

Central Vigilance Committee Propaganda Week: 2022 Overview

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Abstract: *There are very few countries which are free from corruption but there is hardly any developing country which is free from corruption. India is also amongst those countries which is a developing country and not fully free from corruption. In order to control the corruption, the government of India took several steps and set up an independent commission named as Central Vigilance Commission. The Commission organised an awareness week in the year 2022 which was held during October 31, 2022 to November 6, 2022. The theme for the week was "Corruption free India for a developed nation". In the present paper, we have tried to explain certain aspects of Central Vigilance Commission Awareness Week 2022.*

Keywords: Central Vigilance Commission, CVC awareness week, Corruption, etc

1. Introduction

In today's world any country who have a target of becoming a superpower has to first deal with the corruption. It is the corruption that corrupt the system from inside and makes a country hollow in nature. So, in world there are many initiatives taken to counter corruption. In this series India also joined hands with the world and enacted many institutions which are free from government involvement to curb corruption and malpractices.

Central Vigilance Commission

In India, after independence many organisations were created to fight corruption, in one of the parliamentary debates in 1962, "Members of Parliament" show serious concern on growing "menace of corruption in administration" this came to conclusion with creating a committee on prevention of corruption known as Santhanam Committee they gave various recommendations one of them is setting up of Central Vigilance Commission at central level.

In 2003, Parliament gave assent to the bill through which Central Vigilance Commission gets statutory status which is also known as "Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003". The first CVC of India was Nitoor Srinivasa which was selected in 1964, and from June 2021 - December 2022 Suresh N. Patel was our CVC under his tenure Vigilance Awareness Week 2022 was conducted, our current CVC is Pawan Kumar Shrivastava who have taken charge from 28 December 2022 to present, in this study we will very briefly see the working of Central Vigilance Commission Awareness Week 2022 as planned by the Commission.

Objective of the study

This research paper has the following objectives:

- 1) To study the Central Vigilance Commission functions and power.
- 2) To analyse the Vigilance Awareness week of 2022.

- 3) To suggest the outcome of this study to further curb corruption, if any.

2. Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. The data has been collected from various websites and internet sources. There is no sample taken since we have analysed the CVC and Central Vigilance Commissions Awareness Week 2022. We have mentioned various facts and aspects about CVC since its formation to till date updating the same. We have also covered the gaps in the same. This is a descriptive study; hence, no analytical tools have been used to analyse any data or figures thereof.

Functions and Power of Central Vigilance Commission

Central Vigilance Commission under Government of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) came into existence on dated 11th February 1964, by resolution of Government of India (No.74/7/64 - AVD), while conducting enquiries Central Vigilance Commission shall have all the powers of a Civil Court. Further, CVC Act 2003 empowered and gives CVC statutory status with following functions and powers.

- 1) The CVC is the apex body created primarily to combat and eliminate corruption in central government offices, it covers all public sector central government organisations.
- 2) Being a statutory status, it acts as the autonomous body with no executive control but it has power to advise only and it can take no action ownit owns.
- 3) Central Vigilance Commission has authority to assess the functioning of Delhi Special Police Establishment, or CBI investigation under Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.
- 4) Central Vigilance Commission has a major responsibility as to advise central government organisation on how to "plan, execute, review and reform" their vigilance proficiencies.
- 5) Investigation on a reference made by the central government, if any central government organisation or

central government employee or government company or society owned by the government has committed an offence which comes under the prevention of corruption act 1988.

- 6) Review the progress of application which are pending with their competent authorities.
- 7) Supervision of the Delhi Special Police Establishment as far as it concerned the investigation of offences which comes under "Prevention of Corruption Act 1988".
- 8) Tender advice to the central government as and when required.
- 9) CVC have all the powers of the Civil Court while conducting an inquiry.
- 10) There shall be a director of inquiry with minimum rank of joint secretary to the India.
- 11) It is the duty of the Commission to present annual report to the president every year.

