

VICE ADMIRAL VISHNU BHAGWAT TAKES OVER AS  
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31 December 1994

Vice Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat . AVSM took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command on 31 Dec 94. Vice Admiral Bhagwat has succeeded Vice Admiral KASZ Raju who retires today after 37 years of illustrious service.

Vice Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat, who was DCNS at Naval Headquarters, Delhi was commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 1st 1960. Having graduate from the National Defence Academy, he was awarded the Telescope for the best All round Cadet on the Training Ship INS TIR and the Sword of Honour for the Best All-round Midshipman of the Fleet. His early days at sea were on Board the frigates Trishul, the destroyers Rana and Rajput, and in command of INS Saryu and later the Amini.

In his 34 years of distinguished professional career, Admiral Bhagwat, has had a vast and varied experience in combat, operations, warship production, acquisitions and acceptance, personnel management and command.

A graduate of Defence Services Staff College, he was assigned as the Executive Officer INS TIR which participated, both in the Bay of Bengal and in the North Arabian Sea operations in Dec 1971. He was successively, Command Communication Officer Western Naval Command, Deputy Director of Naval Signals and Deputy Director of Personnel.

Amongst key appointments held by him were Command Officer INS AMINI, Fleet Operations Officer, Western Fleet, Director Naval Training Naval HQs and commissioning the 3rd Rajput Class Guided Missile Destroyer, INS Ranjit, which he commanded for almost 3 years. Under his command, INS Ranjit set new fleet standards and record in weapons, sensors and operations, in recognition of which he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in Jan 1986.

A graduate of the National Defence College, New Delhi, he was Naval Assistant to CNS and on promotion to Flag rank in January 1988 did assignments as the Additional Director General, Defence Planning Staff, Chief of Staff of Western Naval Command and Assistant Controller of Warship Production and Acquisitions and Commanded the Eastern Fleet.

His primary extra professional interests are International Economics, History and writing.

/RIN/KTR/MSR

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