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Accountability curbs corruption

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● BANGALORE

Will the Jan Lokpal Bill remove corruption? Why is the bill, in its present form, called dangerous? Who will be in its drafting panel? How will corruption be checked within the Lokpal?

Those were questions from students to former Lokayukta N Santhosh Hegde who used the opportunity to drive home the point that corruption is all-pervasive and not restricted to politics alone.

Addressing students of management and economics, Hegde said corruption could be contained although it could not be removed completely. That would be possible if everyone became more accountable and ethical.

This applied to corporates too. Their role in the recent scams had to be acknowledged and those entering the industry should contribute to a corruption-free country, he said. Students supported his views.

As part of the inter-college fest Frisson 2011 held in the campus, students of Jain University made a presentation on 'Feasibility of Jan



Justice N Santosh Hegde with students of Jain University at Frisson 2011 on Thursday —A Veeramani

Lokpal Bill.' Quoting from an article by JNU professor Arun Kumar, they said 50% of the GDP is black money. India would have become the second largest economy if it had taken steps to contain corruption from the 70s.

Corruption had existed even before the nation's independence, said Hegde.

As successive governments ruled the country, the size of scams grew over the years. Hence, it is high-time to create a mechanism to check corruption. But youth

should not stay away from the political process. They should take utmost care in selecting their representatives.

"A politician seeking your vote should know who you are and who he is. You are a citizen and he is a public servant," he said.

"However, the citizen's

responsibility doesn't end with voting. The government alone cannot be expected to deal with it," he said.

Students, some of whom had campaigned for Anna Hazare, said they did not have great expectations but were ready to do their bit.

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—Justice N Santhosh Hegde