

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEF. WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEW VICE CHIEF, FOC-IN-C (EAST) AND FOC-IN-C
(SOUTH) FOR NAVY

New Delhi, Phalguna 01, 1910
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Consequent to Vice Admiral GM Hiranandani's retirement on February 28, 1989, Vice Admiral SC Chopra, the FOC-in-C (East) will take over as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. Vice Admiral L. Ramdas who is presently FOC-in-C (Southern Naval Command) will take over as FOC-in-C (East) on February 27, 1989. Vice Admiral RP Sawhney who is presently the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff will take over as FOC-in-C (South) on February 25, 1989.

Vice Admiral GM Hiranandani, the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff is retiring after 37 years of distinguished service. His notable commands at Sea include INS RAJPUT, the first Kashin Class Destroyer. His other distinguished appointments include FOC-in-C (South) and Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff. He is a recipient of Param Vashist Seva Medal, Ati Vashist Sea Medal and Nao Sena Medal.

Vice Admiral SC Chopra is the senior most serving Naval Aviator. His notable commands at Sea include INS VIKRANT, INS BEAS and INS DEEPAK. Admiral Chopra's earlier appointments include Flag Officer Goa Area and command of the Western Fleet. Admiral Chopra is a recipient of Param Vishist Seva Medal. He is presently the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command. He will be handing over his command to Vice Admiral L. Ramdas on February 27, 1989.

Vice Admiral L. Ramdas who was commissioned in 1953, is 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. During the 1971 operation, he was in command of INS BEAS, which acquitted itself gallantly for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra. He is also a recipient of

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Param Vishist Seva Medal, Ati Vishist Seva Medal and Vishist Seva Medal. Presently he is the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command. He will hand over his command to Vice Admiral RP Sawhney on February 25, 1989.

Vice Admiral RP Sawhney, a postgraduate in National Security Management, held various prestigious appointments at Sea and Ashore. His commands include Indian Naval Ships KIRPAN, TRISHU and AMEA. A recipient of Param Vishist Seva Medal, he had the unique distinction of heading both the Naval Academy and the National Defence Academy. He was the first Flag Ranking Tri-Service Commander in his appointment as the Fortress Commander, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Admiral Sawhney is the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff at present. He will take over his new appointment as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command on February 25, 1989 at Cochin.

TK/MNS