

Welcome address of DCBI on the occasion of 13th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture
(New Delhi – March 30, 2012)

Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel
Secretary General, INTERPOL
Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
Secretary Personnel
Vigilance Commissioners
Special Director, CBI
Additional Director, CBI
Former Directors, CBI
Family members of Shri D.P Kohli
Members of print and electronic media
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and privilege for me to extend a very warm welcome to each one of you today on the occasion of the 13th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Mr. Ronald Noble, Secretary General, INTERPOL on "Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation".

2. This annual lecture is an occasion for paying homage to the visionary, Founder-Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Shri D.P. Kohli. Shri Kohli headed the organization from 1955 to 1968 a period of 13 years. In leading the battle against corruption and crime, Shri Kohli placed great emphasis on the need for maintaining the highest standards of professional ethics and personal integrity. This has evolved over the years into an organizational culture that is reflected in the motto, "*Industry, Impartiality and Integrity*".

3. I am truly grateful to the Hon'ble Minister for gracing this important occasion with his presence and for agreeing to present the D.P. Kohli Medal for the Best Detective Constable.

4. I extend a special welcome to Mr. Ronald Noble, Secretary General, INTERPOL. He has overseen a period of unprecedented growth at INTERPOL while at the helm of affairs since 2000. He is a visionary and an institution in himself, who has taken INTERPOL to new heights with his untiring efforts in forging strategic and operational co-operation between international police forces and other law enforcement agencies.

5. I am delighted that Mr. Noble has accepted our invitation and agreed to speak on "Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation", a subject of great contemporary relevance. He will share with us INTERPOL's recent experience of an investigation cutting across four countries against an international group of internet hackers.

6. The world is shrinking rapidly each day with increasing integration of economies and financial processes due to rapid advances in information technology and the spread of the internet. The Internet as we all know recognizes no boundaries and is the single most important tool for achieving a closely integrated, seamless world. Internet pervades all our activities be they economic, financial, or social and is the most efficient tool for communication and knowledge-sharing. The dissolving of national boundaries in the cyber world has, however, also enlarged the footprint of crime. It has given an unprecedented reach to criminals for perpetrating crimes including cyber-crimes across national boundaries.

7. Financial integration has facilitated the parking of proceeds of crime in international safe havens. These developments pose new challenges to the law enforcement agencies due to complex legal and procedural issues involved in such investigations.

8. The growing consensus for greater international cooperation in the fight against corruption is reflected in the 'The United Nations Convention against Corruption.' India is among the 140 countries that have signed this landmark convention and has ratified the same last year. The convention provides for mutual legal assistance in gathering and transferring of evidence for use in court, and cooperation in extradition of offenders. The provisions pertaining to the tracing, freezing, forfeiting and returning of funds obtained through corrupt activities are of great significance for developing countries.

9. CBI has been designated as the National Central Bureau of India and is responsible for all coordination with INTERPOL as well as execution of Letters Rogatory and Extradition matters. CBI

accord highest priority in responding to references received from INTERPOL and extends all cooperation for timely execution of LRs received by India as well as co-ordinating visits by foreign investigation teams. Intelligence is regularly shared with other Law Enforcement Agencies through INTERPOL.

10. I am prompted to cite a recent example of international cooperation to fight trans-border crime. Recently, NCB-India with the close cooperation extended by NCB-Bangkok and NCB-Hanoi, apprehended 5 Red Notice subjects wanted in the Gold Sukh Case of Jaipur. These fugitives have recently been deported by Vietnam to India. They were Directors of M/s. Gold Sukh Trade India Ltd., Jaipur and had misappropriated funds to the tune of Rs. 300 crores.

11. CBI is also playing an important role in developing an institutional forum for promoting greater cooperation between law enforcement agencies and for enhancing the capabilities and skills of investigators from all over the world. A 'Cyber and Hi-Tech Crime Investigation and Training Centre' has been established at the CBI Academy, Ghaziabad where training in use of cyber forensic tools, investigation of e-banking frauds etc is being imparted to officers of CBI and other law enforcement agencies of India. Training has also been imparted to officers from Nepal, Myanmar and some countries from Africa.

12. In February this year, CBI organized the 'First INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery', which was a great success.

13. I am also pleased to announce that CBI and Interpol are in the process of finalising a MOU to set up a Research and Innovation Centre for combating Telecommunication Crimes.

14. With a view to enable CBI to follow up the execution of pending LRs on real time basis and maintain close liaison with other law enforcement agencies, it was proposed to post Police Liaison Officers from the CBI in countries with whom we deal most frequently in criminal matters. The MHA has recently accorded "in principle" approval for posting of PLOs in 3 countries ie USA, UK and UAE. I am hopeful that these posts will be operationalized shortly.

15. Today, when we are paying homage to Shri D.P. Kohli through this Memorial Lecture, I wish to highlight some of the excellent work done by CBI in the recent past. During 2011, CBI was entrusted with investigation of several important and sensitive cases by the Constitutional Courts and State Governments such as the 2G Spectrum Scam; CWG cases; misuse of welfare schemes like NRHM, NREGA; Obulapuram Mining case; EMAAR group of cases; Adarsh Society case; murders of Bhanwari Devi and Shehla Masood. In all these cases the investigations were either successfully concluded or are in their final stages.

16. Last year also saw the introduction of the Lokpal Bill in Parliament. The pivotal role of CBI in the Anti-Corruption apparatus of the country was highlighted before the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Committee was apprised that in the 70 years since its inception, CBI has evolved into the Premier Investigating and Prosecuting Agency of the country. The need for greater functional and financial autonomy to CBI, while retaining its present structure, was also stressed.

17. It was heartening to note that during the parliamentary debate on Lokpal a number of parties across the board demanded a stronger and more autonomous CBI.

18. I would like to assure all those present here that the CBI would continue to do its best to fulfil its mandate and also the confidence reposed in it by the Government, judiciary and the general public.

19. I am sure, Mr. Noble's address today would provide a road map for greater international cooperation in combating crime. Given his vast experience and knowledge on the subject, there could not have been a more suitable person than Mr. Noble to deliver today's Memorial Lecture.

20. I am deeply grateful to the Hon'ble Minister, Secretary (Home), Secretary, DoPT, Vigilance Commissioners, retired Directors of CBI and all other invitees, especially the media, for their support, help, guidance and constructive criticism, all of which has helped the CBI to perform better. I hope CBI will continue to have your good wishes and whole hearted support in future too. May I now request the Hon'ble Minister for Personnel to give away the award for the Best Detective Constable of CBI.