

## Ashwani Kumar

Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India



Dr. Ashwani Kumar, an eminent lawyer, author and veteran parliamentarian was member of the Rajya Sabha for fourteen consecutive years representing the State of Punjab, until his retirement in April 2016. During this time, he held various ministerial positions including as Union Minister for Law and Justice and Minister of State for Industry, Planning, Parliamentary Affairs, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences. He was Special Envoy of PM Manmohan Singh to Japan in 2013 and chaired several important Parliamentary Committees. He was Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests and Chairman of the Select Committee of Parliament for framing the Prevention of Torture Bill (2010).

Government of Japan has decorated Dr. Ashwani Kumar with the “Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun”, one of the highest civilian honours, which was conferred upon Dr. Kumar by His Imperial Majesty, The Emperor of Japan in Tokyo on May 9, 2017.

Dr. Kumar has represented the Indian government at the highest forums of global diplomacy including in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) the UN Security Council and the World Economic Forum. He served as the Accompanying Minister to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Gordon Brown of UK. and King Albert II of Belgium, during their State visits to India. He also had ministerial engagements with Late President Simon Perez of Israel and President Mbeki of South Africa.

Dr. Ashwani Kumar is on the Governing Board of STS Forum (Japan) and on the Advisory Board of The Klosters Forum.

He is a senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India and is a former Additional Solicitor General of India. He is also associated as Counsel with the Doughty Street Chambers in London.

Widely recognized for his eloquence as a Spokesperson of the Congress party and for the intellectual depth of his writings and parliamentary interventions, he was honoured with Honoris Causa by the Punjab University in 2005. He was a visiting Distinguished Fellow at the Trinity College, Dublin (2016) and has spoken at the Oxford Human Rights Hub, The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, University of Birmingham and Kings College London amongst others. His publications include *Laws, Ideas & Ideology in Politics: Perspective of an Activist* and *“Hope in a Challenged Democracy: An Indian Narrative”* (2017)