

anti-India militant groups (who had formed only a fringe of the political scene of the state until then) were quick to exploit the situation and have gained enormous strength since then.

As the conflict has intensified, a large number of Kashmiri militants and Indian army and paramilitary personnel have lost their lives. The civilian population has suffered the worst as it is exposed to excesses committed by both the militants and the Indian army. It is also faced with serious economic hardship as only very limited economic activity is now possible in the state. Tourism, which provided direct and indirect employment to a large section of the population, is particularly badly hit by the conflict.

The emergence of a strong anti-India militant movement in Kashmir has led to a worsening of Indo-Pak relations. Sensing an opportunity to weaken India's hold on Kashmir, Pakistan has increased its support to the militant anti-India organizations in Kashmir.¹⁷ This has increased the mistrust and hostility between the two countries considerably. Furthermore, the anti-India activities of Kashmiri militants have contributed to the rise of the Hindu extreme organizations in India. These organizations take a very aggressive attitude towards Pakistan. This has put additional pressure on the Indian government to take a tough line on defence-related issues in general, and on Pakistan in particular.

Country	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
India	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9
Pakistan	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9
Bangladesh	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9
Sri Lanka	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9
Malaysia	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.9
Thailand	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9
Philippines	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9
Indonesia	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9
Singapore	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.9
Maldives	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.9

¹⁷Pakistan admits only to political and diplomatic support to Kashmiri militants. India, however, is convinced that Pakistan is engaged in a low-intensity war with it by providing funds, weapons and training to Kashmiri militants.