Development and Kashmir restlessness

Why in news?

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The results of April 2017 Kashmir by-polls shows the growing discontent of the youths in Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the Kashmiri youth to choose tourism over terrorism

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What are the developmental status of Kashmir?

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- The key development indicators suggests that Jammu and Kashmir fares better than the rest of the country when it comes to most development indicators.
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- In comparison to other insurgency-affected states, Jammu and Kashmir appears to be far more developed.
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- The human development index (HDI), a summary measure of income, educational attainment, and life expectancy Jammu and Kashmir fares better than the average Indian state.
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- The fourth round of the National Family and Health Survey, conducted in 2015-16 (NFHS 2015-16) shows that Jammu and Kashmir fares better on development indicators when compared with all-India averages, or with insurgency-affected states such as Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Chhattisgarh.
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- The share of 0-14-year-old population was slightly higher in Jammu and Kashmir (34%) than all-India (31%).
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- While the data suggests that there is no simplistic link between disaffection and development, it would be hasty to dismiss the role of socio-economic factors altogether.
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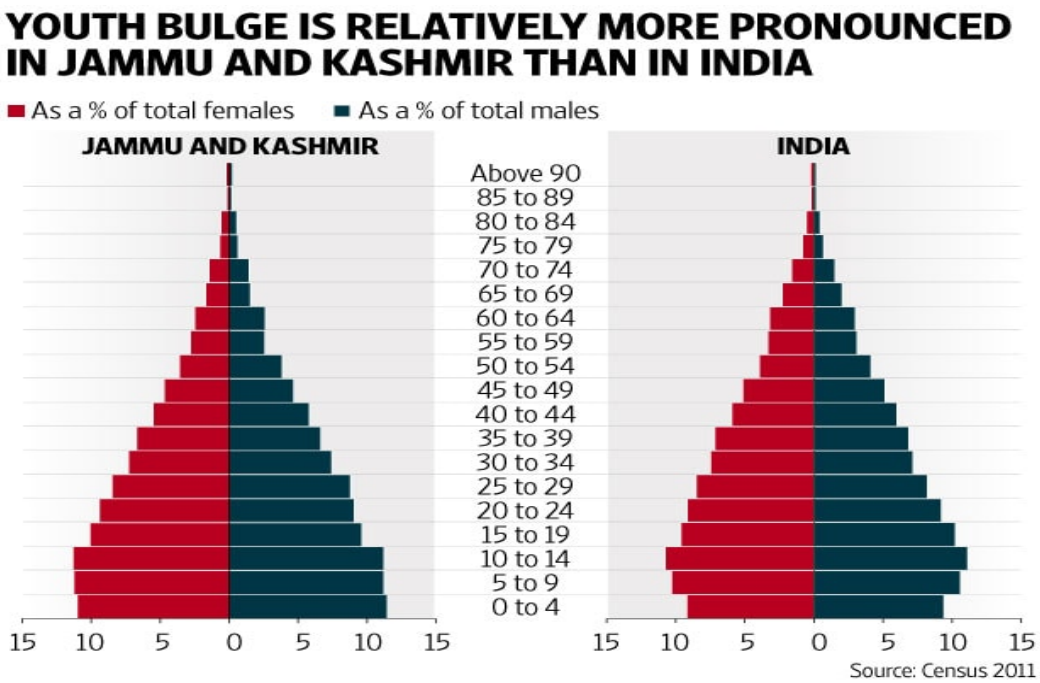
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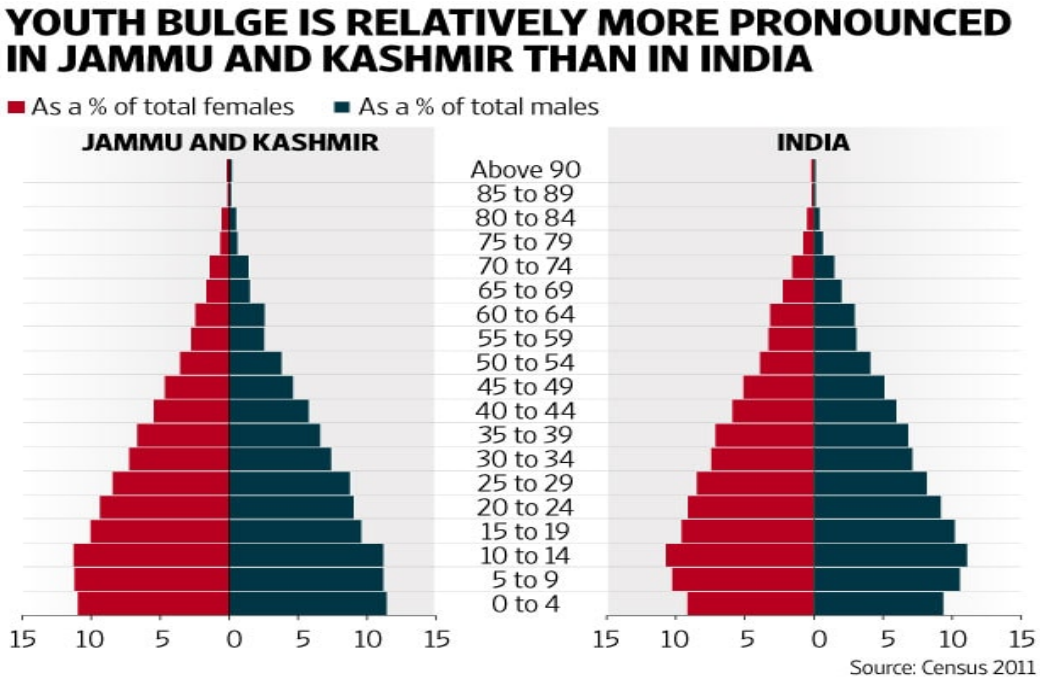
What are the distressing factors among the people?

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- Not only does Jammu and Kashmir have more people than the rest of country 0-14 age-group, its youth population (15-34 years) also has a bigger employment problem.
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- The lack of quality jobs may be one reason for the frustration of Kashmiri youth.
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- Years of armed conflict and the heavily militarized environment has taken an emotional toll on the state's population.
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- The survey conducted in Kashmir found that 45% of adults in the Kashmir valley display major symptoms of mental distress,
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- The survey put the prevalence of depression in adults at 41%. In contrast, the National Mental Health Survey of India 2015-16 puts the weighted prevalence of depression at the all-India level in single digits.
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- At a time when Jammu and Kashmir was ahead of India in most developmental indicators, its population was suffering from high levels of mental stress and trauma.
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What are the steps taken by the government?

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- Youths are the important resources of the nation, for the employment opportunity of the youth JKEDI (Jammu Kashmir entrepreneurship development institute) had been formed.
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- The Central government of India introduced HIMAYAT scheme which is a training-cum-placement programme for unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir and UDAAN which is a Special Industry Initiative partnership between the corporates of India and Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
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- Himayat schemeyouths will be provided short-term training for at least 3 months, in a range of skills for which there is good market demand. At the end of the training, the youth are assured of a job and there is one year post-placement tracking to see how they are faring
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- Udaan programme aims to provide skills training and enhance the employability of unemployed youth of J&K. The Scheme covers graduates, post graduates and three year engineering diploma holders respectively.
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- Kashmir needs development with a healing touch that creates good jobs and reduces stress levels in the valley.
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\n**Source: Live Mint, PIB**

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