



## **Vice Admiral (Retd.) Vijay Shankar, PVSM, AVSM, ADC**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Vice Admiral (Retd.) Vijay Shankar, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, is an alumnus of the 34th course National Defence Academy (India). He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 1 January, 1970. A specialist in Navigation and Direction, he holds an MSc in Defence Studies and is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, India, the Naval Higher Command Course from the College of Naval Warfare, Karanja, Mumbai, and the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, USA.

His staff appointments include Deputy Director of Combat Policy and Tactics, Naval Headquarters, Chief Instructor at the Navigation and Direction School, Kochi, Director of the School of Maritime Warfare and Tactics, Kochi, Senior Instructor at the Defence Services Staff College and Director of Staff Requirements at Naval Headquarters.

On attainment of flag rank, he was the Chief of Staff of Southern Naval Command, Assistant Controller of Aircraft Carrier Projects and Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet. As a Vice Admiral, he was the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations and Doctrine Organization and Training).

He took over as Commander-in-Chief of Strategic Forces in December 2006 and subsequently as Commander-in-Chief of the joint services Andaman and Nicobar Command.

His afloat assignments include specialist tenures on board several fleet units between 1970 and 1983. He was a part of the commissioning crew of INS Ghorpad, commissioned in Poland, and of INS Rana commissioned in the erstwhile Soviet Union. He was also the Fleet Operations Officer, Western Fleet. He was the commanding officer of INS Panaji in 1973, INS Himgiri in 1987, INS Ganga in 1993 and the Indian Navy's only aircraft carrier, INS Viraat in 1995. He took over command of the 'Sword Arm' of the Indian Navy as the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet in January 2003. His operational experience is backed by active service during the Indo-Pak war of 1971, command of INS Himgiri during Operation Pawan and as Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command during Operation Vijay.

In recognition of his service he was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and was credited with the honour of Aide-de-Camp to the President of India.

Vice Admiral Vijay Shankar retired on 30 September 2009, after nearly 45 years in uniform. He is today settled with his wife in the Nilgiris and passes down his operational

and strategic experience through articles and participation in seminars that deal with his primary areas of expertise. He has contributed to various professional journals and continues to support his Alma Mater in Kochi through his writings. He lectures at the Staff College, Higher Command College, the United Services Institute and the National Maritime Foundation. He currently tenants the Admiral Katari Chair of Excellence at the United Services Institute. Internationally, his participation in the Track II Ottawa Dialogue and the papers he has presented there on Strategic Forces seek to provide a new paradigm for nuclear security on the sub-continent.

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