

XIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF STATE ACBx & CBI, 2012
10th October, 2012 (Wednesday)
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

WELCOME ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR, CBI

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister,
2. Hon'ble Home Minister,
3. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development,
4. Hon'ble Minister for Personnel,
5. Advisor to the Prime Minister,
6. National Security Advisor,
7. Central Vigilance Commissioner,
8. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister,
9. Cabinet Secretary,
10. Secretary Personnel,
11. Heads of Anti Corruption Bureaus,
12. Heads of Central Police Organizations,
13. Former Directors, CBI,
14. Award winners and their families,
15. Members of the Media,
16. Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my proud privilege to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this 19th Conference of the Heads of State Anti Corruption Bureaus and the CBI.

2. It is a matter of great honour for us that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has always accepted our invitation to inaugurate these conferences and shown keen interest in the deliberations.

3. The Government under his leadership has taken a number of initiatives to tackle corruption, the foremost being :-

- i. Introducing the Lokpal Bill in both Houses of Parliament.
- ii. The ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- iii. Membership of the Financial Action Task Force.
- iv. Introduction of the Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill, 2011 and also initiating a proposal to make bribery in private sector a criminal offence by bringing an amendment in the Indian Penal Code.

4. During the last conference held in 2011, a number of resolutions were also adopted by the House. Substantial progress has been made on those resolutions. As a result :-

- i. The quarterly meetings between the Heads of State ACBs, the Vigilance Bureaus and the concerned Heads of Zones of CBI for sharing of information and mutual cooperation have taken place on a regular basis.
- ii. The Report of the Special Working Groups set up for standardization of various norms applicable to the set up and processes of Anti Corruption agencies and for simplification of legal provisions for attachment of properties acquired through corrupt and illegal means have been finalized and submitted to the Government for consideration.
- iii. An unanimous recommendation to make this Conference annual instead of bi-annual has also been implemented.

5. Over the years, this Conference has served as a platform for discussion on various issues related to corruption which have an impact on governance. It has proved to be of immense importance in improving the co-ordination and co-operation between the CBI and the State ACBs and has provided a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach in combating corruption. It has also helped us to constantly examine our institutional capabilities, share our experiences, build integrity institutions and establish long term processes for identification and elimination of corrupt systems and practices.

6. The State ACBs in a number of States have also done excellent work in the field of anti corruption. Their role in this partnership is of immense importance, and on many occasions, the co-ordination between the CBI and the State ACBs have produced very successful results. If such co-ordination and co-operation between the State and Central Vigilance Agencies is further strengthened then the impact of our collective drive against corruption would be far more effective.

7. While there is no doubt that direct inflow of funds through Centrally sponsored rural sector schemes such as Manrega, NRHM, PMGSY have brought a measure of prosperity in rural areas, a more effective anti-corruption mechanism, to monitor proper utilization of funds would help in ensuring that this prosperity gets distributed equitably. We need to have built in monitors in these schemes to check the flow of funds at every level to ensure that it reaches the beneficiaries. This would not be possible at the grass root level without direct monitoring by the Anti Corruption Bureaus or without their active cooperation. The CBI Academy in Ghaziabad is a well equipped internationally recognized training centre especially equipped with the latest technology for fighting cyber crimes and other hi-tech frauds. We welcome all the States to make full use of our facilities for training their ACB personnel in the latest techniques to combat graft.

8. As the country develops economically and builds better infrastructure, it is imperative that the fruits of this development reach all sections of society.

9. In this scenario, the rationale behind any vigilance activity is not to reduce, but to enhance the effectiveness of the government delivery mechanism. Anti-corruption cases drag on for years, leading to the impression that the system offers no retribution for wrong doing. Not only should it be ensured that the guilty are punished adequately, care should also be taken to ensure that they are punished promptly.

10. It is also important that Vigilance Organizations take care to ensure that their activities do not stifle genuine risk taking and every loss resulting from a bona-fide commercial decision does not necessarily become the subject matter of a vigilance enquiry. Agencies engaged in vigilance administration should step in only when there exist specific allegations of abuse of official position, demand or acceptance of illegal gratification, acquisition of disproportionate assets or evidence of misappropriation, cheating, forgery or similar criminal offences. We in Vigilance Organizations must remember that it is always easier to be wiser in hindsight.

11. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister for Personnel for their continued support to the CBI in all our initiatives. With the government sanctioning creation of 71 additional exclusive CBI courts for trial of anti-corruption cases, 66 of which are functional, the time lag between filing of charge sheets and securing of judgments is already showing a decreasing trend. The CBI has at present a capacity to investigate about 1000 cases every year. This figure has been static for the past two decades owing to constraints of manpower. In view of the large number of cases being assigned to the Bureau by the Constitutional Courts and the increasing demands from the States for CBI investigation as well as growing economic offences and bank fraud cases of great magnitude, there is an urgent need to increase the capacity of the organization to investigate at least another additional 1000 cases a year. A comprehensive proposal for a major expansion of the CBI to ensure that we are able to cater to current needs of the Constitutional Courts, State Governments and other Central Government Organizations has been sent to the Government for favorable consideration.

12. During these two days of the Conference, we would deliberate on various key issues and the strategies to effectively tackle corruption but at the same time ensuring that we are not an impediment but facilitators in the economic development of the country. I am sure that by the end of the conference, we will come up with some concrete solutions which are both practical and doable.

13. On behalf of all the delegates present here, I assure the Hon'ble Prime Minister that we will all work together to take strong deterrent and timely legal action while ensuring that the innocent are not harassed.

14. Sir, once again I thank you for your gracious presence today which is a source of encouragement for all of us. It has further strengthened our resolve in the fight against corruption.

15. Finally, I would like to congratulate all the award winners and their families and to say that we are all extremely proud of them and hope that they will continue to earn laurels for their organization and the country in the future as well.
