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Theme in Pak-Afghan relations.

Since Taliban's takeover in 2021, there has been a dramatic resurgence of TTP, a major bone of contention between Kabul and Islamabad. Pakistan welcomed Taliban regime as expectations were high. However, contrary to the desired results, Afghan Taliban, instead of going after anti-Pakistan militants, remained constrained in its consolidation of power at center, allowing TTP space to re-arm and regroup itself. Eventually, the frequency and scale of terror attacks in Pakistan by militants operating in Afghan soil accelerated. Since then, the relations between the two countries have deteriorated. To pressurize Kabul, Islamabad took certain punitive measures too: deporting millions of Afghan refugees, suspending trade, closure of borders, and even bombarding militant hideouts within Afghanistan. These kinetic actions further fueled the anti-Pakistan discourse within Afghanistan. Airstrikes and cross border firing didn't help the Islamabad's concerns, rather it compelled

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Afghanistan state to look beyond the lines sketched by Pakistani establishment. The hostile bilateral ties between the two ~~extremist~~ prompted warming up of ties between Kabul and New-Delhi. The clear indication of such strategic shift was evident during four-day conflict between India and Pakistan. Amid this regional diplomatic tug of war, China who has significant influence over both Kabul and Islamabad organized bilateral meeting between respective foreign ministers. The relations took another major shift with Beijing in between now. The contemporary developments suggest thawing of the relations, with diplomatic engagements reinstated between the two. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have legitimate concerns, which necessitate prolonged dialogue and multidimensional exchange. Trade, cultural exchange and diplomacy should be dealt separately from security concerns. Although both are interconnected and influence each other suspending trade and diplomatic channels only exacerbate the security paradigm instead of helping it. The two countries have intricate web of terror militancy and only a combined and cooperative counter-terrorism strategy could succeed, but it requires a mature and resilient bilateral relationship.