

**Address by Director CBI on the occasion of Signing of MoU of
CFSL, CBI with the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI), The
Netherlands**

(19th November, 2014 at CBI (HQ), New Delhi)

Today is an important day in the history of Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), CBI, New Delhi. In a short while from now, MoU between the CFSL, CBI and the Netherlands Forensic Institute, The Hague on Cooperation in the field of Forensic Science will be inked. With the increase in complexity of the crimes, forensics is being extensively used in the investigation and prosecution in criminal proceedings. Often, it has helped to establish the guilt or innocence of possible suspects by supplying incontrovertible scientific evidence.

CFSL, CBI is one of the foremost forensic Laboratories in the country providing an impressive array of forensic services to Indian Law Enforcement Agencies and Courts of Law. Established in 1968, it provides scientific support and services to the investigation and prosecution of crime. On the other side we have, Netherlands Forensic Institute and the NFI Academy which have earned formidable reputation in the area of forensic science. I have been told that NFI provides services to not just Law Enforcement Agencies and Courts of Netherlands but also to foreign police, justice authorities and to special investigative services such as the General Intelligence and Security

Service (AIVD) and the Fiscal Information and Investigation Service (FIOD).

The Netherlands Forensic Institute, which is an independent and not-for-profit government agency made a fascinating turn around. Beset with mounting backlogs and inordinate delays in delivering the reports, NFI changed its governance and business model, which involved shaping a more realistic and business like relationship with its end-users and other stakeholders. These changes have resulted in wiping out the entire backlog of 18,000 cases, a reduction of the average delivery time of more than 90 percent, and increased customer satisfaction levels in a short span of six years during 2007 to 2013. Their forays into research and development programs are also noteworthy. During my visit to NFI in August last year, I felt that we could benefit from their experience. I thank Government of India for granting its approval for this partnership.

We took a lot of initiatives for building partnerships with leading national and international institutions in the fields of forensics, investigation, prosecution, technology, and management in our Golden Jubilee Year. This MoU will pave way for transfer of technology and techniques, exchange of technical expertise and building capacities in Forensic Scientists and Law Enforcement Authorities. I am hopeful that this collaboration will enrich our CFSL/CBI and will help strengthen the criminal justice system of the country.

The MOU commits us to work together more closely towards our common goal to work with speed and excellence in solving complex criminal cases with professional integrity. I am happy to note that the text of the MoU allows collaboration on a wider canvas. I would like my team to remember that signing of MoU is only the first, though an important step. Taking it forward is a challenge, but I am sure that we are all well prepared for it.

In conclusion, I would like to thank His Excellency Ambassador of Netherlands to India and the authorities of NFI, Ministry of Security and Justice, Netherlands for evincing keen interest and showing extraordinary commitment in forging this partnership.

Thank you.
