



***Good morning,***

***Below is a structured 81 FAQs on updates - Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), and National Investigation Agency (NIA) under our weekly Darshan Mala Series. The executive summaries are prepared based on information's available in public domains.***

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## 81 FAQs on updates - PC Act, 1988, CVC, SFIO, ED, CBI, DRI and NIA

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**Profile of Publisher for 81 FAQs on updates - PC Act, 1988, CVC, SFIO, ED, CBI, DRI and NIA**



## 81 FAQs on updates - PC Act, 1988, CVC, SFIO, ED, CBI, DRI and NIA

### Chapter I – Updates on the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988

#### 1. What are updates on the PC Act, 1988?

- The most **significant recent developments** under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (“PC Act”) in India are **centred around Section 17A**, **judicial scrutiny of investigation safeguards**, **expansion of liability for private persons**, and **stricter evidentiary analysis by courts**.

#### ● Supreme Court Split Verdict on Section 17A — Biggest Development ●

- The Supreme Court **delivered a major split verdict in January 2026** regarding the **constitutional validity of Section 17A** of the PC Act 1988.

#### 2. What is Section 17A in PC Act, 1988?

- Section 17A as **inserted by the 2018 Amendment**, requires prior approval /sanction from the Government before any enquiry, inquiry, or **investigation can begin against a public servant** for actions taken during official duties.

#### 3. What are divergent views of Supreme Court Judge B.V. Nagarathna – Sec. 17A?

- Justice B.V. Nagarathna held that **Section 17A may violate Article 14** because it gives special protection **to a class of public servants**.

#### 4. What are divergent views of Supreme Court Judge K.V. Viswanathan – Sec. 17A?

- Justice K.V. Viswanathan held that **Section 17A**, observing that **honest officers need protection** from frivolous or politically motivated investigations.

#### 5. What is present status of Supreme Court Judgement - Sec. 17A?

- Since the Bench delivered a split verdict, the **matter** has now been **referred to a larger Bench** of the Supreme Court for **final adjudication**.



6. **Why Supreme Court's final Judgement is important - Sec. 17A?**

- This issue **directly affecting** the followings:
  - (i) **CBI** investigations
  - (ii) **ED**-linked corruption predicates
  - (iii) **Vigilance** enquiries
  - (iv) **Sanction** jurisprudence
  - (v) **Protection** available to bureaucrats and ministers

● **Delhi High Court Clarifies on Section 17A is Prospective** ●

7. **What is the Delhi High Court's views – Sec. 17A?**

- In a recent matter **connected with alleged older corruption offences**, the Delhi High Court held that:
  - (i) Section 17A **applies prospectively**
  - (ii) **Cannot invalidate investigations** for offences **committed "before" July 26, 2018.**

8. **What is the Delhi High Court's views practical impact – Sec. 17A?**

- This is **highly relevant** in:
  - (i) **Legacy CBI** corruption matters
  - (ii) **Railway** recruitment cases
  - (iii) **Land** allotment matters
  - (iv) **Disproportionate** asset investigations
  - (v) **Old** vigilance cases
- The Delhi High Court **clarified that absence of Section 17A approval** does "not" **automatically invalidate** earlier investigations.

● **Courts Tightening Standards for Bribery Convictions** ●

9. **What are judicial trends for bribery convictions?**

- (i) Proof of **demand**
- (ii) Proof of **acceptance**
- (iii) **Reliable** recovery **evidence.**



10. **What are judicial trends for refusing mechanical convictions?**

- Courts are **increasingly refusing mechanical convictions** merely because recovery occurred.

11. **What is Supreme Court's judicial trends?**

- (i) **Presumption under Section 20 cannot be casually invoked**
- (ii) **Prosecution must establish foundational facts carefully.**

12. **What is Court important trends?**

- (i) **Trap cases**
- (ii) **ACB prosecutions**
- (iii) **Departmental corruption matters**

● **Liability of Private Persons Expanded** ●

13. **What is Supreme Court's decision to include associates / relatives?**

- Now Supreme Court has **observed in the case of P. Shanthi that even family members** assisting in holding disproportionate assets **may face prosecution for abetment** under **Section 12** of the PC Act 1988 like:
  - (i) **Private individuals**
  - (ii) **Relatives**
  - (iii) **Consultants**
  - (iv) **Intermediaries**
  - (v) **Beneficiaries**

14. **What are areas where associates / relatives are to be included?**

- (i) **Benami asset structures**
- (ii) **Shell company arrangements**
- (iii) **Public procurement matters**

