

Alok Verma case brings CVC Chowdary back into spotlight

Agency
New Delhi, Jan. 16

Doubts raised by Alok Verma over the role played by Central Vigilance Commissioner K V Chowdary in the investigation against him leading to his ouster as CBI Director have put the spotlight back on the former Indian Revenue Service Officer. The high-powered committee that ordered Verma's removal cited the findings of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to remove Verma. The former CBI director has alleged that Chowdary came to meet him acting as "arbitrator" on behalf of Rakesh Asthana, Verma's former deputy who levelled the allegations against Verma, and that Chowdary did not reveal this in the CVC report submitted to the Supreme Court. Justice (ret'd) A K Patnaik, who supervised the CVC report, has also said it had "no evidence of corruption" against Verma. Annex-IRS officer of the 1978 batch, Chowdary, who was appointed in 2015, is not new to controversies. During Chowdary's stint as the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman in 2014, the Income Tax had conducted investigations into some diaries seized

during raids on the offices of Birla and Sahara companies, which allegedly reflected payments to various politicians, including Narendra Modi during his time as Gujarat Chief Minister. NGO Common Cause had gone to court alleging a cover-up, while the Opposition had said Sahara got immunity from prosecution in order to screen beneficiaries of the illegal pay-offs. The Indian Express had reported how the Income Tax Settlement Commission granted immunity from prosecution and penalty to Sahara India. However, in January 2017, the Supreme Court had rejected a plea by Common Cause for criminal investigation into the alleged recovery of papers by the CBI and Income Tax, saying democracy would be hampered if a probe was ordered against Constitutional functionaries on the basis of "loose and inadmissible" documents. At the time of Chowdary's appointment, lawyer Prashant Bhushan had raised the issue that Chowdary's name found mention in the visitors' log maintained at the house of then CBI director Ranjit Sinha, at a time when Chowdary was being investigated by the agency

for his alleged role in a Ponzi scheme and the Moin Qureshi probe. Bhushan had also alleged that Chowdary had not acted on evidence available in the case of the Niira Radia tapes, and had extended a tax benefit of Rs 200 crore to late liquor baron Ponty Chadha. The Supreme Court had, however, upheld Chowdary's appointment as he had been given a clean chit by the CBI. Incidentally, former Central Vigilance Commissioner P J Thomas had to resign under similar circumstances in 2011, under then UPA government, because his name had figured in a 20-year-old case — though he had been given a clean chit by both the CBI and Intelligence Bureau. While he was Member (Investigations) in Income Tax, in 2013, Chowdary had monitored raids against companies of Nitin Gadkari's Puri Group, leading to his stepping down as BJP president. Chowdary's appointment as Central Vigilance Commissioner had been surprising, as he was the first non-IAS officer chosen for the post. Bureaucrats in the PMO and the Cabinet Secretariat, mostly IAS, are believed to have resisted the appointment on this ground.

Chowdary is believed to have impressed Finance Minister Arun Jaitley with his detailed insight into the Moin Qureshi case. Qureshi's name had found mention in many election speeches by Narendra Modi in the run-up to the elections that saw him being swept to power. Chowdary is said to have a phenomenal memory, particularly regarding cases handled by him. Jaitley is said to have been also impressed at his ability to recall details of the HSBC Geneva case, dealing with the list of Indians having cash stashed abroad. Chowdary had been involved in the HSBC investigation first as Director General of I-T (Investigations), Delhi, starting 2011, and then as Member (Investigations) after August 2012. A soft-spoken man with a polite demeanour, Chowdary always sports a red tilak on his forehead. Inside his office at Sarkata Bhawan, his table is surrounded with photographs of god and goddesses, while one can always hear mantras playing on low volume. He will be in office till October this year, when he turns 65. Chowdary did not respond to repeated calls and text messages.

Assam Rifles Celebrates Army Day

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 16

Units of IGAR (South) celebrated 71st Army Day on 15 January. Tulihaal Battalion organised a Medical Camp at Patsoi village and conducted a motivational lecture cum presentation on avenues to join the Indian Army at Sarita Devi Boxing Academy Mayang Imphal. As part of the Medical Camp organised by Patsoi Company Operating Base (COB), the Regimental Medical Officer along with the medical team attended to over 300 patients including children, ladies and elderly people and distributed free medicines to all. Mayang Imphal COB on the other hand organised a motivational lecture cum presentation on various avenues to join the Indian Army followed by weapon display at Sarita Devi Boxing Academy which was attended by over 250 students from Khuman High School, Khuman Maheikol, St Stephen High School, Sur - Rashi School and Nilamang High School, Mayang Imphal. Olympian Boxer Ms Laisram Sarita Devi also graced the occasion as the chief guest and



delivered a motivational speech to the students. The students were inspired to join the Indian Army and were equally excited seeing the weapon display and motivated to become the future 'warriors'. The young minds showed tremendous inquisitiveness regarding the arsenal of the Army. Koirengi COB of Mantripukhari Battalion organised a lecture cum interaction with students of Manipur Public School, Koirengi. The students were shown a motivational video of the Indian Army and were informed about various entry schemes for joining the Indian Army and Assam Rifles. Thoubal COB of Thoubal Battalion also conducted a motivational lecture and

screened a motivational movie for the youth of Thoubal area. Keithelmanbi Battalion conducted a career counseling lecture for the students of Assam Rifles Public School, Keithelmanbi on joining the Indian Armed Forces. A poster and slogan making competition was also conducted for the students. Over 300 students participated in the events. Shangshak Battalion celebrated army day with locals in his area of responsibility in which Sagolmang COB and Litan COB of Shangshak Battalion invited locals including young children from over 20 village. A Lecture was conducted to motivate them to choose Army/Assam Rifles as

career option. The event was attended by over 100 students. The Recruitment procedure, qualifying criteria for entry into various trades, minimum physical standards required, written exam syllabus and reference material, pay and allowances, quality of life in Armed Forces were covered in the lecture. Students felt satisfied and looked motivated to become part of the organisation. All the events conducted by the units were a grand success. Locals and the students conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Assam Rifles for extending these services and requested to continue organising such events and medical camp in future as well.

