



China Delivers Largest Warship to Pakistan: PNS Tughril

Why in News

Recently, **China handed over the first Type 054A/P frigate (warship) to Pakistan**. It is named the **PNS Tughril**.

- The PNS Tughril is the **first hull of four Type 054 frigates being constructed for the Pakistan Navy**.

Key Points

▪ Features:

- The ship is a **technologically advanced and highly capable platform** with enormous **surface-to-surface, surface-to-air and underwater firepower**, besides extensive **surveillance potentials**.
- This warship has world-class stealth capability and **can easily dodge any radar**.
- It **also has long-range missiles** and a state-of-the-art cannon capable of firing multiple rounds in a minute.
- The warship is fitted with a state-of-the-art **Battle Management System (BMS)**, which will increase the fighting capability of the Pakistan Navy manifold.
 - BMS basically helps communicate between the radar and the interceptor missile.

▪ Concerns for India:

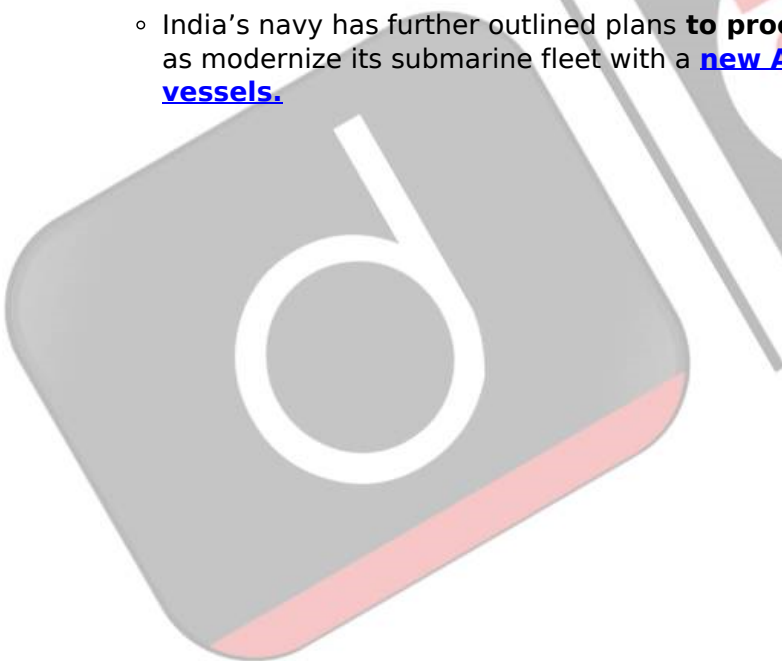
- It will **strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges to ensure seaward defence in the [Indian Ocean region](#)**.
 - It will form the mainstay of the Pakistan Navy fleet while bolstering the Pakistan Navy's maritime defence capabilities.
- Besides the advanced naval ships, **China also partners with the Pakistan Air Force to build JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft**.
- 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.