● **Increasing Debate: "Protection vs Accountability"** ●

15. **What is ongoing major constitutional debate?**

- (i) **Whether Section 17A protects honest decision-making?**
- (ii) **Whether it creates a shield against anti-corruption investigations?**



**16. What are the major concerns on protection vs accountability?**

- (i) **Protection of honest officers** is required to prevents policy paralysis
- (ii) **Effective anti-corruption enforcement** is required to avoids executive control over investigations

● **Continued active enforcement by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)/CBI** ●

**17. What is enforcement by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)/CBI?**

- (i) **Multiple trap cases**
- (ii) **Chargesheets filed** under Sections 7 and 12 of PC Act, 1988
- (iii) **Prosecution sanctions** being actively granted
- (iv) **Increased ACB actions** across states

● **Key Provisions Currently Most Litigated** ●

**18. What are most litigated key provisions?**

- The following **provisions** are presently **seeing the maximum litigation**:
  - (i) Public servant **taking undue advantage** under section 7 of PC Act, 1988
  - (ii) **Bribe giving** under section 8 of PC Act, 1988
  - (iii) **Abetment** under section 12 of PC Act, 1988
  - (iv) **Criminal misconduct** under section 13 of PC Act, 1988
  - (v) Prior **approval before investigation** under section 17A of PC Act, 1988
  - (vi) **Sanction for prosecution** under section 19 of PC Act, 1988
  - (vii) **Presumption for gratification** under section 20 of PC Act, 1988

● **Overall Trend in 2026** ●

**19. What are overall legal trends in 2026?**

- (i) **Stronger judicial scrutiny** of corruption investigations
- (ii) **Increased procedural safeguards** for public servants
- (iii) **Expansion of liability** for facilitators and private parties

**20. What are expectations from Supreme court's final ruling – Sec. 17A?**

- The final Supreme Court ruling on Section 17A is **expected to become** one of the most **important anti-corruption law judgments** in recent years.



**21. What are the best mediums for knowing official PC Act's updates?**

- You can track **ongoing notifications**, investigations, vacancies and **summons** on the official PC Act portal:
  - (i) **For Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988**  
[www.indiacode.nic.in](http://www.indiacode.nic.in)
  - (ii) **For Legislative Department (PC) Act, 1988**  
[www.legislative.gov.in](http://www.legislative.gov.in)
  - (iii) **For Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)**  
[www.dopt.gov.in](http://www.dopt.gov.in)
  - (iv) **For Section-wise searchable version**  
[www.incometaxindia.gov.in](http://www.incometaxindia.gov.in)



## Chapter II – Updates on the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

### 22. What are updates on the CVC?

- The latest **developments relating to the CVC** mainly concern “new” **appointments**, tighter vigilance-clearance norms, **banking fraud oversight**, and increasing **coordination with agencies** like Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED).

### 23. What is name of Vigilance Commissioner?

- One of the **biggest** recent institutional **developments is the appointment of Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner** in January 2026. He is a 1991-batch IPS officer of Bihar cadre and has earlier **served in CBI and economic offences investigations**. The **oath ceremony was attended by senior officials from:**

- (i) DoPT
- (ii) CBI
- (iii) ED
- (iv) CVC.

- With this appointment, the **Commission is functioning at near full institutional strength**.

### ● CVC Tightens Vigilance Clearance Procedures ●

### 24. What is revised vigilance-clearance proforma?

- A very **important** recent **administrative development** is the revised vigilance-clearance proforma issued **through Circular No. 01/03/2026**.

### 25. What are the changes made via revised vigilance-clearance proforma?

- The revised format **now requires:**
  - (i) **Detailed posting history for the last 10 years**
  - (ii) **Information for CVO assignments**
  - (iii) **Suspension status**
  - (iv) **Vigilance history**
  - (v) **Doubtful integrity records**



- (vi) **Pending disciplinary/criminal proceedings**
- (vii) **Complaint details**

**26. What are practical impacts via revised vigilance-clearance proforma?**

- (i) **Empanelment of IAS/IPS/IRS officers**
- (ii) **PSU appointments**
- (iii) **Deputation clearances**
- (iv) **Board-level appointments**
- (v) **Vigilance vetting**

- **The move is seen as an attempt to bring greater transparency and uniformity in vigilance assessments.**

**● CVC Expands Monitoring of Banking Fraud Cases ●**

**27. What are CVC's scopes of scrutiny for bank frauds?**

- (i) **Recent reports indicate that the CVC has expanded the scope of scrutiny for bank fraud matters.**
- (ii) **Now fraud around INR 3 crore in many categories in PSBs are to be referred to expert panels for determining whether CBI investigation is necessary. It was earlier above INR 50 crore in PSBs**

