

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEW VICE CHIEF OF NAVY,
FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF, SOUTHERN NAVAL COMMAND
AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVY ANNOUNCED

New Delhi, Agrahayana 07, 1909

November 28, 1987

Vice Admiral GM Hiranandani presently Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command (FOC-in-C, SNC) has been appointed as Vice Chief of Naval Staff. He will take over from Vice Admiral JG Nadkarni, the CNS Designate, who will assume the office of Chief of the Naval Staff on November 30th in the rank of Admiral.

Vice Admiral L. Ramdas presently Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff has been appointed FOC-in-C, SNC. Vice Admiral RP Sawhney, presently Controller Warship Production and Acquisition at Naval Headquarters, has been appointed as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

Vice Admiral GM Hiranandani was commissioned in 1952 and received his initial training in the United Kingdom and later graduated from the Staff College, Greenwich (U.K.). In 1971, he served as the Fleet Operations Officer, Western Fleet. His notable commands at sea include that of the first Kashin class destroyer, INS Rajput which he commissioned in 1980. On promotion to flag rank he was appointed Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command and later Deputy Chief of Naval Staff in the rank of Vice Admiral. He is a recipient of the Param Vishist Seva Medal, Ati Vishist Seva Medal and Nao Sena Medal.

Vice Admiral L. Ramdas was commissioned in 1953 and received his initial training in the U.K. A communication specialist, he has held a number of important commands at sea, which include Command of the Eastern Fleet, the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and a modern patrol vessel squadron. During the 1971 operations, he was in command of INS Beas, which acquitted itself gallantly in the Bay of Bengal. He was awarded the Vir Chakra for gallantry and is also a recipient of the Ati Vishist Seva Medal. On promotion to flag rank he was appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) and has also held the appointment of Controller Warship Production and Acquisition in the rank of Vice Admiral.

Vice Admiral Sawhney was commissioned 1953 and after training in U.K., specialised in gunnery. He has commanded a number of naval ships including INS Trishul, as Captain (F) of the 15th Frigate Squadron. His notable shore appointments include Officer-in-Charge, Naval Academy and Fortress Commander of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the only unified, inter-service, operational command in the country. As Commandant of the National Defence Academy, Kharakvasla, he was also a member of the Jawahar Lal Nehru University Executive Council for three years from 1982. Vice Admiral Sawhney has the distinction of being the first cadet entry officer to command the National Defence Academy.

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620/2(28/11/82) 15/82.