

**Speech by**

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

**IN THE**

**(PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND PERSONNEL,  
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 14<sup>TH</sup> D.P. KOHLI MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**ON**

**“GOOD GOVERNANCE: EMPOWERING  
INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETY AND PUBLIC”**

**By**

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE,  
PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

**AT 1100 HRS ON  
6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013**

**AT**

**PLENARY HALL, VIGYAN BHAWAN,  
NEW DELHI**

Hon'ble President of India;  
Secretary (Personnel), Shri P.K. Mishra;  
Director, CBI, Shri Ranjit Sinha;  
Former Directors of CBI;  
Other officers of Govt. of India & NCT, New Delhi;  
Family Members of Late Sh. D.P. Kohli;  
Friends from Media;  
Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Anniversaries are occasions to celebrate, and there is much to celebrate on a fiftieth anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the CBI. During its fifty years of existence, CBI has discharged with distinction its duty under the law of land and we are thankful to Hon'ble President of India who is in our midst today for having agreed to share his thoughts with us. Hon'ble President has the richest experience in public life spanning several decades, and we would be immensely benefited by his sagacity and wisdom.

2. Observance of Golden Jubilee is an appropriate occasion for introspection on its objectives and vision; and the path it has traversed. It also provides an opportunity for re-engineering its functioning to meet future challenges. More so, when the public mood with regard to corruption is changing from passive receptivity to active quest, in quantitative and qualitative terms, the need for transformation is urgent and real.

3. CBI is a fifty-year young organization that has become an iconic institution in the field of investigation of crime and corruption. Just as the strength of an edifice lies in its foundation, the strength of an organization lies in its core values and intrinsic culture. By dint of his exceptional caliber and broad vision, the founder Director of CBI, Shri Dharmanath Prasad Kohli imbibed the values of 'Industry, Impartiality and Integrity' that enabled the CBI to emerge as nation's premier investigation agency. The foundation he laid and example that he set, has been a major factor in what the CBI has achieved for the past 50 years. There could not have been a more befitting tribute to the founder director than instituting an annual memorial lecture.

4. We are fortunate to have Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India to address this august assembly on "*Good Governance: Empowering Institutions, Society and Public*". Our President with his long and illustrious public service of five decades is an authority on issues of Governance. His deep understanding of the challenges facing the country makes him an eminent authority to deliberate on this topic of great relevance. Today's lecture of a scholar-statesman will guide us in addressing the future challenges more resolutely and will go a long way in ensuring probity in public life.

5. Governance denotes the whole gamut of activities right from policy making at the highest level to the delivery of goods and significant services to the citizens. The present state of affairs in the country indicates though progress has been made on many fronts, we have to put in place more systems for good governance.

6. Good institutions are critical for Good Governance and our future. Over centuries, human beings have evolved the institutions with which human society conducts its affairs, in economic and political spheres. Institutions of politics, democracy, and government must evolve in line with our evolving concepts of social justice and human rights. A democracy shall not be an election time democracy, but a deliberative democracy in which citizenship has the right to understand the rules, and to shape the rules by which society governs itself. The administrative reforms are no longer measures that could be deferred to a later date. They are urgent and crucial.

7. Corruption is a key issue in governance and the Planning Commission has emphatically stated that “Good governance is not possible without addressing corruption in its various manifestations”. The right to good governance is also considered as an essential part of the citizen’s rights that one can expect from the government. Corruption can be curbed by systematic changes in governance like enhancing citizen participation and promoting transparency, accountability and probity in administration.

8. Citizen-centric governance is a natural and essential phenomenon in a democratic set up. Today, there is need to evolve processes that are responsive to the expectations of the citizen. Excellence in governance can be achieved through improvement in government structures and processes, by way of promoting transparency and accountability in all our actions with emphasis on grievance redressal, innovations in e-Governance, and quick adaptation to best practices which are successfully implemented elsewhere. The need of the hour is efficient and effective delivery of public services. To achieve these, it is necessary to bring about administrative reforms.

9. The second Administrative Reforms Commission was set up in August, 2005 to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the Public Administration System and to suggest measures to achieve a proactive, responsive, accountable, sustainable and efficient administration for the country at all levels of government. The ARC has presented 15 Reports to the Government for consideration, making recommendations on a number of topical issues to improve delivery of public services and bringing in transparency and accountability in public decision making, which inter alia include, Civil Service Reforms, Personnel Administration, Ethics in Governance, Citizen-Centric Administration, Public Order, Effective Administration at State and District level, etc.

10. The government has taken various measures to improve governance and integrity in public services which include measures like enacting RTI in the year 2005. A comprehensive ‘Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011’ is being considered by the Parliament. ‘The Whistle Blowers Protection Bill 2011’ intended to provide protection to whistle-blowers was passed by the Lok Sabha and is presently with the Rajya Sabha.

11. ‘The Right of Citizens for time-bound delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill’ was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20th December 2011, and has since been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. This bill is intended to make the Citizens’ Charter statutory and to endow the public with the right to delivery of goods and services.

12. India ratified the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption* in May, 2011. The Convention has entered into force for India on 8th June 2011. With a view to ensuring full compliance with this Convention, ‘The Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill 2011’ was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Bill is under consideration of the Government.

13. The National e-Governance Plan was approved by the Government with the vision to “Make all Government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man”. A network of more than one lakh Common Service Centers for electronic delivery of public services to citizens in rural areas has been rolled out.

14. *The Public Procurement Bill, 2012* was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to regulate public procurement by all Ministries and Departments of the central government, Central Public Sector Enterprises and bodies controlled by the Central Government to ensure transparency, fair and equitable treatment of bidders, promoting competition and enhancing efficiency and economy in the procurement process. The Bill would create a statutory framework for public procurement which will provide greater accountability, transparency and enforceability of the regulatory framework.

15. CBI is the premier investigation agency of our country. It sets standards and benchmarks for investigation for other law enforcement agencies to follow, particularly in cases of corruption. In the past 50 years, the CBI has set highest standards of professionalism and insulated itself from the influence of extraneous considerations, particularly political pressure, in its work.

16. It is time for CBI to take note of the growing significance of anti-corruption agenda in international economic relations. G-20, of which India is a member, has framed an Anti-corruption Action Plan and set up a working group on the subject. CBI must review, upgrade and strengthen its capacity for multi-jurisdictional investigation. In short, CBI has to prepare to work across the globe in the coming decade. The Government is fully committed to support the CBI in building the requisite capacity to meet these challenges.

17. Recently, the Government sanctioned 22 additional Special courts in addition to 71 courts for trying CBI cases to ensure speedier Justice.

18. Right from inception, CBI believes in silent, diligent teamwork with total commitment to truth, in the best traditions of our civil services. Premature publicity given to the cases under investigation leads to media trial that can harm the cause of justice.

19. Anti-corruption institutions like CBI require full functional autonomy to deliver results and our government is committed to this. Our government will continue to support all efforts of the CBI to maintain the highest levels of personal conduct to ensure speedy and timely completion of investigations, to strengthen the processes of prosecution and to bring in reforms in the organization, wherever necessary.

20. I am confident that the CBI would lead such an effort so that the institution becomes a beacon light to our society and polity, and ensures probity in public life.

21. I thank the Director, CBI for inviting me to this function and I wish the CBI every success in the decades ahead in fulfilling its mandate.

Thank You.

Jai Hind.

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