Moltuk Battallion Organises Excursion to Imphal for Children

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 16

This year's Army Day will be fondly remembered by the children from the border villages of Indo-Myanmar Border. To celebrate the day, Moltuk Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organized an excursion trip for the primary students of the border region to Imphal.

A total of 33 school children between the age group of 10 to 15 years along with 2 primary school teachers were selected for the excursion. The tour began on 13 January 2019 when these children were taken from their villages to Imphal. Next two days they were taken in and around Imphal for a fun filled and educational trip. This included a visit to the INA museum, the Kangla Fort and the Kakching War memorial. The children also enjoyed



boating in the famous Loktak Lake. The unforgettable moment of the trip came when the children met and interacted with Dr Najma Heptullah, Honourable Governor of Manipur on 15 January 2019. The day being celebrated as Army Day across the country could not have been better and more rewarding for the children. For the

children hailing from such remote and far-flung corners of the state, such a meeting and interaction with a distinguished personality is bound to leave a positive and indelible mark on their minds. Indian Army, which operates in the remotest parts of the country and is a witness to the isolation and seclusion of

these people from the mainstream, understands the importance of such small but effective initiatives that would go a long way in achieving national integration. These children are the future of our country and Moltuk Battalion continues to do its bit towards motivating and uplifting the lives of these children.

60 women boxers to be part of National Camp

New Delhi, Jan. 16

All top boxers of the country, including six-time World Champion M.C. Mary Kom and the three other medal winners at the AIBA World Championships held in New Delhi in November are among those 60 pugilists shortlisted for the national camp which began at the IG Stadium rings here yesterday. The World Championships and the 2020 Tokyo probable will also be shortlisted from here. The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has also rewarded pugilists who were among the medals and showed promise at the recently-concluded third Elite Women's National Boxing Championships at

Vijayanagar, Karnataka, has been included for the camp. The campers also include the World Youth Gold Medalists, Nitu (48kg) and Sakshi (57Kg) and 2017 bronze medalist, Astha Pawa (75kg) as they were elevated from youth division to senior camp for the first time. Incidentally, Ali Qamar takes charge as the head coach. The Manchester CWG Gold medalist is no new face to the campers, as the Railways coach with loads of experience, has served as the assistant coach until recently and now elevated to the position of Head Coach of the women's team. The 37-year-old, who is already a favourite among the

pugilists, has now replaced the veteran Shiv Singh and will work alongside Foreign Coach, Raffaele Bergamasco and 10 other assistant coaches. On the induction of Ali Qamar, BFI President, Ajay Singh said that the federation felt the need to infuse young blood into the system. "We want to invest in young and dynamic coaches as we aim to prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Qamar has been around for a long time, as a boxer and now, as a coach. He has not only contributed with exceptional inputs; his insights and strategy have been crucial for the boxers' preparations." The selected 60 comprise a mix of young as well as

experienced boxers. S. Kalavani of Tamil Nadu, Himani Pant of Uttarakhand, Rinki Sharma of Uttar Pradesh, Manju of Madhya Pradesh, Sohini of Chandigarh, Monika of Himachal and Lalita of Rajasthan are some of those who have been richly rewarded as BFI also looks at the future prospects. The campers will also have the benefits of 10 support staff, including doctors, physiotherapists, masseurs, nutritionist and video analysts. The first tournament that the boxers will be aiming after a month-long camp is the Strandja Memorial Cup Boxing to be held in Bulgaria from February 13 to 28.

Somsai Battalion Culminats Series of Women Medicare Camps

IT News
Ukhrul, Jan. 16

Fourth phase of Medicare for Women was conducted on 15 January 2019 in Tushar village of Ukhrul District by Somsai Battalion of 10 Sector Assam Rifles under aegis of IGAR (South). Over 250 civilians including ladies were treated and free medicines were distributed to the needy patients. Since 10th to 15th January 2019 a series of medical camps at Khangkhui, Lunghar, Phungcham and Tushar were held. Over 1000 civilians including



ladies and children of Ukhrul district benefitted with medical facilities at their doorstep.

The aim of this initiative was to provide free medical treatment and consultations to the

villagers where requisite medical facilities are not yet available due to remoteness of the area.

Sajik Battalion Assam Rifles Organizes Medical Camp

IT News
Chandel, Jan. 16

As part of the continued endeavor of the Assam Rifles towards improving health care and to provide basic facilities, Sajik Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) Project 2018-19 organised a Medical Camp and installed two Solar Street Lights at Village T

Jangnum, Chandel district on 14th January 2019 under OP SADBHAVANA Project. To alleviate the problems faced by the villagers due to the prevalent socio-economic conditions and remoteness of the location and no access to primary health services, a medical camp was organised for the village of T Jangnum and its inhabitants. Medical officer, Sajik

Battalion with three nursing staff provided free medical treatment and distributed free medicine to the people of T Jangnum and adjoining villages. A total of 264 patients (112 male, 90 female and 62 children) were provided treatment. Apart from providing necessary medical attention, basic knowledge on health education, hygiene and sanitation was also

imparted. In conjunction with the medical camp, two Solar Street lights were also installed in this village which doesn't have any electricity connection yet. The medical camps and Solar Lights distribution were well received by the local populace and they expressed their heart felt gratitude for the efforts taken by Assam Rifles to improve their lives.