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## Join fight against corruption: Kiran Bedi

Staff Reporter



The Hindu Kiran Bedi addressing a media conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. Photo: S. Mahinsha

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Once the Jan Lokpal Bill is passed in Parliament, the India Against Corruption movement will work to get a Lokayukta established in every State, former police officer Kiran Bedi has said.

Every citizen of the country should join the movement against corruption, Ms. Bedi told mediapersons after the release of her book 'Broom and Groom' at the DC International Book Fair at the Kanakakunnu palace here on Tuesday.

Anna Hazare wanted more and more people to join the fight against corruption. This should be voluntary and eventually there should be people's groups in all parts of the country fighting corruption, she said.

The support of civil society for the Jan Lokpal Bill was a starting point which will change the course of 'Indian revolution.' This people's movement could produce results very fast, she said. Ms. Bedi said she

hoped that the Bill would be passed and implemented in the winter session of Parliament. Speaking on the importance of Jan Lokpal Bill, Ms. Bedi said the country had no independent investigating agency even after 64 years of Independence. If a Lokayukta was set up in every State, a common man who had evidence against corrupt practices could lodge a complaint. The agency would have the powers to conduct an independent investigation in to the matter, she said.

The Uttarakhand Assembly had passed the Lokayukta Bill, one identical to the Jan Lokpal Bill, she said and urged the people of the State to recheck the status of the State's Lokayukta in the fight against corruption.

“What the Bill will build is a transparent system of administration with no political dependency,” she said.

Ms. Bedi said that there was no rift between the core members of the Anna Hazare team and such reports were false. Such comments were intended to weaken the movement, she added.

The campaign by Anna Hazare is not for electoral gains. The Bill had been projected as an electoral issue as people would choose from among those who supported or opposed the Bill. Mr. Hazare had stated that if the Bill was not passed in the winter session, there would be a campaign against the Congress in five States where Assembly elections were due next year, she said.

When asked about the riches found at Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Ms. Bedi said the people should take a decision on how these should be used. The wealth could be used for the good of the people, she added.

Ms. Bedi also released the logo for DC Media Temple — a new animation studio.

Keywords: [Lokpal Bill](#), [India corruption](#), [anti-corruption movement](#)