

Speech of Director, CBI on the occasion of Inauguration of Annual 22nd Conference of CBI & State ACBx/Vigilance Bureaux/EOWs

(November 17, 2016 at New Delhi)

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to Shri Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister, to this Annual Conference of Heads of State Anti-Corruption Bureaux and CBI. Sir, we are indeed privileged to have you amidst us to inaugurate the Conference despite your pressing Parliamentary and other official commitments. You have been a source of constant support and guidance to the CBI and we look forward to your address to lend direction to the deliberations.

CBI in partnership with State Anti-Corruption Bureaux has been holding this Conference over several decades to discuss the whole range of legal, policy and capacity issues relating to anti corruption. This is the 22nd Conference and is significant in more ways than one. It is for the first time that the Conference has been opened to Heads of Economic Offences Wings of States. This is a well considered decision as there are increasing linkages between corruption and economic crimes. I am sure the Conference will be enriched by their participation. I extend a very cordial welcome to all the Heads of Anti-Corruption & State EOWs as also other delegates and Participants to the Conference.

The work of CBI officers who have excelled in duty has always been recognized by the Government. Today, more officers will join the roll of honour by receiving the Police Medal for Meritorious Service from the Hon'ble Minister. On my own behalf and on behalf of all of us, I congratulate these exceptional achievers and their families.

Friends, The citizens of 21st Century India, want accountable Governance. They expect their complaints and inputs on corruption to receive prompt and effective response from agencies concerned. Therefore, our first working session is devoted to deliberations on establishing a National Anti-Corruption Citizen Support Centre which would provide a 24x7 Single Point of contact for citizens. Hopefully, the discussions will be fruitful and we can go to Government of India very shortly with a concrete proposal for establishing this Centre. This will be a landmark initiative in empowering citizens to fight corruption.

The conference would also deliberate on the legislative & regulatory gaps that have led to widespread growth of Ponzi schemes all across the country in which crores of innocent citizens have been cheated. CBI investigations into these scams have enabled us to

identify the weaknesses in existing laws and regulations which have been exploited by the scamsters. We have been actively engaged with the Government of India in bringing a new legislation to ban these illegal deposit taking activities. The discussions with all States would go a long way in giving strength to the new legislation which may be introduced in the Parliament shortly.

Friends, there has never been a greater need for information sharing and coordination amongst Law enforcement agencies of the Centre and States. Individually, considerable information rests with the agencies but the challenge is to pool it together meaningfully leading to more effective law enforcement action. As you all know this is easier said than done. So, one Session would study this issue of enhancing cooperation amongst State & Central agencies by building protocols that take note of the concerns of each body. I am sure it will help break silos and there are gains for all stakeholders in the exercise.

Friends, In these times of extraordinary change in India & the world, Justice has to be defended through new knowledge. In CBI, we have completed the ground work for setting up of three world class institutions namely the International Centre for Excellence in Investigation, International Centre for Excellence in Forensic Science & a Centralised Technology Vertical. These Institutions are expected to come up in the near future & will enhance our investigative capacity in field of Human Resources, Forensic & Technology. We will happily share the expertise and resources of these Institutions with sister agencies in the Centre & the States to make law enforcement stronger.

Ladies & Gentlemen, The Government of India has taken the challenge of Corruption & Black Money head on by initiating several bold measures. It is my fervent hope that the deliberations of this Conference will lead to actionable outcomes so that the fight against corruption and crime is waged more strongly across the country and beyond our individual jurisdictions.

Once again, I welcome the Hon'ble Minister, distinguished guests, delegates and participants to the Conference.

Thank You,

Jai Hind.