**28. What are matters for recent developments?**

- (i) **PSU bankers**
- (ii) **Forensic auditors**
- (iii) **ED predicate investigations**
- (iv) **Wilful default matters**
- (v) **Large consortium lending cases**

**29. What are objectives for recent developments?**

- (i) **Balancing fear-free banking decisions**
- (ii) **Ensuring accountability in fraud-sensitive sectors**



● **Increased Focus on Rotation in Vigilance Departments** ●

30. **What are significances for rotation in vigilance departments?**

- *The CVC has reiterated concerns regarding **prolonged stay of officials in vigilance wings**. According to recent observations:*
  - (i) **Long tenure** in vigilance posts may **create vested interests**
  - (ii) **Increase allegations** of bias
  - (iii) **Reduce institutional objectivity**

31. **What are objects for rotation in vigilance departments?**

- (i) **More frequent transfers**
- (ii) **Stricter tenure policies**
- (iii) **Stronger preventive vigilance systems**

● **Rising Coordination Between CVC, CBI & State Vigilance Agencies** ●

32. **What are rising coordination Between CVC, CBI and State Vigilance Agencies?**

- (i) *Recent corruption-related **developments in Punjab Vigilance Bureau** have again **brought focus on** institutional **vigilance mechanisms**.*
- (ii) *The CBI recently **busted** an alleged **bribery network linked with Punjab Vigilance Bureau officials and intermediaries**.*

33. **What are emerging trends?**

- *Authorities are **increasingly examining**:*
  - (i) **Corruption** inside anti-corruption bodies
  - (ii) **Middlemen networks**
  - (iii) **Complaint settlement rackets**
  - (iv) **Abuse of vigilance processes**

34. **What are increasing scrutiny?**

- (i) **Vigilance administration**
- (ii) **Internal integrity systems**
- (iii) **Supervisory accountability**



● **Stronger Emphasis on Preventive Vigilance & Technology** ●

35. **What is CVC's continuing push?**

- (i) **E-procurement** monitoring
- (ii) **Integrity** frameworks
- (iii) **Whistle blower** mechanisms
- (iv) **Digital** vigilance systems
- (v) **Preventive** vigilance models

36. **What is CVC's increasing emphasizing?**

- (i) **Systemic** corrections
- (ii) **Risk** mapping
- (iii) **Corruption** prevention rather than only punitive action

● **Important Areas Currently Under CVC Focus** ●

37. **What are important areas currently under CVC focus?**

- (i) **Expanded scrutiny** for banking frauds
- (ii) **Stricter disclosures** for Vigilance clearance
- (iii) **Higher accountability** for PSU vigilance
- (iv) **Preventive vigilance** for Procurement
- (v) **Detailed vetting** for Senior officer empanelment
- (vi) **Increasing coordination** for CBI / ED
- (vii) **Greater monitoring** for Internal vigilance integrity

● **Present Composition of the CVC** ●

38. **What is present CVC's composition?**

- The current **important office bearers** include:
  - (i) Praveen Kumar Srivastava
  - (ii) A. S. Rajeev
  - (iii) Praveen Vashista

39. **What are the best mediums for knowing official CVC's updates?**

- You can track **ongoing notifications**, investigations, vacancies and **summons** on the official CVC portal: **www.cvc.gov.in**



### Chapter III – Updates on the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

40. **What are alleged INR 2000 crore irregularities in derivatives at IndusInd Bank?**
- (i) SFIO has reportedly intensified its **investigation into alleged irregularities** at IndusInd Bank **involving approx. INR 2,000 crore in derivatives transactions.**
- (ii) **Multiple audit firms associated** with the bank over the past decade have reportedly been **summoned as part of the probe.**
41. **What are recruitment and expansion activities in 2026?**
- (i) SFIO issued **notifications for engagement of consultants** and young professionals in law, **forensic audit, finance and administration domains.**
- (ii) Approx. **69 contractual positions for Young Professionals** and Junior Consultants have been **advertised with applications open till June 03, 2026.**
- (iii) **Additional deputation-based recruitment drives for approx. 38-45 senior and mid-level posts** have also been **initiated during 2026.**
42. **What are the focus areas in employees' hiring?**
- The recent recruitment notices indicate SFIO is **strengthening expertise in:**
- (i) Corporate law                      (ii) Financial analysis                      (iii) Digital forensics
- (iv) Forensic audit                      (v) Investigation                      (vi) prosecution functions
43. **What are the administrative and structural updates?**
- SFIO has also **published internal governance updates, including constitution of a committee to oversee human-rights-related concerns and grievance redressal mechanisms.**
44. **What is govt.'s supports to modernise SFIO?**
- The govt. has **continued efforts to modernise SFIO through integration of experts from agencies such as CBI, ED and NIA for sophisticated corporate fraud probes**
45. **What are the best mediums for knowing official SFIO's updates?**
- You can track **ongoing notifications, investigations, vacancies and summons on the official SFIO portal: [www.sfio.gov.in](http://www.sfio.gov.in)**



