



# Change perceptions in J&K

Posted at: 25/06/2018

## Highlights

- With the State government now having fallen, there will be a fresh look to find a way forward.
- In seeking answers, we have to consider both the external and internal facets of the conflict. Pakistan plays a key role in keeping the conflict alive
- In the absence of any incentive, and an almost complete breakdown of diplomacy between the two countries, its Army gives unstinted support to terror groups.
- The only option left to deter Pakistan is to keep up military pressure along the Line of Control (LoC). However, it appears that the government has taken the position that the 2003 ceasefire must be respected.
- For the ceasefire to succeed, it must be based on some strong principles that promote confidence between the two armies.
- There must also be greater interaction between the local commanders of the two armies — for instance, flag meetings can be held along the border.
- If confidence can be built between local officers, it will enhance peace. An example can be taken from Ladakh where regular border meetings with Chinese officers have been instrumental in keeping the border calm.
- Looking at the internal situation in J&K, it is obvious that a multi-pronged approach involving both kinetic and population-centric measures is required.
- The conflict in J&K defies simple solutions. Among the many actions required to be taken on the military, economic, political and social fronts, dealing with the psychological aspects of affected communities is critical. Memories and perceptions are perhaps the biggest hindrances to reconciliation and must be addressed by showing greater empathy.

Source: The Hindu

