




Vigilance Commission and its Functions

Background


- Central Vigilance Commission Established in 1964 based on Santhanam Committee.
- State Vigilance Commission Established in 1964 followed similar pattern of CVC.
- Vigilance Commission was abolished on 03.02.1983 and an one-man authority called “Dharma Maha Matra” was created to look after vigilance matters and the same was abolished on 18.08.1984
- The APVC Revived in 1993 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Objectives

- • Ensure clean administration
- • Prevent corruption
- • Maintain integrity
- • Improve accountability


- 
- Dear Trainee Officers, congratulations on your selection /appointment for Group. I posts. On the recommendation of Sri K.Santhanam Committee, the Government of India set up the Central Vigilance Commission in February 1964 with jurisdiction extending to the executive power of the Union extends, i.e., to all employees of the Central Government and Central Public Undertakings.

➤ In the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government set up the Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission in June 1964 on the lines of the Central Vigilance Commission with a full-time officer designated as the Vigilance Commissioner. The Vigilance Commission was abolished on 03.02.1983 and an one-man authority called "Dharma Maha Matra" was created to look after vigilance matters and the same was abolished on 18.08.1984. Government, further revived the Vigilance Commission and restored as laid down in G.O.Ms.No.368, G.A (Spl.B) Dept., dt.29-06-1993 and appointed a full-time Vigilance Commissioner.




➤ The Vigilance and Enforcement Department was set up in order to remove the lacunae which were impeding the achievement of the objective of providing a clean, efficient administration and to increase the revenues of the State.

➤ The Telangana Vigilance Commission has jurisdiction and powers throughout the State of Telangana, to check, prevent /eradicate corruption in the public services and to deal with any complaint/information/case that public servants, including members of All India services, had exercised or refrained from exercising their powers, for improper or corrupt purposes and any complaint of misconduct, lack of integrity or other kinds of malpractices or misdemeanor on the part of the public servants vide G.O.Ms.No. 421,G.A.(SC.D) Dept., Dt.03-08-1993.




➤ All cases of misconduct of public servants involving lack of integrity having a vigilance angle, viz illegal gratification, bribery, causing loss to Government and unlawful gain to themselves or others and such other acts of corruption and criminal misconduct like misappropriation, cheating, fraud etc should be referred to the Vigilance Commission for advice. Cases of misconduct involving administrative lapses which have no vigilance angle need not be referred to the Vigilance Commission .



➤ The role of Vigilance Commission is to tender advice in all cases involving vigilance angle including the nature of the action to be taken on enquiry reports and investigation reports of allegations of corruption originating with the Department or from the Director General, Vigilance & Enforcement or Anti Corruption Bureau or other agency. Hence, the Vigilance Commission is only an advisory Body.

To implement this mechanism of Chief Vigilance Officers in Department of Secretariat and Vigilance Officers in Directorates/Govt., undertakings have to be appointed:

The Government have emphasized that the Chief Vigilance Officers should not be entrusted with any subject other than vigilance matters in these departments. The Chief Vigilance Officers may not be lower than a Deputy Secretary to Government at Secretariat.




The Vigilance Officers in Directorates, Government undertakings/ Government Companies and such other Institutions Shall be selected from among the senior officers by the Head of the Department etc. They shall be appointed in consultation with the Commission. No officers against whom allegations of misconduct are pending investigation or enquiry shall be nominated as Chief Vigilance Officers or Vigilance Officers.

Nature of Commission


- • Advisory body
- • Recommends actions
- • Does not directly punish

The various stages wherein the Departments of Secretariat have to seek the advice of Vigilance Commission:

On all the preliminary enquiry reports on the allegations of corruption enquired into internally by the Chief Vigilance Officers/ Vigilance Officers/ departmental authorities etc.



After conclusion of the departmental inquiry on the delinquency of the charged officer and the penalty to be imposed, if any, to be imposed on him both before arriving at a provisional conclusion and after receipt of the representation of the Government servant and obtain orders of the competent Authority for imposition of a penalty or otherwise. Thus the advice of the Vigilance Commission should be obtained both.



The Department shall proceed further in the matter as advised by the Commission, unless it decides to deviate from the advice. In that event it becomes a matter of reporting in the Annual Reports of the Commission. In order to deviate from the advice of the Commission, it shall be necessary for the department to circulate the file and obtain orders of Chief Minister through Chief Secretary and the Minister Concerned as per Business Rules

Key Functions

- • Advisory role
- • Examine corruption cases
- • Coordinate with departments
- • Monitor investigations
- • Submit annual reports

Vigilance Angle

- Includes:
 - Bribery
 - Abuse of position
 - Disproportionate assets
 - Fraud and misappropriation

The term 'Vigilance Angle' has been defined vide G.O.Ms.No.522 G.A(Spl.C) Dept., Dt. 21-07-2007

1) Demanding/accepting gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act or for using his influence with any other official.

2) Obtaining valuable thing, without consideration or with inadequate consideration from a person with whom he has or likely to have official dealing of his subordinates have official dealings or where he can exert influence.

3) Obtaining for himself or for any other person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage by corrupt or illegal means or by abusing his position as a public servant.

4) Possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

5) Cases of misappropriation, forgery or cheating or other similar criminal offences.

