



Beneath the hullabaloo
Tavleen Singh

The Indian EXPRESS

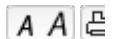
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DGP Hassan Gafoor retires, but sans ceremonial fanfare

Sagnik Chowdhury : Mumbai, Tue Jan 04 2011, 01:12 hrs



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Director General of Police (Anti-Corruption Bureau) Hassan Gafoor, who was caught in controversies surrounding the Mumbai Police's response during the 26/11 terror attack, retired on December 31 after 36 years in the force. But in an unusual deviation from tradition, he neither got a customary farewell dinner nor parade.

Senior state police officers pointed out that usually when a DGP rank officer is due to retire from the force a farewell dinner is arranged in his or her honour at the Worli Police Officers' Mess the night before the retirement. This is followed by a parade by the Local Arms department and a send-off by IPS officers at Naigaon Police Parade Ground the next morning.

"In Gafoor's case, neither of these two traditions were followed. His retirement was conspicuous by the subdued manner in which he left the force. He himself did not choose to make a big deal about his retirement after the controversies he got caught in towards the end of his career," said an officer, who did not wish to be named.

Officers also pointed out that the low-key nature of his exit was surprising given the fact that while D Sivanandhan from the 1976

batch of IPS and the current state DGP is the top police officer in the state, Gafoor was two batches senior to him and the seniormost IPS officer in the state.

Other officers reasoned that there was no ceremony surrounding Gafoor's retirement as it took place on New Year's Eve, when the entire police force had its hands full with security related duties in the light of a terror alert issued for the city.

Asked for his reaction, Gafoor said: "It was not possible as the force was busy with security on the night of December 31".

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