangh avatar.

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