
PAKISTAN EYES 2026 LAUNCH FOR FIRST CHINESE SUBMARINE IN \$6.5 BILLION ARMS DEAL

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The Straits Times (3 November 2025)

The Pakistan navy expects its first Chinese-designed submarine to enter active service in 2026, the countrys top admiral told the Chinese state media, bolstering Beijings bid to counter regional rival India and project power towards the Middle East.

A deal under which Islamabad will take delivery of eight Hangor-class submarines by 2028 is progressing smoothly, Admiral Naveed Ashraf told the Global Times in an interview published on Nov 2, adding that the submarines would boost Pakistans ability to patrol the North Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

The update on the Chinese submarine deal follows Pakistans air force using Chinese-made J-10 fighter jets in May to shoot down an Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft, made by France.

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