

Kashmir an internationally-recognised disputed territory: Pak tells India

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United Nations: Pakistan has firmly rejected Indian claim to Kashmir as an "integral part" of India, terming it as an internationally-recognised disputed territory.

In his reaction to Indian delegate Rattan Lal Kataria's statement that Kashmir was its "integral part" at the United Nations and that Pakistan was in illegal occupation of a part of that "Indian state", Diyar Khan, a minister at the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations on Tuesday said that that legal and factual background of Jammu & Kashmir dispute is quite clear and Indian efforts to mislead or confuse the international community would not succeed.

Khan reiterated that the disputed nature of state was well established by several UN Security Council resolutions that call for a settlement of this problem through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

Khan also said that the purpose of Indian allegations on Pak using its soil to export terror is to force Pakistan to stop raising the issue of Kashmir at the UN.

Kataria, a member of Indian Parliament, had earlier said that people in India-held Kashmir had regularly participated in "free, fair and open elections."

Reacting sharply to Pakistan raking up Kashmir issue at the UN, India asserted that Islamabad's unabated support for terror groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir is the main challenge to safeguard human rights of its citizens in the state.

"Pakistan's continued support for terror groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir is the main challenge to protecting the human rights of our citizens in the State," First Secretary in the Indian Mission to the UN Mayank Joshi said in the Right of Reply at United Nations yesterday.

"In spite of this, India remains committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan in an atmosphere free from terror and violence," he said.

He was responding to Pakistan's envoy to UN Maleeha Lodhi raising the Kashmir issue and right of self-determination of the Kashmiris in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee debate on rights of people to self-determination.

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