

China Delivers Third Hangor-Class Submarine to Pakistan Navy

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China delivered the third Hangor-class submarine to Pakistan on 14 August 2025, strengthening the Pakistan Navy's capabilities as part of the ongoing bilateral defense programmed between the two nations.

The submarine, named PNS/M Mangro, was launched at the Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group Company in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Senior

officials from both China and Pakistan attended the ceremony, including Vice Admiral Abdul Samad, Pakistan's Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Project-2). The delivery was presented by both governments as a continuation of defense cooperation, focusing on naval capability and technology transfer.

Hangor-class submarines are based on China's Type 039B Yuan-class diesel-electric attack submarine. They feature advanced air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems, enhanced stealth characteristics, and armaments including torpedoes and anti-ship missiles. These features are intended to increase Pakistan's naval capability in the Arabian Sea and surrounding waters.

The delivery forms part of a broader \$5 billion defense agreement between China and Pakistan. Under the agreement, eight submarines are to be constructed: four in China and four at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works under a transfer of technology programmed. The first two submarines were delivered in 2024, with the remaining units scheduled for delivery between 2025 and 2028. This phased approach allows Pakistan to expand its naval fleet while acquiring technical knowledge through cooperation with China.

The delivery of the third submarine adds to Pakistan's growing fleet. Defense analysts have noted that the Hangor-class provides greater capacity to monitor sea routes and protect territorial waters, though regional responses, particularly from India, will influence its wider impact.

China's involvement in Pakistan's naval modernization aligns with its broader regional interests, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and development of Gwadar Port. Observers link China's support

to its objective of securing shipping routes and infrastructure connected to its economic projects.

Officials emphasized that these submarines are not only technological assets but also part of the bilateral defense agreement. Pakistan's naval representatives stated that platforms like the Hangor-class support training, operational readiness, and gradual fleet modernization.

The integration of the Hangor-class submarines into the Pakistan Navy reflects Pakistan's objective of improving maritime security. Defense publications note that the acquisition provides Pakistan with a stronger capacity to protect its maritime interests and respond to challenges in the Indian Ocean region.

In conclusion, the handover of the third Hangor-class submarine to Pakistan marks a stage in the multi-submarine programmed agreed between China and Pakistan. The delivery increases Pakistan's submarine inventory and highlights continuing defense cooperation. The program contributes to Pakistan's naval development and represents one aspect of China-Pakistan strategic ties.