### Chapter IV – Updates on the Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- 46. What is arrested AAP leader Deepak Singla?**
- (i) ED arrested AAP leader **Deepak Singla** “after” conducting raids in Delhi and Goa.
  - (ii) The matter has **triggered political controversy**, with allegations regarding **access to party organisational data**.
- 47. What is attached assets approx. INR 700 crore of Iqbal Mirchi?**
- (i) ED has attached assets worth about INR **700 crore linked to** late gangster **Iqbal Mirchi** and his family **under** the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (**FEOA**) 2018.
  - (ii) Attached properties **include** prime **Worli properties in Mumbai** and assets in Dubai
- 48. What is sought sanction to prosecute Senthil Balaji?**
- ED has **sought sanction to prosecute** former Tamil Nadu minister **Senthil Balaji** in the alleged cash-for-job scam case.
- 49. What is govt.’s sanction to prosecute Sandip Ghosh?**
- The West Bengal **govt.** has reportedly **granted sanction to ED to prosecute** former RG Kar Medical College principal **Sandip Ghosh** in an alleged corruption-related matter.
- 50. What is annual report for year ending March 31, 2026?**
- (i) ED’s FY 2025-26 annual report **shows record attachment of assets** worth approx. INR **81,422 crore under PMLA 2002** and related laws.
  - (ii) The ED has **increased international cooperation** in financial crime investigations.
- 51. What is increasingly focusing on cyber fraud and digital financial crimes?**
- (i) ED is **increasingly focusing on cyber fraud** and digital financial crimes.
  - (ii) Government data indicates approx. **257 cybercrime-related money laundering investigations** involving proceeds of crime approx. INR **36,000 crore**.
- 52. What is arrested DCP Santanu Sinha Biswas?**
- In Kolkata, ED **arrested** a senior police officer, DCP **Santanu Sinha Biswas**, in connection with an alleged **money laundering** and extortion-linked case.



**53. What is conducted large-scale action against online gaming?**

- ED recently **conducted** large-scale **action against online gaming** and fintech-linked operations, including **searches linked to Games kraft Technologies** and the Rummy culture app investigation.

**54. What is prosecution complaints connected with Bengaluru-linked accused?**

- ED recently **filed** prosecution complaints **in a large gold smuggling** and money laundering matter **connected with Bengaluru-linked accused persons** under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002.

**55. What is expanding inter-agency information sharing?**

- ED continues expanding inter-agency information sharing **under PMLA** with agencies such as **SFIO, NIA** and others **for economic crime coordination**.

**56. What are the best mediums for knowing official ED's updates?**

- You can track **ongoing notifications**, investigations, vacancies and **summons** on the official ED portal: **www.enforcementdirectorate.in**



## Chapter V – Updates on the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

57. **What is nationwide investigation into NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case?**
- (i) The biggest **current focus of CBI** is the nationwide investigation **into** the alleged NEET-UG 2026 **paper leak case**.
  - (ii) **Multiple arrests** have been **made across Maharashtra, Bihar, and other states, including coaching operators, intermediaries, and educators**.
58. **What is Pune-based alleged mastermind in NEET leak?**
- (i) CBI has reportedly **identified** a Pune-based **chemistry professor** as one of the alleged masterminds **behind the NEET leak network**.
  - (ii) The CBI is **probing** possible **involvement of insiders** connected with the examination process.
59. **What is Nagpur and Chandrapur based fresh raids conducted?**
- (i) **Fresh raids** were conducted by CBI in Nagpur and Chandrapur **against students and suspected beneficiaries** linked to the leaked NEET papers.
  - (ii) **Digital devices** and documents were **seized for forensic analysis**.
60. **What is arrested an Army Ordnance Corps Colonel?**
- **In a major anti-corruption action**, CBI arrested an Army Ordnance Corps Colonel in an alleged **INR 50 lakh bribery case involving** defence procurement and **tender manipulation**.
61. **What is Calcutta High Court's directions in RG Kar Medical College?**
- (i) The RG Kar Medical College case **investigation continues** to remain **under judicial scrutiny**.
  - (ii) The Calcutta High Court has **directed CBI to produce all investigation records**, including audio, video, and documentary **evidence**.



