

## Admiral L. Ramdas



**Background:** Admiral Ramdas was a career naval officer in the Indian navy. He rose through the ranks over four decades, and in 1990 he became the naval chief of staff, the highest position in their navy. When he retired in 1993, he began to focus his attention on the issue of the Kashmir province, and has been an aid advocate for peace in the region.

**What he adds to the case:** Admiral Ramdas has established his firm position that the issue of Kashmir has been over played by both nations, with disastrous results. He feels that both nations should use their money more wisely, and that they should focus on finding common ground between them to work out their differences. He won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding in 2004 for "reaching across a hostile border to nurture a citizen-based consensus for peace between Pakistan and India". He is also a prolific author on this topic.

**View on the issue:** Admiral Ramdas simply wants peace; he also wishes to establish better relations with the Pakistani government, and full nuclear disarmament. He realizes however, that full nuclear disarmament is an unlikely scenario.

### Quotes:

“If you know how much money both countries have spent on this, we could have maintained a hundred Kashmirs! And look at what it has meant for Pakistan — the Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Sind and backward areas that are not developed. The only province that is relatively better off is Punjab. Likewise, in India there are so many things begging for attention. But we are concentrating on other things. Look, we are 1.5 billion people — India, Pakistan and Bangladesh together. So many people are kept on hold for the so-called future and destiny of just seven million people in J&K!”

“Given the present scene, it is abundantly clear that both India and Pakistan must do everything possible to ensure a return to normalcy at the earliest date. “

“If Pakistan does not stop its cross border terrorism and India does not grasp this opportunity to engage in a dialogue, there is every chance that the International community may lose its patience and decide to intervene in an appropriate manner that may not be palatable to both these countries. “

### Sources:

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