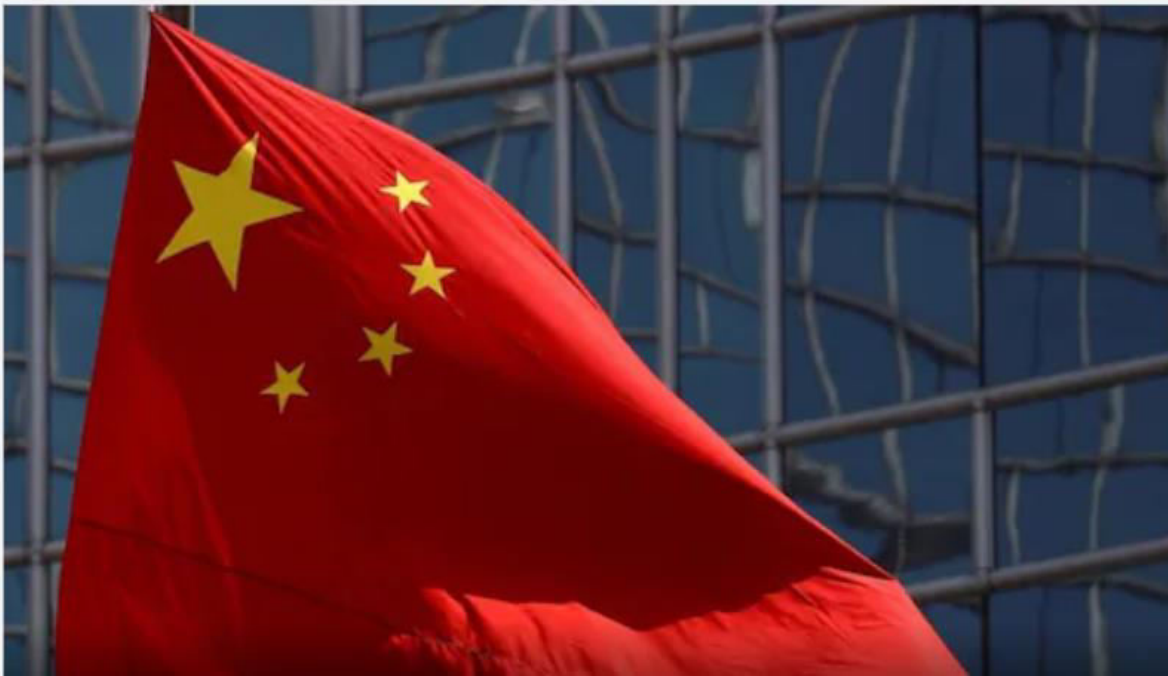




China delivers biggest stealth warship to Pakistan

- By Ankit Agrawal

With An Eye on Indian Ocean, China Delivers Largest, Most Advanced Warship to Pakistan



Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that the commissioning of the PNS Tughril ensures balance of power in the Indian Ocean.

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

China has delivered its largest and most advanced warship to Pakistan as it seeks to beef up the navy of its all-weather ally in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, where it has increased its own naval presence in recent years.

Designed and built by China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC), the frigate was delivered to the Pakistan Navy in a commissioning ceremony in Shanghai, the CSSC announced in a statement on Monday.



The Pakistan Navy has contracted the construction of four Type 054A/P frigates from China since 2017.








WHAT IS A FRIGATE?

Frigates and destroyers are **designed for quick manoeuvrability** and **can be used to escort and protect larger vessels from air, surface and underwater threats.**

The **similarities between frigates and destroyers** have led to some European navies **using the terms interchangeably.**

On the other hand, **frigates are more common**, with **almost every navy in the world in possession** of a frigate as part of its navy fleet, while **only 13 nations possess destroyers**



<i>Shivalik class</i>		Stealth guided missile frigate	INS <i>Shivalik</i> (F47) INS <i>Satpura</i> (F48) INS <i>Sahyadri</i> (F49)	 India
<i>Talwar class</i>		Stealth guided missile frigate	INS <i>Talwar</i> (F40) INS <i>Trishul</i> (F43) INS <i>Tabar</i> (F44) INS <i>Teg</i> (F45) INS <i>Tarkash</i> (F50) INS <i>Trikand</i> (F51)	 Russia  India
<i>Brahmaputra class</i>		Guided missile frigate	INS <i>Brahmaputra</i> (F31) INS <i>Betwa</i> (F39) INS <i>Beas</i> (F37)	 India
<i>Godavari class</i>		Guided missile frigate	INS <i>Gomati</i> (F21)	 India

WHAT IS THE FRIGATE GIVEN TO PAKISTAN?

