

November 11, 2013  
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

## **Welcome Address by Director, CBI in the inaugural session of the XX<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of State ACBx & CBI, 2013**

This is a year of extraordinary significance for the Central Bureau of Investigation. Founded on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1963, the CBI has completed fifty years. This historic occasion has given us the opportunity to host the XX<sup>th</sup> CBI - State Anti Corruption Bureaux Conference as an international conference by inviting delegates not only from the State Anti-corruption Bureaux but also foreign law enforcement agencies.

2. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is amongst us on this day of seminal significance for us. I, on my own behalf, and on behalf of all ranks of the CBI would like to sincerely thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his esteemed presence despite extremely pressing commitments. Sir, you have been a source of constant support and guidance for the organization all these years and we have always looked forward to your wisdom in carrying forward the organization. I am sure sir that you will enlighten us today and lend direction to the deliberations and also show the way ahead to the organization.

3. We are privileged to have amidst us Sh. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology. I extend a very warm welcome to him and am grateful to him for approving the release of a stamp to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of CBI.

4. I am pleased to welcome our Hon'ble Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shri V Narayanasamy who as the patron of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations programme has been instrumental in making this conference possible.

5. CBI in partnership with the State Anti Corruption Bureaux, has been holding biennial conferences to discuss the wide gamut of anti corruption issues. Over time, this forum has matured into a respected voice in shaping the policy discourse on corruption in the country. In 2012, the Government of India enhanced the frequency of the conference to an annual event given the rising profile of anti corruption narrative in the country. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference and is exceptional in more ways than one. It is the first time that the Conference has been opened to international participation. We have amidst us foreign delegates from countries including the United States, Canada, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sweden, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Nigeria, Indonesia, Turkey and Maldives. Additionally, there are delegates from the Australian Federal Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation. 15 expert panelists from INTERPOL, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, International Centre for Sports Security, World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation, Netherlands Forensics Institute and Basel Institute of Governance, Switzerland are also participating in the deliberations. I take this opportunity to extend very warm greetings to all the delegates, observers and participants to the conference. We look forward to pleasant and meaningful interactions during the next two days. I am

hopeful that all of you would avail of this opportunity to visit Delhi and nearby locations to appreciate the history, culture and cuisine of this great country. We would be happy to facilitate your visits

6. As we celebrate the Golden jubilee of our formation, I would like to pay our homage and tribute to the founder Director Late Sh Dharam Nath Prasad Kohli as also all his successors. With steadfast adherence to the values of *Industry, Impartiality and Integrity*, these leaders gave strength and vision to the organization which today stands as the premier law enforcement agency of the country engaged in defending the values of Justice in our great country. To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of CBI, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will be releasing a Stamp of Rs 5 denomination on the CBI in a few moments from now.

7. The efforts of CBI officers who have excelled in duty have been recognized from time to time by the Government. Today, a few more officers will join the ranks of honour. They have been conferred President's Police Medals for their invaluable services and would be fortunate to receive the medals from the Hon'ble Prime Minister. On my own behalf and on behalf of all of us, I congratulate these exceptional achievers.

8. As law enforcement professionals, we face common challenges in this increasingly borderless world in which new forms of crime and corruption are emerging at a rising rate and existing crimes are acquiring greater complexity. In the given context, the principal theme of this Conference is focused on *Evolving Common Strategies to Combat Crime and Corruption*. We could think of no person more worthy than the Sh Kapil Sibal Union Minister of Information & Technology who is also the Union Minister for Law & Justice and a distinguished legal luminary, to deliver the key note address for the conference later today.

9. Let me share with you the outline of the eight working sessions of the conference. The underlying theme of all sessions is to discuss topical transnational issues of investigation and prosecution as also new areas of corruption & crime. In order to lend greater rigour to the deliberations, we have tried to have panelists with a strong international understanding as also diversity in knowledge.

