

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY,
HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE**

IN THE

**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE &
PERSONNEL, P.G. & PENSIONS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 13TH D.P. KOHLI MEMORIAL LECTURE**

ON

**'MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL INVESTIGATION-
OPERATION UNMASK'**

BY

SHRI RONALD K. NOBLE, SECRETARY GENERAL, INTERPOL

**AT 1600 HRS
ON FRIDAY 30TH MARCH 2012**

AT

**PLENARY HALL, VIGYAN BHAWAN
NEW DELHI**

Secretary General, Interpol – Mr. Ronald K. Noble

Secretary (Personnel) – Shri P.K. Misra

Director, CBI – Shri A.P. Singh

Former Directors of CBI

Other officers of Govt. of India & NCT, New Delhi

Past & Present members of CBI family

Members of Late Sh. D.P. Kohli's family

Friends from Media,

Ladies & Gentlemen

I express my gratitude to members of the CBI family, who have extended me an invitation to be a part of the 13th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture being organized by CBI today. This annual event provides an opportunity to all of us to pay homage to Late Shri Kohli, Founder Director of CBI, whose visionary thought processes played a stellar role in shaping the course of emergence of CBI as the premier multi-disciplinary investigating agency of India, that enjoys the trust and confidence of various segments of the society. I am happy that Mr. Ronald K. Noble is again back in our country, this time to deliver D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture today.

2. Corruption poses a threat to the very vitals of any nation state. Mahatma Gandhi, Father of our Nation, as way back as in 1947-48, had observed that self-government was not an end in itself, but only a means to good governance. Any system of government could fail if people did not show honesty and a feeling of brotherhood.

3. We, in India, are committed to be a part of all legally binding international corruption mechanisms and instruments. While the mechanism to fight corruption in India essentially revolves around a structure comprising of the Central Vigilance Commission, Vigilance Divisions in all Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings, CBI and Anti-Corruption Bureaux at State levels, Government of India reaffirmed its commitment to take forward its fight against corruption, by introducing the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill in the Parliament.

4. Given the fact that crime no longer recognizes international borders, it is indeed heartening that the international community has recognized the importance of increased co-operation amongst different countries, in an effort to negate the designs of the unscrupulous.

5. In 2011, India ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which came into force in December, 2005 and made it obligatory for all member nations to implement a wide range of anti-corruption measures. In this context, numerous steps have been initiated in India to establish anti-corruption bodies, which are independent, accountable, adequately resourced and have properly trained staff. Steps have also been initiated to ensure that government spending is subjected to safeguards that promote efficiency and transparency. Codes of conduct, requirements for financial and other disclosures and appropriate disciplinary measures have been put in place.

6. This is in consonance with our understanding that corruption and economic crimes, which include money laundering, undermine the

values of democracy, sustainable development and rule of law. I am happy to note that international cooperation against corruption has progressed from general discussions and declarative statements to legally binding agreements and that the definition and understanding of corruption has become broader and so have the measures being adopted to curb it.

7. In order to ensure probity in international public life and foreign business dealings, the Foreigners' Bribery Bill has been introduced in the Parliament in 2011 for preventing corruption relating to foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations. Given that we have ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption, this Bill seeks to bring to justice, illegal acts of both Indian and Foreign Nationals, engaged in international organizations.

8. Once passed by the Indian Parliament, this piece of legislation shall go a long way in addressing the concerns arising out of threats posed by corruption and money power to public institutions. I am sure that countries, with whom we subsequently enter into agreements, shall duly reciprocate India's efforts to enforce the provisions of this Bill, once it is passed by the Parliament.

9. I am also extremely happy to observe that Interpol has initiated a number of steps to coordinate global action against corruption. While steps initiated by it in the field of asset recovery are noteworthy, I am sure that the setting up of Corruption Response Teams and the Interpol Group of Experts on Corruption will harmonize different national and regional approaches to corruption.

10. In February, 2012, CBI organized the *'First Interpol Global Program on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery'* in partnership with the Interpol-Anti Corruption Office. This programme was aimed at capacity building of the agencies involved in fighting corruption and for tracking down the proceeds of corruption and recover illegal assets. It is a welcome step and it has been a huge success. Such deliberations will help in fine-tuning our mechanism to tackle the menace of corruption through global cooperation.

11. I am sure that Indian Law Enforcement Agencies will be able to fully utilize the benefits accruing from participation in various conferences, events and training workshops being organized by Interpol in this context. It need not be re-emphasized that the battle against corruption is half won, if relevant information is freely exchanged between the Anti-Corruption Agencies of various countries and capacity building takes place at the desired pace.

12. India, in addition to various other countries of the Asian and Pacific region, has also endorsed the initiative launched under the joint leadership of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The said initiative, in addition to seeking active public involvement in anti-corruption measures, seeks to develop effective and transparent public service systems, strengthens anti-bribery action and promotes greater integrity in business operations.

13. Through regular exchange of information amongst the various stakeholders, which includes the Government, Civil Society, Business

Organizations and the Donor community, India has attempted to set high anti-corruption standards and bring about tangible changes in the anti-corruption landscape. India's resolve to support the fight against corruption in Asia and the Pacific bore ample testimony by hosting the Conference of ADB-OECD at New Delhi in September, 2011.

14. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the efforts being put in by CBI in India's fight against corruption. I reiterate Govt. of India's resolve to extend all possible assistance to CBI in all its endeavours and wish to assure this august audience that the Govt. stands committed in its efforts to see India emerging as a transparent and corruption free country. I also wish a professionally enriching career to all CBI personnel.

15. Before I end, I once again extend a very warm welcome to Shri Ronald K. Noble, Secretary General, INTERPOL who is in our midst to deliver the D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.