The Chinese Type 054A/P frigate on commissioning in the Pakistan Navy has **been re-named** as **PNS Tughril**,

Which is the **first hull of four Type 054 frigates** which are **under construction in Beijing**.

MORE ABOUT 054A

According to Chinese media, this ship for the Pakistan Navy is **supposed to be a very technologically advanced warship.**

It is a capable platform with **surveillance potential** as well as the **capability of underwater firepower, surface-to-air and surface-to-surface firepower.**

Has **on board state of the art combat management system; modern self defence capabilities** as well as **electronic warfare system.**

According to reports, Type 054A/P frigate **in a multi-threat environment** has the **capability of simultaneously executing a number of naval warfare missions.**

CSSC has said that **this is the first ever** that **it has exported the largest and most advanced frigate.**

The new frigate has **better air defence capabilities** and is equipped with an **improved radar system** and there are a **larger number of missiles with longer range.**

The Type 054A/P is based on Type 054A, which is China's most advanced frigate.

It has **world-class stealth capability.**

WHAT PAKISTAN SAYS?

In the context of the **overall security paradigm** of the region, Tughril-class frigates **will strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities,**

To respond to maritime challenges to ensure seaward defence, maintain peace, stability and balance of power in the Indian Ocean region.

PAKISTAN'S DEFENCE DEAL WITH CHINA

China which shares all-weather strategic ties with Pakistan **has emerged as the biggest weapons supplier** for the Pakistani military.

Pakistan has **procured F-22P frigates**, state of the art **survey ship**, **fast attack craft (missile)**, and **helicopters and** state-of-the-art **survey ship** from China and

It has also **signed a contract for the production of eight Hangor-class submarines**, medium-altitude long-endurance **unmanned combat aerial vehicles**, and **4 Type 054A/P ships**.

Recently the two countries have **also upgraded the JF-17 fighter jet,** which has been **jointly developed.**

This fighter jet which is a single engine and multirole has been developed mainly for export purposes.

Observers say the **military cooperation in recent years focussed more on the navy as China gradually stepped up its naval presence in India's backyard, the Indian Ocean.**

CHINA'S PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

Besides building its **first military base in Djibouti** in the **Horn of Africa** **in the Indian Ocean,**

China has **acquired Pakistan's Gwadar port** in the Arabian Sea which connects with China's Xinjiang province by land in the USD 60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor **(CPEC).**

China is **also developing Sri Lanka's Hambantota port** after it acquired **it on 99 years' lease.**



The modernisation of the Pakistan Navy coupled with the acquisition of the naval bases was expected to shore up the Chinese Navy's **presence in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea.**

Besides acquiring four modern naval frigates from China, Pakistan will also be getting eight Chinese submarines as part of the **modernisation of Pakistan Navy.**

Q. Navy Day is celebrated each year to commemorate which operation?

- A) Operation Black Thunder
- B) Operation Blue Star
- C) Operation Tornado
- D) Operation Trident



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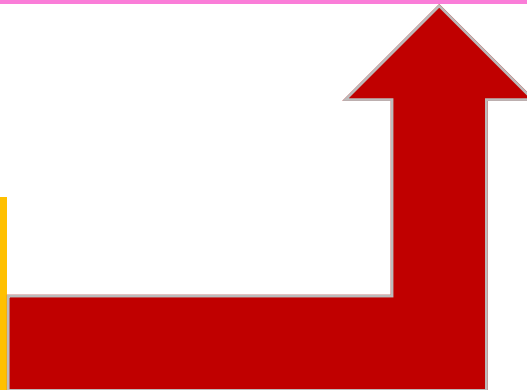
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