6) Other irregularities where circumstances will have to be weighed carefully to take a view whether Officer's integrity is in doubt, gross or willful negligence, recklessness in decision making, blatant violations of systems and procedures, exercise of discretion in excess, where no ostensible/public interest is evident, failure to keep the controlling authority/superiors informed in time.

7) Any undue/unjustified delay in disposal of case, perceived after considering all relevant factors, would reinforce a conclusion as to the presence of vigilance angle in a case.

8) Absence of vigilance angle in various acts of omission and Commission does not mean that the concerned official is not liable to face the consequences of his actions. All such lapses not attracting vigilance angle would, indeed, have to be dealt with appropriately, as per the disciplinary procedure under the service rules.

Non-Vigilance Cases

- Minor delays
- Unauthorized absence
- Inefficiency
- Handled departmentally

The following types of cases need not be referred to Vigilance Commission.

- a) Delay and negligence per se without any loss to Government*
- b) Unauthorized absence*
- c) In subordination*
- d) Inefficiency*

Vigilance Officers

- Chief Vigilance Officers in Secretariat
- Vigilance Officers in departments
- Must be senior and have clean records

Consultation Stages

- • After preliminary enquiry
- • After departmental enquiry
- • Before final decision
- TCS(CCA)Rules, 1991, provides an opportunity of being heard to the charged officer to submit a written statement of his defense at every stage.

Deviation from Advice

- Deviations from advice of the VC needs to be circulated as per the Business rules and Secretariat instructions.
- Must be recorded in annual report.
- The Commission will submit an annual report to the Government in the Genl. Admn. Dept, about its activities drawing particular attention to any recommendations made by it, which had not been accepted and acted upon and the report together with a memorandum explaining the reasons for non- acceptance of any recommendations of the Commission will be laid by the Genl. Admn. Department before the State Legislature.

Following Government rules are followed while tendering advice in all vigilance cases:

- (i) The Telangana Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991
- (ii) The TCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964
- (iii) PC Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018).
- (iv) Revised Pension Rules, 1980.
- (v) Vigilance Manuals consists of four Volumes.

Vigilance Volume-I.-Comprehensively deals with all aspects of vigilance particularly relating to investigation and prosecution of cases of bribery and corruption and disciplinary proceedings in relation to misconduct by public servants. It serves as a book of reference to investigating officers, vigilance and administrative functionaries, disciplinary and inquiring authorities, presenting officers and the like.

(vi).Vigilance Volume-II- Contains of GOs, Memorandums, U.O.notes, circulars issued by Government from time to time, and forms prescribed for use in DP and for various other purposes.

(vi).Vigilance Volume-III-Contains of Digest of case law, is comprehensive and incorporates important cases decided by the Supreme Court of India, the high courts and CAT in investigation of all cases.

(vii).Vigilance Volume-IV-Contains of Discipline and Conduct Rules, DPT Act &Rules, Public Service Commission Regulations, extract of relevant provisions from the Revised Pension Rules, FRS, Govt. Business Rules and Secretariat Instructions etc.

Government vide Cir.Memo.No.1733/Ser.C/A1/2026-1, Dt:10.3.2026, issued instructions to frame charges, after receipt of the reports from ACB and V&E departments, duly following the procedure, without sending reports to HoDs, in a routine manner and to follow existing rules and violation of such rules should be viewed seriously with initiation of major penalty proceedings against the violators for non-compliance of existing rules, particularly regarding vigilance reports and requested the departments to follow the instructions scrupulously

Government vide Cir.Memo.No.1733/Ser.C/A1/2026-2, Dt:10.3.2026, issued instructions to all the departments of Secretariat to constitute a Departmental Review Committee headed by Spl. CS to Govt/ Prl Secy. to Govt./ Secy. to Govt., as the case may be with representative of ACB, V&E and CVO of the department concerned and the HoD concerned, to review the disposal of ACB/V&E/ Disciplinary cases, by conducting the meeting at least once in two months, and report compliance.

Keeping the instances in view the Vigilance Commission has made recommendations for fixing of time frame for completion of disciplinary proceedings to ensure that the schedule of time prescribed by the Government are followed by the Departments. Accordingly orders were issued by the General Administration.(Ser.C) Department vide G.O.Ms.No.175, Dt. 21-08-2025.

Systemic Improvements


- • Timely prosecution of sanction
- • Faster disciplinary action
- • Training and awareness programs

Following suggestions are made for systemic improvement:

1)Need to avoid delay in sanction of prosecution/ initiation of Departmental proceedings by the Departments.

2)As per rule 19 of PC Act, after receipt of Final Report from ACB, the orders of sanction of prosecution shall be issued within 3 months. In such cases the departments have to explain the reasons for delay to the courts, in respect of cases falling under PCAct.

3)Similarly in respect of Departmental action, it is noticed the departments are making inordinate delays in initiating/ concluding the proceedings against delinquent officials leading them to approach Hon'ble courts for setting aside the proceedings, and the proceedings are hit by time limitation as per TS(CCA) Rules, 1991 and TSRP Rules,1990 in some cases.



The Commission assures that constant and vigorous efforts are made to tender proper advice, maintaining quality and consistency in vigilance matter. Commission is also taking all possible measures for proper performance of the duties and the responsibilities assigned to it.

Conclusion

- Ensures transparency, accountability and integrity in governance