

“Frisson 2011” – An Inter Collegiate Economics Fest

On September 29, 2011 an inter-college fest was organized by the Post Graduate Department of Economics, Center for Management Studies, Jain University. The theme of the fest was Jan Lokpal bill. Around 20 Colleges participated from different parts of Karnataka. Like Vijaya College, MES College, Bangalore, Gokul College, Kolar, S V S College, Tumkur, St. Joseph College, Bangalore.

Justice N. Santosh Hegde, the erstwhile Lok Ayukta was the chief guest at the fest. Addressing the gathering Justice Hegde, said in the seventies if one were asked how many corrupt there are, they could be counted by the five fingers of the hand. Today, the honest can be counted by the five fingers of the hand.

Further he said, corruption would have involved adding a few zeros to the figure, today CAG has estimated the 2G scam to be of the order of one lakh sixty thousand crore. He said that the Jan Lokpal bill may not eliminate corruption but will certainly contain it. He also said it depends upon the people who will constitute the lokpal which will determine how effective the lokpal will be.

In Karnataka the Lokayukta has been there since 1986 but it is only in recent time it has shown its efficacy. When asked about there being four different versions of the bill before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, namely the Lokpal, the Jan Lokpal, Aruna Roy’s version and that of Lok Satta, which may mean that the committee may not accept all that the Jan Lokpal bill contains he said he only wanted a strong bill and it did not matter from where the ideas came from. For instance, Aruna Roy’s version of the bill has suggestions regarding bringing the corporate sector and the NGO sector under the ambit of the bill which Jan Lokpal does not have and it would be worthwhile bringing them under the ambit. A question was asked by a student what if the Lokpal itself had a corrupt member to which Justice Hegde replied that there were enough safeguards to ensure that it did not happen. There was a mechanism for removing a member if he was found to be corrupt.

The fest had various events like a presentation on the feasibility of the Jan Lokpal bill. A debate on “People power” a legitimate way of shaping public policy , was organized. A competition was organized to recycle waste material into models with the theme ‘Dream India’. There was a group folk dance and a competition to present the dresses of different states in India. In all ten colleges participated.

Results:

- **Prezi** – a presentation on “**Feasibility of Jan Lokpal bill**” by participants

Winner: Jain College, Jayanagar

- **Counter missile** – a debate competition where students were given an opportunity to discover the truth about the topic “**People power**” a legitimate way of shaping public policy

Winner: Jain College, Jayanagar

- **Best out of Waste – A creative activity** which was compilation of ideas to convert junk into creative models

Winner: SVS College, Tumkur

- **Unity in Diversity** – A presentation on different states of India that they represent

Winner: Gokul College, Kolar

- **Aattam** – A group folk dance that signifies the culture and tradition of different states of India

Winner: SVS College, Tumkur

The Overall Trophy was bagged by Jain College, Jayanagar