

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEW VICE CHIEFS FOR NAVY, AIR FORCE

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Vice Admiral John Colin De Silva PVSM, AVSM, has been appointed Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Air Marshal SG Inamdar PVSM, VSM has been appointed the Vice Chief of Air Staff. Air Marshal Inamdar, presently AOC-in-C Eastern Air Command will assume charge on 07 Jan 2002 whereas Vice Admiral De Silva is also expected to take over the appointment in early Jan 2002.

Vice Admiral De Silva was commissioned in the Navy on 01 Jan 1965, is a gunnery Specialist from UK and had undergone Naval Warfare Course in USA during 1984-85. During his career spanning 36 years, he has held many important appointments both ashore and afloat. Among the important assignments held by him are Director Naval Intelligence, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, Chief of Personnel, Naval Headquarters and Director General Coast Guard.

Air Marshal Inamdar was commissioned as a fighter pilot on 09 Mar 63. A qualified test pilot, he has more than 3700 hr of flying experience on variety of aircraft in the IAF inventory including the Mirage 2000, Mig-29 and Jaguar. A graduate of Pilot Attack Instructor School (Now TACDE), he took active part in 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak conflicts. His other important assignments include Command of a Mirage 2000 Squadron, a fighter Wing and also as an instructor to the Iraqi Air Force during 1983 to 1985.

In other new appointments, Rear Admiral SCS Bangara has been appointed as Deputy Chief Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) on promotion to Acting Rank of Vice Admiral and will take over the appointment on 01 Jan 2002. He is presently Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (IW & Ops) in Naval Headquarters.

Air Commodore JS Gujral, Air Commodore M Dixit and Air Commodore SL Sud have also been posted to Integrated Defence Staff on promotion to the rank of Air Vice Marshal. AVM Gujral has taken over as ACIDS (JT Ops) w.e.f today whereas AVM Dixit and AVM Sud will take over as ACIDS (Perspective Plans and Force Structure) and Technical Manager in the Defence Procurement Board respectively w.e.f. 14 Jan 2002.

RG/RKD/KR

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