

Speech of Director, CBI on the occasion of the **15th D P Kohli Memorial Lecture** on
“Eclipse at Noon: Shadows over India’s Conscience”

April 15th, 2014, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi to deliver the 15th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture organized annually to express our sincere gratitude and to pay homage to our founder Director, Late Shri Dharamnath Prasad Kohli. I, on behalf of entire CBI family, extend to you sir, a very warm welcome.

It is gratifying to note that yearlong Golden Jubilee Celebrations, formally inaugurated by Hon’ble President of India, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee by delivering the 14th Annual D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture, are coming to a conclusion today in the gracious presence of Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, a great scholar-statesman, whose words and deeds are a source of inspiration to all of us.

We are indeed fortunate to have Shri. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, an illustrious Indian Civil Servant and a distinguished diplomat who carries his learning and reputation with grace, to deliver 15th Annual Memorial Lecture on “Eclipse at Noon: Shadow’s on India’s Conscience”. Shri. Gopal Krishna Gandhi was born in 1945 and did his masters in English literature from St Stephen’s College, Delhi University. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1968 and served the state of Tamil Nadu. He also worked with the Vice-President and the President of India before taking voluntary retirement in 1992. Thereafter, Sh. Gandhi held various diplomatic positions. He was Minister, Culture in the High Commission of India, London, High Commissioner to South Africa, Lesotho, Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Norway and Iceland. Following this, he served as Governor of West Bengal during 2004-2009. He has authored “*Sharanam*” a novel about Sri Lankan Tamil labourers working in a tea plantation. He has also written “Of A Certain Age”, a collection of life sketches of 20 prominent personalities from the Gandhi-Nehru era. He has edited “The Oxford India Gandhi: Essential Writings”. His book, My Dear Bapu, is an annotated compilation of correspondence between C. Rajagopalachari and M.K. Gandhi. His profound erudition and deep insights on issues confronting us make him an ideal speaker on the topic of lecture today. We all look forward to your words of wisdom, Sir.

On this momentous occasion in the history of the CBI, I welcome all the distinguished dignitaries to join us in this concluding ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of CBI. On this memorable day, it is my unique privilege to extend a very cordial welcome to all of you on behalf of my colleagues and myself.

I also extend a warm and affectionate welcome to all our former Directors. All of them, in fact, essentially built this great edifice brick by brick over the years through thick and thin and guided the organization which has achieved the proud milestone of Golden Jubilee. It is indeed a thrilling and proud moment in my career to be the Director of CBI during the Golden Jubilee Year. It is an honour and challenge beyond description. Your presence amongst us, on this historic occasion is always welcome and a source of great pleasure and inspiration to all of us.

Shri. D P Kohli, the founder and father-figure of the Central Bureau of Investigation, carefully designed and crafted its infrastructure and directed its affairs for over 13 years during the 1950s and 60s, with great distinction, competence and, above all, integrity of the highest order. In his

careful hands and thoughtful mind, the fledgling investigating agency took shape. From its humble beginnings in the form of Delhi Special Police Establishment, in the past five decades, CBI has gone from strength to strength.

Shri. Kohli's constant emphasis was on quiet efficiency and team work, which define the character of the institution he nurtured. Shri Kohli himself exemplified all the qualities he expected of a CBI officer. He dealt with every situation on its merits without bias or prejudice of any kind whatsoever. The motto he gave the CBI was 'Industry, Impartiality, Integrity'. These three words continue to be the beacon light for all the CBI officers. In a moving farewell letter he wrote to all CBI officers on the eve of his retirement in 1968 he reminded them of this motto and concluded with the exhortation that 'Loyalty to duty comes first, in all matters, at all times and in all circumstances'. His inspiring and enduring legacy provides the countless CBI officers the essential drive and direction to single-mindedly pursue the guilty. To this day and forever, the officers of CBI always hold Sh. DP Kohli in great affection, admiration and esteem.

A short while before, a report on our Golden Jubilee Celebrations was presented. While rejoicing over past achievements, I should inform all of you, that we were not complacent about future. Golden Jubilee for us was an occasion to reflect upon re-engineering of the processes and re-orientation essential to stay committed to the guiding values and philosophy of CBI in order to achieve excellence in the domain of investigation. Accordingly, our motto for the Golden Jubilee year is "In Pursuit of Truth".

With firm focus on the future, CBI took up the initiative to set up a Centre of Excellence that will build knowledge partnerships with leading national and international institutions in the fields of investigation, prosecution, technology, forensics and Law. Today's Law Enforcement and Policing environment is more complex and global than ever before. The threats we face today are increasingly dire in nature and expanding in scope. Policemen worldwide must understand and exploit the potentials of rapidly emerging new technologies that are revolutionizing police practices. When the criminals are constantly discovering and exploiting vulnerabilities and are increasingly professional and organized in their approach, the potential damage is exponential. Therefore, it becomes an imperative for investigating agencies worldwide to enter into structured partnerships and forge strategic alliances. Acknowledging the fact that collaborations and partnerships are key to defeat criminals, CBI has inked MoUs with other Institutions of excellence. I am convinced that these initiatives will bear fruit in the years to come and propel CBI into its next era as an even more effective agency against crime and criminals

Ladies and gentlemen, it has always been the endeavor of the CBI to understand the new areas of crime and reinvent itself to meet the emerging challenges. In January, 2012, the CBI designated one of its units on Anti-Human Trafficking Unit to combat the increasing crimes relating to human trafficking that mainly affect women & children. Incidentally Indian Penal Code was amended a year later to provide enhanced punishment for offences related to human trafficking. CBI has now taken note of growing incidents of corrupt practices in Sports with its deep links to the underworld and to transnational organized crime networks. In the last six months, we have been engaged in understanding the dynamics of corruption in Sports and held discussions with various national & international stakeholders as also the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. We have decided to dedicate one of the CBI Unit to function as Sport Integrity Unit. The stated objectives of this Sport Integrity Unit include investigating and enquiring into matters related to sport frauds,

combating malpractices in sports and coordination with sports federations and law enforcement agencies. We would also be actively engaging with Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports so that a law dealing with corruption in Sports is put in place at the earliest. This would make India one of the very few nations in the world to have a dedicated unit set up as a part of its federal investigative agency to investigate sporting frauds. Currently, only FBI, Australian Federal Police and a few other European countries have sport frauds as a part of their areas of focus. In the years to come we shall further strengthen the Unit and hope to make a substantial contribution in the fight against malpractices in sports. We look forward to support and cooperation from all stakeholders in making this initiative of CBI a success.

Because of very nature of its work, CBI remains under media attention on the national scene and faces severe scrutiny and critical appraisal of every move it makes or does not make. Criticism, fair and also unfair at times, it encounters constantly, does not detract or dishearten it a wee bit. The organization, over the years, has developed mechanisms to introspect periodically and possesses enough resilience to adapt and adopt best practices in the interests of justice while learning from the mistakes in the past. We are striving to build a stronger, modern and dynamic agency, able to rise to any challenges that lie ahead. We require all your best wishes and support to be successful in this endeavor of ours. The Golden Jubilee for us is an opportunity to renew our commitment to the values and ideals for which Sh. DP Kohli stood for and live up to the highest standard of excellence set by him.

I once again extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests to the 15th Annual D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture. I, like all our guests, look forward with confidence and enthusiasm to an enlightening address by Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi.

Thank You.

JAI HIND.