Analysing the activity of Vigilance Awareness week 2022

Central Vigilance Commission had done three - month campaign on observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2022. The Commission believes that fight against corruption can be fought with active action of all stakeholders. One of the ways to achieving this goal is citizens participation in the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week each year remains significant in promoting integrating by hosting consciousness against corruption, for year 2022 programme, CVC theme is "Corruption free India for a Developed Nation" the Commission had plan to starting the campaign from 31st October 2022 because of the birth anniversary of Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

For this year programme, commission came up with detail plan which consists of five guidelines in which main guideline highlight that all the Ministries/ Department/ Organisation had to actively participate in managing housekeeping activities. Further discusses the important dates though which all department have to submit their reports.

Six - point precise plan has been there for all ministries to follow

- 1) Property management
- 2) Record management
- 3) Management of assets
- 4) Technological initiatives which contain two parameters
- 5) Website updating and maintenance
- 6) Develop new area for online services to customer slash staff to be on board on online portal
- 7) Guideline update/circular update/manual update
- 8) Disposal of remaining complaint by 15 - 8 - 2022, circular also given the brief description of all above 6 points in Annexure - A (very briefly discussed below). Three months long campaign will include all above 6 points starting from 16th August - 15 November 2022 and final findings with the whole reports have been submitted by 9 December 2022.

1) Property management

Under this, Ministries/Department/Organisation to pinpoint and catalogue all the buildings land owned by them and take action as mentioned below

- Verification of property owned by organisation either ownership or lease and if under lease then lease agreement should be verified.
- If property is under encroachment than pinpoint and make future plans for such properties.
- Properties which are of no use pinpoint and divide the future course of action.

2) List out all the old unused condemned assets which are of no further use

Ministries/ Organisation/ Department to pinpoint and catalogue old furniture machines equipment which are of no further use

- according to the scrap policy disposed all such unused assets.
- By following the mantra of "Swachh BharatAbhiyan" keep the premises neat and clean.

3) Draw out of old records if they all have outlined their uses then disposal should be done

- Ministries/Department/Organisation to cheque whether a record retention policy including electronic records exist and if not, prepare and adopt.
- Weed out old record's as per extend policy during the campaign.
- Maintain proper system for record keeping so that they can be easily retrieved as and when required.

4) Website maintenance and updating

- People's visit website to look out for detail information therefore all organisation department should update their website regularly.
- Identify the new areas/services which can on board on online platform, action should be initiated for making of such online portal.

5) Updating the Guidelines/Circulars

All organisations should take appropriate step to update their guidelines, circulars, during the campaign period efforts should be made to pinpoint such guidelines, circulars and update accordingly

6) Disposal of complaints

Timely disposal of complaint is of paramount importance. There are many cases in which complaints sent for necessary action by the Commission to the concern organisation remain neglected for long. Complaint sent from the Commission to the Central Vigilance Officer/ Organization and complain received directly by the organisation from various department must be taken up as per complaint handling policy.

All the complaints raised and pending up to 15th August 2022 at all levels of central organisations must be disposed of by taking logical conclusion starting from 16th August, 2022 till 15 November, 2022. Further report to be submitted covering all parameters by all the concern department by 9th December 2022.

3. Conclusion

From the above details and aspects, it can be concluded that government has taken various steps to combat corruption. CVC is apex body created in 1964 and was further strengthened in 2003 by giving it a status of statutory body. It came into force to address the issue of corruption in Central Government Departments since it is free from the control of any executive authority. Its main function is to watch the Central Government of India and advising various authorities in central government about their vigilance work organising a weeklong programme CVC has done a tremendous work, advising other central authorities what to do in their crystal clear circular but by studying it very briefly, the findings of the research paper is that main objective of the CVC is missing that is to fight against corruption and give measures to central government on eliminating corruption. Except one point which highlights that's all the cases pending should be disposed off, year 2022 CVC Awareness Week, Commission mainly focuses on housekeeping and maintenance of all the central department's which is differ from the main theme i. e., "Corruption free India for a Developed Nation". Although, further study is needed in this regard.

Abbreviations

CVC: Central Vigilance Commission

CBI: Central Bureau of Investigation

VAW: Vigilance Awareness Week

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