



# China Launches Warship for Pakistan

## Why In News

Recently, China has launched **first of the four advanced naval warships** it is building for Pakistan.

- This is the first ship of **Type-054 class frigate**.
- The Type-054A is **roughly the same size** as the Indian Navy's existing **Talwar class** of frigates, purchased from Russia

## Key Points

- **Comparing with Talwar Class:**
  - **Size and Dimensions:** The Type-054A and Talwar class **displace approximately 4,000 tonnes** and have a length of around **130 metres**.
  - **Stealth Level:** Both classes, designed the 1990s, have features **to reduce their radar and infra-red signatures**.
  - **Missile System:**
    - The Type-054A uses a **surface-to-air missile** system called the **HQ-16**, which experts claim is derived from the **Russian Shtil missile**, already in service on the Talwar class frigates.
    - Type-054A has an **advantage over the existing Talwar class** ships as the former uses a **vertical launch system (VLS)**.
      - The **vertical launch system** allows the launch of **multiple missiles simultaneously**.
      - Talwar class frigates use an **older 'single-arm' launcher** that can fire only **one missile at a time**.
      - The Talwar class ships use the **supersonic Klub and Brahmos missiles**, and are regarded to have better anti-ship capabilities than the Type-054A class.
    - **Radar:** The HQ-16, which relies on '**passive**' radar to detect targets, is considered **inferior to the new Indo-Israeli Barak-8 missile**.
  - The relatively small size of the Type-054AP frigates means there is **little scope to mount** heavier radars and longer-range anti-aircraft or anti-ship weapons.
  - While the new Type-054AP frigates will be the most capable ships in the Pakistan Navy, they are **not expected to significantly alter the balance of power in the region**, given Pakistan's limitations in airborne anti-submarine capabilities.

[Source TH](#)

