COVER STORY: ANTI-CORRUPTION'S MAHATMA

| WHAT THEY SAY | Ravi Mishra Student of MCA | Lal Bihari Mirtak Social activist, Azamgarh | SK Upadhyay Area Manager, Pune | Deepak Behl Student of MCA |
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| What does Anna mean to you? | Anna is a true patriot. What he has done nobody has done in the past two decades. At 74 he has the energy and is protest- ing against Government and we are with him. | Anna is important for us. What he has done is a victory of our democracy. It will also help poor and needy. The entire lot of politicians is made up of thieves and is destroying the nation. People are frustrated now. | Presently India is very corrupt. Anna ji is acting like a catalyst in removing corruption. From past 7 days I am here to sup- port him. What we are wit- nessing now, the coming generations will not witness. India will improve. | Anna is someone who de- serves our total support. |
| What is your view regarding country's corruption today? | Corruption starts from us. We all are responsible for it. We need to change ourselves first. And also Government has to take initiative to remove it. But Government earlier had not even tried to minimize it. | Corruption is very bad. It is af- fecting the society very badly. It is causing serious damages to the chances of the honest. | Wherever we go today either in public or private offices we have to face corruption. In order to get our license, pass- port, ration card or anything we have to pay bribes. So it is everywhere. | Corruption has today spread in every corner of India. And we Indians whether we are politicians or common citizens are responsible. |
| Do you think team Anna sometime has been too unreasonable? | This is much required. We are not taking initiative. Anna has done what we wanted to do. Anna's fast has forced the government to think about cor- ruption. He has taken the ini- tiative and has become the face of the nation. | Anna ji fighting for truth. I know Anna is right and we trust him. I am a social activist and fighting since 1976. | Government methods have been wrong. A 74-year-old man has to fast for the future of the youth and this country. It is a shame. This same Gov- ernment which could not bend earlier, is bending today. Shame. | No, Anna is right. His de- mands are right. We trust him. |
| Is there anyone politi- cian according to you presently can end cor- ruption in public life? | I don't think so any politician is willing to remove it. I think while seeing all this from now on good leaders will emerge and make India free from problems like these. | Presently no politician will do this. "Aaj ke neta, neta nai hai leta hai." Anna is politician for all of us. Gandhiji is our Bapuji and now Anna is Babuji for all of us. People like Anna are very rare. Anna is neta for our Jan Lokpal bill. | I don't think there is any politician today. But yes if Atal Bihari Vaj- payee was PM today he would have supported Anna without hesitation. Corruption has been given us by politicians. They are at the root of this disease. Past scams are examples. | I think Rahul Gandhi is the kind of person who will work for the people without asking for bribes. He is honest and not like others. |
| Do you think there should be fast track courts to deal with cor- ruption today? | Yes, there should be and the cases should have timeline so that they should not remain pending in the courts. | Yes courts should be there. In fact such courts should be there in every district, every tehsil and every village I say. All corrupt ones should be taken to court. | Yes, there should be fast-track courts. It is in the hands of the Government to set them up fast. Then we can complain about the bribes we are asked to pay. | Yes there should be such courts. |
| What does Lokpal mean to you? | Lokpal gives power to the pub- lic. We can question every politician from now. | It is very good and for the bet- terment of all of us. | I know about the Jan Lokpal. I think Anna's draft is more ef- fective. Jan Lokpal is related to corruption in public life today. | It is bill to remove corruption from India. |
| Do you think corruption can go away by introduc- ing bills or we as a na- tion be in the change we wish to see in the world? | People are now frustrated and want to work to remove it. I think now Government has acted and also we should put our effort to it. | Yes bills will keep a strict check on politicians. | I think if corruption can be re- moved among public authorities, no corruption will remain among the people. Anna is a role model. Much to learn from him. | Bills as well people's contribu- tion would help in removing corrupt people and corruption from our country. |



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| and makes us feel that we can usher | He is a symbol of truthfulness for me. He is the destroyer of wrong doings in the country. | For me he is someone who shows the way by leading or advising us. He is a guide who made a path for us and has inspired us to do some- thing for the nation. | Annaji has started this movement against corruption for us. He has touched upon the consciousness of the people. |
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| face corruption. From getting my passport or license to the domestic goods, everywhere it is very much prevalent. So I think when Lokpal Bill will become an act, it will help us to | As a student I have experienced per- sonally like when I got my license made I had to pay extra money to get it done. When I got my passport made I had to give money. And it is like that. If you won't give the money then they won't do your work quickly. | Corruption has spread everywhere. Everywhere we have to face it. We pay our taxes and these politicians use our money for their own benefit. We are affected. | We have become a very corrupt na- tion and we need to reform very quickly. |
| Not at all, I have read all clauses and I found all of them very correct. Now the lower bureaucracy is under the ambit of this Lokpal bill. I think Team Anna is completely reasonable. | Not at all, they are completely rea- sonable. They all are the educated people like Kiran Bedi, Arvind Kejri- wal, Prashant Bhushan. They all know the system and the laws com- pletely and I think their bill will seri- ously help us. | What Team Anna is doing is remark- able. I don't think they are being too unreasonable. | Not at all. Without Team Anna's help, all this would not have been possi- ble. They were fantastic. |
| of their own people. I think they all just want the chair of power. Nothing else. After getting this they forget for | Today nobody, but I think Abdul Kalam could do something but he is not in politics now. And personally I want Kiran Bedi to be the Prime Min- ister of the nation. | No one. All politicians do only that work that brings them personal ben- efit. They have become incapable of thinking about the country first. | No one, they all are corrupt (<i>koi kam to koi jyada</i>). |
| | Yes there should be the fast track courts to deal with corruption. | Yes there should be fast track courts. This would save time in dealing with corrupt public officials. And all trials should be public. | There should be fast track courts so that they deal with the corruption within a limited time duration. |
| tent deal with corruption. Earlier I | Now I know that there is a law against the corruption and I will def- initely look forward to it. | As Kiran Bedi said give this cap of Annaji to the corrupt person. Lokpal will make the corrupt think many times before they ask for bribes. | Lokpal law will be helpful for us be- cause then Government employees will do their work properly without ex- pecting extra money from us. |
| give money to the people to do our work as soon as possible. So we have to change ourselves first and I | Bill will help us at great extent but corruption can't be completely re- moved by this bill. But yes it can be reduced. To get rid of the corruption we have to change ourselves first. | Yes. This is most important thing we have to change ourselves. And today I can see people are changing. —Compiled by Nidhi and Deep | To get rid of corruption we need to be the change we wish to be. pali Gera; Pictures by Kiran Yadav |
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