



VICE ADMIRAL PUNEET KUMAR BAHL, AVSM, VSM (RETD)

An alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and Naval War College, the Flag Officer holds Mphil, MSC and BSc degrees from renowned Universities. Served with distinction for **four decades** in the Navy and tenanted a vast range of top leadership, management, command, operational, training, diplomatic and staff assignments prior to his superannuation in the coveted **three-star** rank of Vice Admiral on 31 December 2023. Was the **Flag Officer Commanding** Maharashtra Naval Area, prior to which he was the **Flag Officer Commanding** Goa Naval Area. He was also the **Director General** of the mega Project Seabird and **Commandant** of the renowned Indian Naval Academy. Also served as the **Flag Officer Naval Aviation**, the **prestigious supervisory** Authority for management and policy governance of all aviation assets of the Navy. Was also the **Chief Staff Officer (Training)** at Kochi, where he oversaw coordination of training aspects of the entire Indian Navy. Was the **Chief Instructor (Navy)** at **DSSC Wellington** and notably, has also served as the **Assistant Chief of Integrated Defence Staff {ACIDS}** at HQIDS, Ministry of Defence, dealing with Defence Procurement for the three Services and the Indian Coast Guard. Was also a member of Indo-US Defence Technology and Trade initiative(DTTI) working group and coordinated development of a 15 year Technology Perspective Capability Roadmap for indigenous Defence Industries. Has **commanded frontline naval ships**, and undertook extensive deployments including overseas to Oman, Kuwait, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Seychelles and Malaysia. Has also commanded one of Navy's most important **strategic Naval Air Station**, where he oversaw induction of technology intensive platforms including the state of art **Boeing P8I** aircraft and the Station was awarded with the coveted **Unit Citation** by the **Navy** during his charge. Given his excellent career record, he was also deputed as the **Defence Advisor** at **Embassy of India (EOI) Tokyo, Japan** with concurrent accreditation to EOI at Seoul, **South Korea** thereby gaining substantial international and **diplomatic experience**, and he contributed immensely towards developing of bilateral defence relations with these countries. As **Joint Director (Aviation Plans)**, at Naval Headquarters, he undertook planning for acquisition and budgeting for aircraft, equipment and systems under the capital head. Drafted the Naval Aviation Perspective and infrastructure plans. Actively participated in Naval operations including Operation Vijay and Operation Tasha, whilst on frontline duties and was awarded **campaign medals** for the same. For exceptional and distinguished Service of the highest order towards the Nation, he was awarded with **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** and **Vishisht Seva Medal** by the Government of India and **Commendation** by the Navy. He is the rarest of **officers** who has **piloted naval aircraft** as a fixed wing aviator, **commanded ships** at sea and is also a **diver**. This has provided him with the widest of exposures and perspectives in a **technology intensive** Navy. Given his academic and critical thinking ability, he avidly **pursues** matters of **national, strategic, foreign, economic, defence** and **security** affairs. He has actively **participated in seminars**, delivered lectures, talks and undertaken classes at Service Institutes and also contributed articles to various professional journals.