

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY,
HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE
(PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
PERSONNEL,P.G. &PENSIONS AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 12TH D.P. KOHLI MEMORIAL LECTURE
ON
'COUNTER TERRORISM &
POLICE LEGITIMACY'
BY
LORD IAN BLAIR**

**AT 1700 HRS
ON
3RD JUNE 2011**

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

Lord Ian Blair, Former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, London,

Shri A.P. Singh, Director, CBI

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pleasure to me, to be present here on the occasion of the 12th Annual D.P.Kohli Memorial Lecture being organized by the CBI. It is an event which provides an opportunity to all of us to pay homage to Late Sh. Kohli, the Founder-Director of this organization. CBI today is the culmination of the vision of its founder.

2. The excellence and credibility, associated with the CBI, are the outcomes of the systems and procedures established by Sh. Kohli, during the long tenure of 13 years for which he worked as the Director. It is appropriate that the values and ideals of Sh. Kohli are recollected by the organization every year through this Memorial Lecture. I join the CBI family in paying tributes to the memory of this great institution builder of modern India.

3. CBI is rightly considered to be the premier multi-disciplinary investigating agency of India today. It has successfully investigated and prosecuted a number of highly complicated and challenging cases. One of the most important reasons, behind the glorious success stories of the CBI, is the tradition of its teamwork, backed by collective and painstaking work on the part of each member of these teams.

4. It calls for the highest degree of dedication, professionalism, sincerity and hard work, to solve complicated crimes entrusted to the CBI. These essential qualities of a successful investigator are rightfully acknowledged by the CBI, by presenting the award of Best Detective Constable / Head Constable every year. I congratulate the winners of these awards, as also the recipients of the Police Medals for Meritorious Services. I am sure that these awardees will serve as role models and motivate their other colleagues in the CBI to perform even better.

5. I took over the charge of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, just about six months back. It has been my constant endeavour to extend the maximum support to the CBI, in terms of all necessary wherewithal including manpower, resources and legal support to meet its professional challenges.

6. Just a month back, CBI has moved into its own new headquarters building, and I am sure that it will greatly enhance the efficiency of the organization. On this occasion, let me assure all of you that the Government will continue to provide its fullest support to CBI in all respects.

7. It is a matter of special privilege to me, to welcome Mr. Ian Blair on this occasion. Mr. Blair has had an outstanding and distinguished career in one of the best and most well-known police departments in the world. The topic on which he would be speaking today - 'Counter Terrorism and Police Legitimacy' - is of paramount importance for all police officers across the world. However, it gains a higher

importance in the Indian context, more so because CBI has, in the recent past, been given the responsibility of investigation of some such cases which involve the issues of police legitimacy.

8. There is no doubt that terrorism, regardless of motivation, has to be condemned and countered, and for this, suitable and specific laws are also required to be put in place. But we have to bear in mind that this has to be done, taking all necessary measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of law, and by observing human rights, to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism, whenever and by whom-ever committed. This has to be achieved within the framework of **rule of law**. It is only by way of strictly observing the **rule of law** that will give legitimacy to police and other counter terrorism agencies in their fight against terrorism.

9. The responsibilities to ensure security of our land and to carry out a relentless fight against terrorism are cast upon the governments and also upon each and every citizen of the nation. There is no argument on the fact that the integrity of the state must be preserved and terrorism – the sworn enemy of civil society – which respects neither life, nor law and any human rights, must be suppressed. Yet we must fight this just war using means that are righteous, that are in conformity with our Constitution, our law, and our international obligations. We have to remember what Mahatma Gandhi said – ENDS DON'T JUSTIFY THE MEANS.

10. It is for finding a righteous means to fight fair and just war, that the focus of our government has shifted away from the short-term

benefits of draconian laws and conventional policing to a better understanding of local communities and how they can be made to feel more safe and secure. This refocusing has recognized that community alienation can lead to extremism and violent behaviour. And a solution to this has to be found in the concept of COMMUNITY POLICING.

11. We are no longer focused merely upon surveillance or intervention to prevent terrorist crimes; but increasingly upon the facets of community diversity and obligations which are also reflected in the structure and behaviour of the police force. The community is also encouraged to be a more independent actor in helping the police. With this we seek to promote shared values and support local solutions. We also seek to build civic capacity and leadership and strengthen the role of faith institutions and leaders. Police participation in community projects is an important part of the new police-community engagement that seeks to build resilience to domestic threats of terrorism arising from alienation, anger, frustration and perceptions of poverty and being marginalized.

12. I would also like to suggest that such community engagement schemes should be executed in a transparent manner. In particular, these should be widely advertised in various languages and through the channels of electronic and print media. The community policing projects are underway at different stages in our country, and I am sure that these projects would prove to be immensely successful in enhancing police legitimacy in counter-terrorism efforts.

13. I am also reminded of the importance of interpersonal treatment and behaviour, displayed by the police towards the general public, in the scenarios of anti-terrorist and counter-terrorist operations. Fair and courteous treatment, giving people appropriate and valid reasons for such operations, and explaining their rights, all contribute to an enhanced degree of satisfaction on the part of the masses, and a correspondingly enhanced degree of police legitimacy. If we learn to follow these basic guidelines, I am sure that we will be much more successful in eliciting a better and voluntary cooperation from the public.

14. Each and every police officer, irrespective of the rank, and especially officers at the cutting edge needs to be trained and briefed about the potentially counterproductive impact on their practices, if such guidelines are not followed in their routine interactions with the public. While the suggestions effectively apply to all forms of policing, in the current counter-terrorism context they are of special significance, particularly with regard to stop and search, and screening practices. Officers need to carry out stops and searches with sensitivity and respect. If individual police officers are effectively trained to communicate their activities clearly and respectfully, the risk of undermining police legitimacy is significantly reduced.

15. Another point that comes to my mind is that police should expend significant resources on communicating with the public, and increase the value they ascribe to such communication, which should always be sincere, honest, clear, consistent and reliable. If they fail to do so, unverified and usually false leaks to the ever hungry media,

and rumours from the unscrupulous elements of the society, would fill this information gap. Some of this is likely to cast the police in a negative light.

16. Along with counter terrorism operations, there is a need to analyse trends, sources for such activities, and the best practices adopted by agencies involved in such operations in India and abroad. There is a need to constantly update knowledge on the subject. I hope CBI Academy will provide a knowledge support, and lead as well as guide other institutions in India.

17. Ladies and Gentlemen, I once again welcome Mr. Ian Blair, and thank him for kindly consenting to grace this occasion with his presence. I am sure that all of us are very keenly looking forward to listen the address of Mr. Blair, and to get benefitted by imbibing his ideas and thoughts on the topic for today's Memorial Lecture.

18. I convey my warm wishes to the Director and senior officers of CBI and other CBI personnel on this occasion.

Thank You.

Jai Hind.