

Commissioning Ceremony of PNS Tughril

Shanghai, 08 November 2021

**Honorable Chairman Hudong & Zhonghua Shipyard,
President China Shipbuilding Trading Company Limited,
Officers and Sailors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me to attend today the commissioning ceremony of PNS *Tuhgril*, the first 054-class frigate of Pakistan Navy. At this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to the engineers, technicians and experts of China and Pakistan for the successful completion of this important project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan Navy has a proud history of playing a leading role for the maintenance of regional peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region. With the active support of People's Republic of China, it has embarked on an ambitious programme in recent years to upgrade its defence capabilities for a peaceful neighborhood and the economic prosperity of the entire region.

Seen from this perspective, the commissioning of PNS Tughril is a giant leap forward for Pakistan Navy. As one of the technologically most advanced platforms of Pakistan Navy surface fleet, PNS Tughril would empower our sailors to play a more vigilant role for the defence of the nation and thwart nefarious designs aimed at Pakistan's territorial integrity and political sovereignty.

Distinguished Guests

Our region today finds itself at the threshold of a new era. We are witnessing unravelling of profound transformations unprecedented in the history. New tendencies are emerging bringing forth unprecedented challenges in the domain of maritime security. With the changing geostrategic realities in the Indian Ocean Region and operationalization of CPEC, the role and responsibilities of Pakistan Navy are growing exponentially.

As Iron Brothers and All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, Pakistan and China are cognizant of these changes and taking effective measures to deal with the added responsibilities and evolving challenges. In the past,

our two countries have jointly traversed such epochal changes, and this time too, we would emerge successful.

I would like to add here that Pakistan-China cooperation is not aimed against any country. As partners in peace and prosperity, the friendship between our two countries is solely aimed at protecting our legitimate interests and for ensuring socioeconomic development and prosperity of our peoples.

As envisaged by our leadership and aspired by our peoples, our two countries would, therefore, continue our mutually beneficial cooperation with the aim to achieve new milestones in future.

Distinguished Guests,

I would like to pay here tribute to the PLA Navy for its laudable role for the international peace and development and continued support to Pakistan.

Pakistan Navy and PLA Navy have always maintained closer coordination both in times of crises and peace. PLA Navy's regular participation in joint exercises like AMAN and Sea Guardian, and port calls at Karachi are few examples of this successful cooperation. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the timely commissioning of PNS Tughril has added yet another chapter to the glorious history of our bilateral ties.

Concluding my speech, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND), Office of International Military Cooperation (OIMC), China Ship Development and Design Center (CSDDC), Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding Group (HZSG) and China Shipbuilding Trading Company Limited (CSTC) for their valuable support and cooperation throughout this project.

I would also like to congratulate Chief Naval Officer of China & his team and the crew of PNS Tughril for being pioneer of this class of ships.

I would especially urge the Pakistani officers and the crew of PNS Tughril to maintain the professional standards of Pakistan Navy and keep high the flag of Pakistan-China all-weather partnership, in rising tides of challenges and tranquil waters of stability.

Long –Live Pakistan China Friendship.