10. Allocation and acquisition of natural resources is a particularly contentious issue in current Indian and global context. While there is a need for fast economic growth necessitating need for quick decisions on exploitation of natural resources the challenge for policy makers is to do it in a manner that there is no scope for impropriety. A session has accordingly been scheduled to discuss corruption issues in management of natural resources. The session on *Developing Protocols for Investigation and Prosecution of Transnational Human Trafficking Offences* is of added significance given that human trafficking is the third largest organized crime in the world and severely affects the South Asian region also. In April 2013, the Government of India amended the law to separately define Human Trafficking as an offence with stringent punishment. CBI has taken the initiative to set up a full fledged unit to investigate Human Trafficking offences. Corporates operating across sovereign jurisdictions are the drivers of economic growth in the world. Fixing of criminal liability of corporations in corruption matters is an increasingly complex challenge for investigators. Therefore a session is devoted to understanding the emerging trends in the world on Corporate Regulation and Fraud Risk Management.

Violation of intellectual property rights is a subject of growing relevance for corporates, governments and other stakeholders. With subtle, but real differences in the patent laws amongst nations and real difficulties in calibration of losses, we hope this Conference would be able to dispel some areas of ambiguity. A major handicap in anti corruption investigations is the growing ability of suspects to quickly transfer ill gotten wealth across national boundaries. While there is unanimous agreement amongst all law enforcement agencies on the necessity of tracking down the proceeds of crime across borders, the outcomes are far from satisfactory. I expect that the conference deliberations on the subject would add to efficacy of investigations. The Hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Sh. P. Chidambaram would be addressing us on a subject of great topical significance, namely, *Building a Criminal Justice System to deal with the Financial Crimes*. We all look forward to his keynote address. Friends, earlier sport was synonymous with fair play and integrity. Today, malpractices have invaded even this realm. We have devoted a session to integrity in sports and hope to discuss the need for a specific law in India to deal with the malaise. In every country multiple agencies are engaged in task of law enforcement in defined areas. Given the exponential growth in technology and globalization, criminals freely operate across geographical boundaries. The need for cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies and issues connected therewith form the focus of an important session.

11. The CBI arose from humble origins taking on corruption in the War and Supplies Department of the Ministry of Defence in British India. The officers consistently proved their mettle under trying circumstances and the mandate of CBI was progressively expanded by the Government. Today the CBI has developed from an anti-corruption body into a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional investigating agency. The CBI now investigates a wide array of crimes including Bank and Securities Frauds, Economic Offences, Conventional crimes, Cyber crimes Wildlife related offences and Antique Smuggling investigations.

12. Ladies and Gentlemen, when I took charge of the CBI a year ago, we assessed the enormity of the changes taking place in the country and world that are rapidly altering our operating environment like never before. In present day information age, knowledge is the currency of power and also the instrument of crime. The goal of our vision for the CBI of the future is to reinvent the organization by absorbing knowledge across all areas of law enforcement. We have conceptualized the building of a Centre of Excellence that will become the fulcrum of our organizational renewal and change. With this objective in mind, we are entering into Knowledge Partnerships with institutions of proven excellence in the national and international arena. We have recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Law School of India University, Bangalore for establishing a dedicated *CBI Chair in Law Enforcement* to strengthen our training, research and capacity building in areas of Law, Investigation and Prosecution. The CBI is also in advanced stages of finalizing an institutional partnership with the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, to modernize our existing management architecture and processes. Similar agreements are underway with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurological Sciences, Bangalore for interactive partnership in forensic psychiatry and development of scientific interrogation techniques, and with the National Forensics Institute at The Hague in the Netherlands for lending greater

scientific support to the investigations. A partnership with The Australian Federal Police is also proposed for seamlessly sharing best practices.

13. Friends, we are the sentinels of justice. In these times of extraordinary change in the world, justice has to be defended not only with adherence to our time tested values but above all through knowledge that is consistently ahead of the violators. It is my fervent hope that the wide ranging deliberations of this conference will be fruitful and a message can go out from this forum that we will convert our exchanges into actionable results and pledge cooperation to one another in protecting justice across borders.

14. Hon'ble, Prime Minister Sir, once again I thank you for your gracious presence which is a source of encouragement for all of us.

Jai Hind!

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