

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU(DEFENCE WING)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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VICE ADMIRAL M.R. SCHUNKER  
DIRECTOR GENERAL COAST GUARD RETIRES

New Delhi, March 30, 1984  
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Vice Admiral M.R. Schunker will hand over charge of the Coast Guard tomorrow on March 31 on completion of his tenure. He had taken over as the Director General, Coast Guard on April 01, 1982 after retiring from the Navy as Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

During his tenure, the Coast Guard achieved a substantial increase in its force level as well as in the creation of infrastructure ashore. In the past year alone, five ships including the first indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel were inducted into the Service. In addition, the first maritime surveillance squadron, comprising two F-27 aircraft was also commissioned.

Vice Admiral Schunker was commissioned in the Navy in 1943 and saw active service during the Second World War. He was one of the first Indian Officers to specialise in Bomb Gunnery in the United Kingdom. He has commanded various ships and establishments and also commanded the Western Fleet during 1976. Prior to taking over as Vice Chief of Naval Staff, he was Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam. He is a graduate of the Joint Services Staff College and the National Defence College.

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Admiral Schunker was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 1970 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 1981 for distinguished service.

In his farewell address, Admiral Schunker called upon all ranks of the Coast Guard "to give of their best so that the Service grows along the right lines". He also added, that he considered it "an honour to have been given the opportunity to command the Service".

Inspector General M.S. Ratra, presently the Deputy Director General, Coast Guard will hold concurrent charge as the Director General, Coast Guard from April 01, 1984.

CUB/RM