**62. What is arrest in Chandranath Rath's murder case?**

- CBI also **arrested the 5<sup>th</sup> accused in the murder case of Chandranath Rath, aide to West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari.**

**63. What are intensified actions?**

- (i) **Digital arrest and cyber fraud syndicates**
- (ii) **Builder-bank nexus frauds**
- (iii) **International cyber slavery and illegal call centre operations**
- (iv) **Bank fraud and bribery cases**
- (v) **Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) through Interpol coordination**

**64. What is AI-based public verification platform called "ABHAY"?**

- CBI has also **launched an AI-based public verification platform called "ABHAY" to help citizens verify fake CBI notices and prevent digital arrest frauds.**

**65. What are the best mediums for knowing official CBI's updates?**

- You can track **ongoing notifications, investigations, vacancies and summons on the official CBI portal: [www.cbi.gov.in](http://www.cbi.gov.in)**



## Chapter VI – Updates on the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

**66. What is DRI?**

- (i) The DRI is India's **apex anti-smuggling intelligence** and investigation agency **under** the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**), Ministry of Finance.
- (ii) DRI **handles cases** relating to **narcotics**, gold smuggling, customs fraud, **trade-based money laundering** and economic offences.

**67. What is seized cocaine approx. INR 13 crore?**

- (i) DRI recently **seized** cocaine approx. **INR 13 crore in 2 separate cases** linked to passengers arriving **from Addis Ababa**.
- (ii) **2 individuals** were **arrested** in the case.

**68. What is misdeclaration approx. INR 139 crore?**

- (i) At Nhava Sheva Port near Mumbai, **DRI uncovered a major misdeclaration** and smuggling racket **involving 132 containers**.
- (ii) **Goods approx. INR 139 crore** were **seized**.

**69. What is gold smuggling approx. INR 14 crore?**

- (i) **DRI busted** a gold smuggling and **illegal gold-melting network** operating **across Delhi** and Kolkata. **Gold, silver and cash** worth more than **INR 14 crore** were **recovered**
- (ii) **6 individuals** were **arrested** in the case.

**70. What is gold smuggling syndicate approx. 40 crore?**

- (i) Another major **trans-border gold smuggling** syndicate linked to Dubai and Bangladesh was **busted earlier this year**.
- (ii) **Gold in cash approx. INR 40 crore** were **seized**

**71. What is gold smuggling syndicate approx. 9 crore?**

- (i) In Mumbai, DRI dismantled a gold smuggling syndicate and **seized contraband and cash**
- (ii) **Gold and cash approx. INR 9 crore** were **seized**



72. **What is crystal methamphetamine seizure approx. 2 KG?**

- DRI also seized approx. **2 kg** of crystal methamphetamine **from a passenger** arriving **from Muscat** at Kozhikode airport.

73. **What is annual report for year ending March 31, 2025?**

- DRI's "Smuggling in India Report 2024-25" **highlighted increasing use of cryptocurrencies and stablecoins for illegal payments** in drug and gold smuggling networks.

74. **What is CBI booked 2 former DRI officers?**

- CBI recently booked **2 former DRI officers** in an alleged **INR 50 lakh bribery case** connected to a businessman under investigation.

75. **What are the recent major seizures?**

- Busting a clandestine mephedrone manufacturing unit** in Maharashtra.
- Seizure of hydroponic weed** at Delhi and Kochi airports.
- Detection of misuse of import licences** and diversion of imported PVC resin.
- Seizure of smuggled cigarettes** and codeine-based cough syrup consignments.

76. **What are the recent major actions?**

- Gold smuggling syndicates**
- Narcotics trafficking**
- Customs fraud**
- Trade-based money laundering**
- Multiple seizures involving smuggled gold, methamphetamine and container misdeclaration cases** have been reported in recent months

77. **What are the best mediums for knowing official DRI's updates?**

- You can track **ongoing notifications, investigations, vacancies and summons** on the official DRI portal: **www.dri.nic.in**



## Chapter VII – Updates on the National Investigation Agency (NIA)

**78. What are major activities?**

- NIA continues active **investigations in terrorism**, cross-border networks and **organised anti-national activities**.

**79. What are expansions of operation capacity?**

- **Recruitment for senior police**, prosecution and scientific forensic posts is presently underway, indicating **further expansion of operational capacity**.

**80. What are major investigations?**

- NIA has remained **in focus in** matters linked to **extradition** and interrogation of accused in **major terror cases** including the **26/11** Mumbai attack **investigations**.

**81. What are the best mediums for knowing official NIA's updates?**

- You can track **ongoing notifications**, investigations, vacancies and **summons** on the official NIA portal: **www.nia.gov.in**



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