India's Rising Profile in the Indian Ocean Region

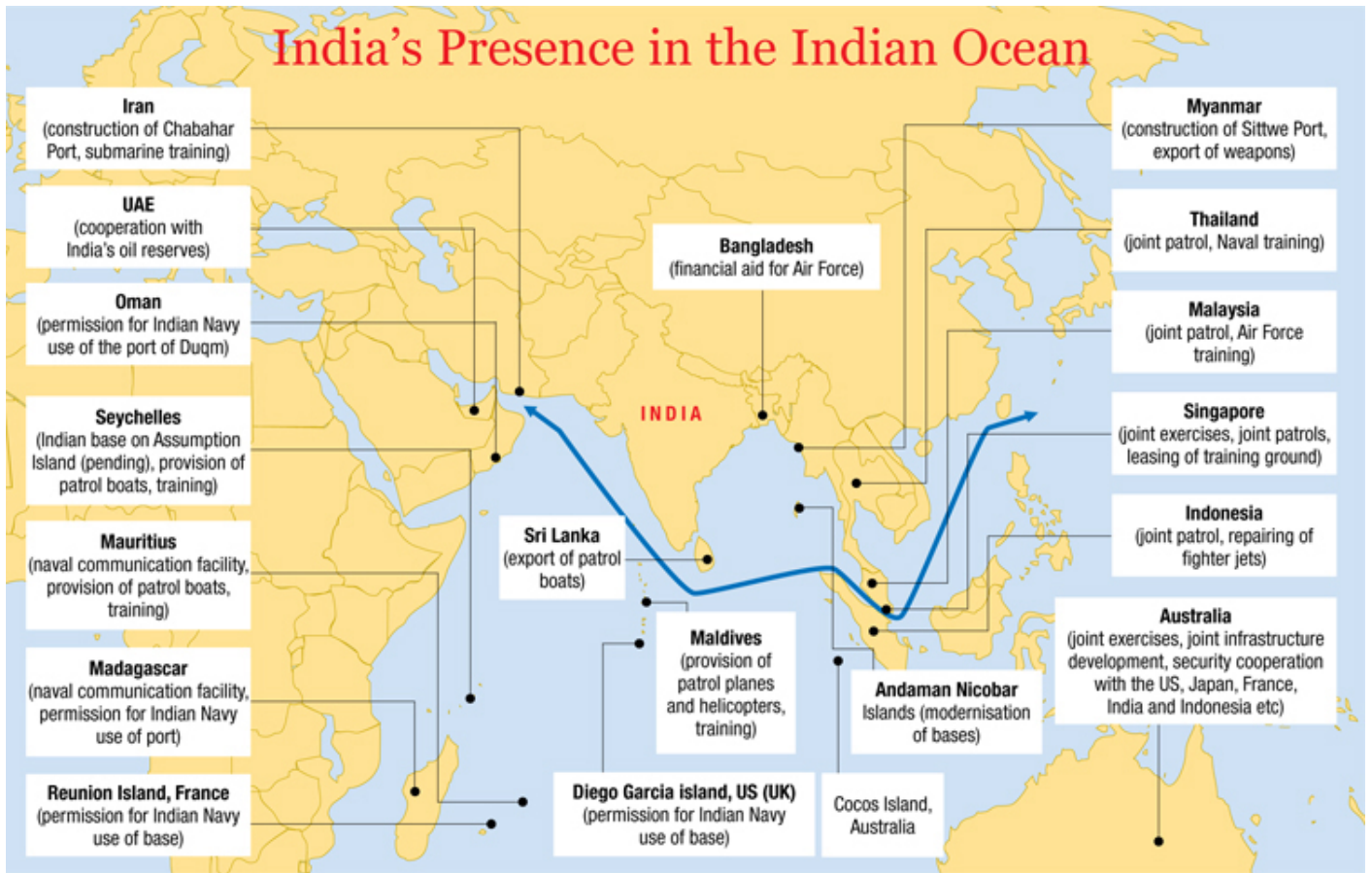
- **Various Agreements with Littoral Nations:** India has negotiated agreements with several states in the **[littoral](#) IOR to obtain military access** to their bases.

- Such agreements, including **access to Indonesia's strategically-located deep-sea Sabang port** and **Oman's Duqm port**, enhance New Delhi's geopolitical positioning as it looks to counter **China's "string of pearls."**
- **Engagement Outside IOR:** India has engaged with powers outside of the IOR, deepening cooperation with France and the United States through logistics agreements,
 - This grants India **access to port facilities at the US base on Diego Garcia** (southernmost member of the **Chagos Archipelago**, in the central Indian Ocean) and the **French base on Reunion Island.**
- **Quadrilateral Dialogue:** The United States engages with India through the **informal Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**, or the **"Quad,"** which also includes Australia and Japan.
- **Paris-New Delhi-Canberra Axis:** France has called for the creation of a **"Paris-New Delhi-Canberra" axis in the Indo-Pacific**, underscoring India's growing influence on geopolitics in the IOR.
- **Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR):** **IFC-IOR** is established with the vision of strengthening maritime security in the region, by building a common coherent maritime situation picture and acting as a maritime information hub for the region.
- **Maritime Exercises:** India concluded an edition of its **"Malabar" naval exercise**, which included the US, Japan and Australia.
 - In 2018, India also held multilateral naval exercises called **"Milan"** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with 16 other countries and in the **Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC)**, sailing alongside the Australian, Japanese, and US naval forces.
- **Naval Ships:** While India already has one commissioned carrier, the **INS Vikramaditya**, and plans to commission a second, the **INS Vikrant**, it has outlined an ambitious plan to develop a class of aircraft carriers to follow the Vikrant.
 - India's navy has further outlined plans **to procure 57 carrier-based fighter jets**, as well as modernize its submarine fleet with a **new Arihant -class of nuclear-powered attack vessels.**

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India's Presence in the Indian Ocean



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