



## **Preman K (VSM) Class 51 EAR**

VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL: A rare approval a sailor can receive during his tenure in Indian Navy. I was awarded VSM in 1985. Announced on Republic day 26<sup>th</sup> January 1985, when I was MCEAR II.

Medal and citation were given by the then Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Tahliyani, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1985 at an investiture ceremony, at Colaba.

Many friends have asked me the reason for this award. As the citation describes it is for the meritorious service and devotion to duty.

Actually, there are many reasons and the prime one was a modification done to P15 surface to surface missile. I was working in INS Tunir, where missiles are repaired, tested, and tuned periodically. The job which we were to do was done in a record time. We took just half of the time, which Russians were taking. The modification idea of lowering the flight path of the missile from the prescribed height was taken up by me and partner Gurudev Singh Saini of 55<sup>th</sup> class (unfortunately he is no more now). And after many tests and trials were successfully completed. Then commanding officer Capt. Sinha, took lot of initiative and took permission to test the Radar for correctness. A team from DRDO made several visits to Tunir and finally they were happy with the modification. Then a missile fitted with the modified Radar was test fired from a missile boat, and the mission was great success. DRDO team was observing whole drill from helicopter, and I was also in the helicopter.

As you all know reducing the height of the missile trajectory will reduce the chances of enemy radar to detect this missile.

Thank you INS Tunir and Indian Navy for awarding me Vishisht Seva Medal.

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