

**REAR ADMIRAL SUDHIR PILLAI, NM RETD)**

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Admiral Pillai was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1980. He is a Fellow of the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, graduate of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), the College of Naval Warfare and the National Defence College, and holds an MPhil in Defence and Strategic Studies.

He specialised as a Naval Helicopter pilot and has operated from various ships and aircraft carriers. He has served in supervisory positions as a flying instructor, as Commander Air and Commanding Officer of air units including an Air Station. On staff, he has tenanted appointments as Director Naval Air Staff at Naval Headquarters and as Chief Staff Officer (Air) at Headquarters Naval Aviation. These assignments, covered the entire gamut of Indian Naval aviation functions; from perspective planning, acquisition, international staff engagement; to field level management of aviation, overseeing safety, standards, training, and, aviation technical management, including maintenance and logistics. While carrying out these duties, he was involved in overseeing the induction of the UAV, the MiG 29K, and its associated operations, training and support infrastructure into the Indian Navy.

Besides his Aviation expertise, he has been Commanding Officer of a Coast Guard Inshore Patrol Vessel, the Executive Officer of a Guided Missile Frigate, and Commanding Officer of a Frigate and two Guided Missile Destroyers. These and other tenures at sea afforded the officer diverse operational experiences. He was onboard INS Betwa during the chase and capture of MV Progress Light during OP CACTUS. He was a member of India's only expedition to the Weddell Sea in West Antarctica. His experiences with the Western and Eastern Fleets afforded him diverse operational experiences right across India's Areas of Interest from the East to the West. He has exercised with several foreign navies, commanded a multi-ship flotilla that was providing offshore-security during the SAARC Summit at Colombo, and operated in international environments as in the piracy-ridden Gulf of Aden. He was awarded the Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) for a medevac mission under marginal weather conditions in the Weddell Sea. INS Mysore, when under his command, was honoured by the International Maritime Organisation for its Anti-Piracy successes.

As an Admiral, he has been the Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Flag Officer Commanding Goa Naval Area, the Chief of Staff at the joint Andaman and Nicobar Command, and, Chief Instructor (Navy) at the Defence Services Staff College.

Besides specialist domain expertise, the Admiral has had a significant association with Professional Military Education, earlier as a faculty and later as the Chief Instructor (Navy) at DSSC, Wellington. In these capacities, over a period of five years, the Admiral has focussed on furthering the education of middle-level international military officers with an increasing focus on the Operational Level. In this, his joint-service experience has been of value, as India seeks closer integration of the Armed Forces and the civil-military interface. He has engaged with academia in seminars, universities, at the Naval War College, and, has written variously on military, maritime and aviation issues.

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