

# UN chief arrives in India, may discuss J&K with PM

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United Nations secretary general Antonio Guterres arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India and is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday afternoon during which the situation in Kashmir could come up for discussion. Mr. Guterres is also slated to meet external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday during his visit.

There is speculation that New Delhi may also place its objections before the UN secretary general regarding a report in June this year by the UN-high commissioner for human rights that had alleged human rights violations in J&K and which was then rejected by India as being "fallacious, tendentious and motivated".

Meanwhile, Mr. Guterres was quoted by media reports as saying ahead of

his visit, "I remain concerned by the situation in Jammu and Kashmir - I encourage positive dialogue for disagreements to be resolved peacefully." He was further quoted as saying, "On the development front, India already is, and can become an even greater regional development force, helping other countries of the region forge a better future."

Mr. Guterres will also deliver a speech on 'Global Challenges, Global Solutions' in the capital on Tuesday afternoon. The visit is being watched keenly amid reports that separatists in J&K have written to Mr. Guterres drawing his attention to the Kashmir issue.

There were also reports of an organisation representing Kashmiri Pandits writing to Mr. Guterres and alleging that Pakistan had issued a postage stamp for propaganda that purported to show

protests by Kashmiris against the Indian Government, which was fake since it actually depicted a protest by that organisation against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in J&K.

In June this year UN high commissioner for human rights Zeid Raad Al Hussein had said he would be "urging the UN Human Rights Council to consider establishing a commission of inquiry to conduct a comprehensive independent international investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir."

Mr Hussein's office (UN-HCHR) had also released a highly controversial report that alleged "human rights violations and abuses on both sides of the Line of Control" and "highlighted a situation of chronic impunity for violations committed by security forces". India had swiftly rejected the findings of the report.