

UN HAPPY WITH PEACE EFFORTS, SAYS INDIA

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Indian Ambassador to the UN Syed Akbaruddin on Friday said the UN Security Council had appreciated India's efforts to restore normalcy in Kashmir.

"The Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir announced a whole set of measures that the government is undertaking to move towards normalcy. We are gratified that the Security Council in its closed consultations appreciated these efforts, acknowledged them and indicated that this was the direction in which they would like the international community to move," he said.

The ambassador also said India was committed to all agreements it had signed on the issue and said India would sit down to talk with Pakistan when the latter's support for terror ceased. "Stop terror to start talks," he said.

"India's commitment to address these issues on the bilateral track has very broad acceptance globally," Mr. Akbaruddin said, in response to a question on Russia's view that the issue be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan, contrary to what Pakistan was seeking at the UN on Friday.

On concerns about human rights abuses by India in Jammu and Kashmir, he said India had a commitment to democracy and its courts would resolve any issues.

"There will be issues discussed and if there are issues these will be addressed by our courts. We don't need international busybodies to try and tell us how to run our lives. We are a billion-plus people," he said.

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