



His Excellency Hardeep Singh Puri
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

Hardeep Singh Puri was appointed Ambassador of India to the United Nations on May 8, 2009

Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1974. In an extended career spanning 37 years, he has held Ambassadorial-level jobs in London, to the United Nations in Geneva, Brazil and is presently serving as Permanent Representative in New York. He had earlier served in India's Missions in Tokyo, and Colombo as well.

Ambassador Puri has extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy, having served on three occasions as a member of India's Delegation to the GATT/United Nations in Geneva where he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative from 2002 to 2005.

Ambassador Puri has also had a long association with and specialized on trade-related matters and has served on several Dispute Settlement Panels of the GATT and WTO.

Ambassador Puri has served at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, as an Under Secretary in the early 1980s, as Director and Chef de Cabinet to the Foreign Secretary in the early 1990s, as Joint Secretary of the Americas and Europe West Divisions and on deputation to the Ministry of Defence in the 1990s. More recently, he was Permanent Secretary dealing with economic relations in the Ministry of External Affairs from June 2008 to April 2009, before assuming his present post in New York on 4 May, 2009.

As the permanent ambassador of India to the UN he has served twice as President of the United Nations Security Council (August 2011, November 2012), and is the current chairman of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Puri holds a post-graduate degree in history. He is married and has two daughters.

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WHO WE ARE

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT INDIA



Indian Flag History:

The flag of India was officially adopted in its present form in 1947, when it became the official flag of the Dominion of India. The flag was subsequently retained as that of the Republic of India. In India the term “tricolor” almost always refers to the Indian national flag. The flag, by law, is to be made of *khadi*, a special type of hand-spun cloth of cotton or silk made popular by Mahatma Gandhi.

Indian Flag Meaning:

The saffron stripe represents courage, sacrifice, and the spirit of renunciation; white signifies purity and truth; green stands for faith and fertility; the blue chakra symbolizes the wheel of life in movement and death in stagnation.

Information taken from wikipedia.org and CIA factbook.

- India is about 1/3 the size of the United States, yet it is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of 1,166,079,217.
- It is illegal to take Indian currency (rupees) out of India.
- More than a million Indians are millionaires, yet most Indians live on less than two dollars a day. An estimated 35% of India's population lives below the poverty line.
- India is reported to be the birthplace of the game of chess.
- The Bengal tiger is India's national animal. It was once ubiquitous throughout the country, but now there are fewer than 4,000 wild tigers left.



- The Taj Mahal (pictured left) was built by Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It was completed in 1653 after twenty-two years of construction, and required more than 20,000 workers and 1,000 elephants to complete.
- India experiences six seasons: summer, autumn, winter, spring, summer monsoon, and winter monsoon.

- In India it is traditional to wear white, not black, to a funeral. Widows will often wear white in contrast to the colorful clothes of married or single women.
- The fold and color of clothing are viewed as important markers of social classification in India.
- There are 17 major languages and 844 dialects spoken in India.
- With 300,000 mosques, India has more mosques than any other country.
- Before 1986, India was the only place in the world where diamonds could be found.
- With just over 1 million employees, Indian Railways is the largest world employer.

