Jammu & Kashmir Dialogue

Why in news?

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The Union government recently appointed Dineshwar Sharma as an interlocutor to negotiate with all sections of the society.

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What is the current situation?

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- Kashmir is in political turmoil since the death of former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in January 2016.
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- The killing of Hizbul Mujahedeen commander Burhan Wani saw stone-pelting protesters taking to the streets in big numbers.
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- Indiscriminate use of pellet guns by security forces to dispel protesters also added fuel to the resentment.
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- The popularity of slain militants has only grown over the months and militant attacks on Kashmiri policemen has spiked.
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- With regular ceasefire breaches by Pakistan on the border, the gains of the 2003 Ceasefire deal have effectively vanished.
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- Intelligence estimates hold that more than 200 youth have taken to militancy since 2013.
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- The recent events of mysterious “braid-chopping” and the protests in the aftermath only complicate matters.
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What lies ahead?

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- **Hope -** Dialogue is vital for suppressing hardliners and enabling a genuinely conciliatory environment.
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- The begin of negotiations will also increase the legitimacy of the CM and contribute to better governance.
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- **Strategy -** More clarity is needed from the Centre on amount of freedom available to Mr. Sharma for the negotiations.
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- Concious awareness that the recent NIA raids and other actions against seperatists could influence any outreach is needed.
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- The interlocutor will have to consciously broadbase his schedule significantly to win the interest of civil society in the Valley.
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Source: The Hindu

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