

Hardeep Singh Puri

Hardeep Singh Puri was inducted into the Council of Ministers, Government of India, as Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs on 3 September, 2017.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is the apex authority of Government of India at the national level to formulate policies, sponsor and support programme, coordinate the activities of various Central Ministries, State Governments and other nodal authorities and monitor the programmes concerning all the issues of housing and urban affairs in the country.

The Ministry is the part of the government where three of the Prime Minister's flagship programmes are anchored – Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Smart Cities. These programmes are bold and ambitious and when implemented, individually and collectively, will have a transformative effect and involve a paradigmatic shift.

He has had a distinguished four-decade career in diplomacy spanning the multilateral arena, having held Ambassadorial posts in London, Brazil and as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva (2002-2005) and New York (2009-2013). He is one of the few Indians to preside over the United Nations Security Council and the only one to have chaired its Counter-terrorism Committee. He served as Vice President at the International Peace Institute and as Secretary-General of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism in New York.

He is the author of the book *'Perilous Interventions: The Security Council & The Politics of Chaos'*, a Harper Collins publication (September 2016).