

WELCOME SPEECH BY DCBI

Hon'ble Minister of state for Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanti Natarajan,

My dear colleagues from CBI,

The team of INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme,

Senior officers of MoEF, NTCA, WCCB, TRAFFIC, WWF

Distinguished Dignitaries,

Eminent faculty,

Distinguished Participants,

Members of media and press,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of CBI, It is my great pleasure and honour to extend a warm welcome to you all to the valedictory ceremony of the five day programme on Integrated Investigative Capacity Building And Operational Planning For Asian Big Cat Related Crimes.

We are indeed fortunate to have with us today Smt. Jayanti Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of state for Environment and Forests as chief guest of the concluding ceremony. She is a key figure in formulating the environmental policies of the nation. First of all, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to the Chief Guest

of today's function, who has blessed this programme right from the days of its planning. It is also befitting that she should preside over this valedictory session of this five day capacity building programme focused on Asian Big Cat related crimes.

Madam, the team of INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme represented by Ms. Ioana Botezatu and the eminent law enforcement and conservation officers of India have conducted this immensely useful capacity building programme. This INTERPOL initiative is supported by TRAFFIC and US AID. It is part of Project Predator.

I am especially pleased to welcome Member Secretary NTCA, Sri Rajesh Gopal and Additional Director WCCB, Sri SB Negi, Asia Region Director of TRAFFIC, Mr. James Compton who have been actively associated with this initiative and without whose cooperation, organizing this kind of Regional Capacity Building programme in this highly specialized area would not have been possible.

The participants had the benefit of listening to and learning from a very distinguished panel of experts. Each one of them possesses rich experience of conservation of tiger and they all have been in the forefront of law enforcement in India and South Asia. I salute their commitment to the cause of preserving wildlife.

Madam, in this programme, we have participants from eight South Asian countries and they belong to important law enforcement agencies like Police, Customs and Forest Departments.

Last but not the least, I also extend a warm welcome to the representatives from Media and Press to this concluding session of training programme.

On behalf of the CBI, I once again extend a warm welcome to Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, and to all our distinguished guests.

Thank You