

# The doctrine of 'Sea Denial'

## Pakistan Navy's Submarine Arm



*PNS Hamza, a Khalid-class (Agosta 90B) submarine, seen docked at Karachi*

The Pakistan Navy's doctrine of operations against India has always been centred on employment of its forces for 'Sea Denial.' During the 1971 War, the PN focus was on targeting Indian ships with its submarines until India was able to blockade Karachi harbour, the country's leading commercial port and economic hub. However, the PN was successful in its efforts when INS *Khukri*, an Indian Navy frigate, was sunk off the coast of Diu, by the Pakistan Navy *Daphné*-class submarine PNS *Hangor* on 9 December 1971. This was the first warship sunk in action by a submarine since World War II. In the last few decades, while India has embarked on the path of naval modernisation and development and expanded its force with inclusion of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and aviation assets to achieve the status of a blue water navy, Pakistan continues to lay emphasis on the instruments of sea denial to take on the stronger adversary.

One of the Pakistan Navy's clearest and most achievable areas of modernisation



*INS Sindhuvijay, a Kilo-class boat of the Indian Navy*