



Press Release

India Hosts 11th Annual General Meeting of ARIN-AP



1. The 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network, Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP) commenced today in New Delhi. The meeting is hosted by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), the nodal agency of India for the Network, under India's Presidency of ARIN-AP for 2026. Being held from 28 September to 1 October 2026, it brings together delegations from member jurisdictions and observer organisations of the Network, as well as representatives from various Indian Agencies. A meeting of the Steering Group preceded the AGM earlier in the day. The inaugural session was addressed by the Director, Directorate of Enforcement, and the Director, Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO) of the Republic of Korea, which serves as the ARIN-AP Secretariat. A message from the Revenue Secretary, Government of India, was read out by the Special Director (HO), Directorate of Enforcement.

About ARIN-AP

2. ARIN-AP is an informal network of law enforcement and judicial contact points engaged in all aspects of recovering the proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region. Launched in Korea in November 2013 and modelled on the CARIN network of Europe, it seeks to improve the effectiveness of members' efforts to deprive criminals of illicit profits through the direct and rapid exchange of information and good practice, including with jurisdictions with which no mutual legal assistance treaty exists. It covers the proceeds of all crimes, and each member nominates two contact points, one from a law enforcement agency and one from a judicial or prosecutorial authority.

3. The Network is administered through a Presidency that rotates annually, a Steering Group, and a Secretariat, which the SPO of Korea has served since inception. ARIN-AP presently has **32 member jurisdictions and 10 observers**, including INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and sister asset recovery networks from other regions.

India's Role in the GlobE Network

4. The 11th AGM is the first to be hosted by India. India was inducted into the ARIN-AP Steering Group at the Sydney AGM in 2024, where it was also entrusted with the Presidency for 2026. Hosting the Network's annual meeting and leading it through the year, with the support of the Government as a whole, reflects the standing India has earned in the global asset recovery community, and the Directorate of Enforcement's growing contribution to international standard-setting, including in the FATF, the GlobE Network, and the G20 and BRICS forums.

5. The importance of the event is significant. Proceeds of crime that move across borders in hours can be recovered only where agencies in different jurisdictions act together, and recovery is complete only when assets are returned to victims and to the State. By bringing the region's practitioners to New Delhi, India is helping to build the trust and speed on which that cooperation depends.

Inaugural Session of the Meeting



6. In his opening address, the Director, Directorate of Enforcement, welcomed the delegates and placed on record the gratitude of all members to the SPO of Korea for sustaining the contact point network and supporting successive Presidencies. The Director also acknowledged the example set by Australia and Mongolia, which hosted the previous two AGMs.

7. The Director observed that asset recovery is a sequence of stages, namely tracing, securing, confiscation, and management and return, and that a case can fail at any one of them. International cooperation is strongest in the early stages, while cross-border confiscation, enforcement of foreign orders and repatriation are where cases most often slow down. The theme of the meeting asks the Network to give these later stages the attention long given to the first.

8. Further, the Director noted that recent cases involve fast-moving and largely cross-border proceeds, arising from illegal online betting and gaming platforms, cyber-enabled frauds with rapid conversion into virtual assets, misuse of payment aggregators and gateways, manipulation of share prices, and misuse of professional certifications supporting outward remittances.



9. The Director also stressed that the practitioner-to-practitioner channel of ARIN-AP complements formal mutual legal assistance by reaching assets before they are dissipated. He assured members that responding to incoming requests is a high priority for the Directorate, which has statutory powers to obtain information and records directly from banks, financial institutions and other entities, so that information sought through the Network can usually be shared quickly as intelligence. Since April 2024, the Directorate has executed nearly 90 per cent of the assistance requests received in full or in part. The Director also noted that the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 enables India to seek the restraint and confiscation of assets located abroad and to proceed against property of equivalent value, so that the movement of funds offshore does not by itself defeat recovery. He also highlighted the Directorate's contribution as a member of the project team that developed the Asset Recovery Guidance and Best Practices of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its engagement in the GlobE Network and the anti-corruption working groups of the G20 and BRICS.

10. On the way ahead, the Director set out two priorities for the Network under India's Presidency: speed of response to requests, and completion of cases. He proposed that, where members are able to share the information, the Network also track the number of cases in which assets were actually confiscated and returned following cooperation through ARIN-AP. Noting that, notwithstanding the commitment of practitioners, international estimates indicate that the proportion of the proceeds of crime ultimately confiscated is well below optimal, the Director asked members to reflect on the reasons. He observed that practitioners are rightly careful, but can become so absorbed in the nuances of domestic law and that some obstacles may be more bureaucratic rather than genuine legal impediments. He urged members to consider which difficulties in their cases are truly required by law and which can be resolved through a different approach, adding that legal systems differ but the purpose does not which is to take the fruits of crime out of the hands of criminals.

11. The Director, SPO Korea (ARIN-AP Secretariat), also expressed her gratitude to the Directorate and India for hosting the AGM and gave a wide overview of the programme and agenda of discussions ahead.

12. The Revenue Secretary, who could not attend in person, passed on his message for the event. In his message, read out by the Special Director (HO), the Revenue Secretary emphasised the whole-of-government approach that India brings to asset recovery and reaffirmed the Government's support for the cause of asset recovery and for the work of the Directorate of Enforcement in this field.

Programme and Expectations

13. The theme of the programme follows the full asset recovery cycle. The opening day covered the revised FATF standards on asset recovery (Recommendations 4 and 38) and regional trends in illicit financial flows. Sessions on 29 September address cross-border tracing and informal cooperation, including the use of beneficial ownership information, freezing of virtual assets, the INTERPOL Silver Notice, and the sequencing of informal requests and formal mutual legal assistance, followed by non-conviction based confiscation and the defence of confiscation orders on appeal. On 30 September, the sessions turn to management of confiscated assets and to restitution and return of assets to victims, including an India case study, along with updates from other regional networks and the transfer of the Presidency from India to Singapore for 2027.

14. The meeting is expected to strengthen working relationships among contact points, encourage faster informal exchange alongside formal channels, and build a shared focus on the later stages of recovery, where confiscated assets are actually returned.
