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Anna brigade lost focus: Hande

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BANGALORE: "I think the Anna Hazare movement for Jan Lokpal Bill was good but the focus got lost somewhere," said Harish Hande, the 2011 Magsaysay award winner.

Hande was speaking at the launch of 'Uncommon Ground', authored by Rohini Nilekani, chairperson of NGOs Pratham Books and Arghyam.

Jayant Sinha, managing director, Omidyar Networks India Advisors, in a dialogue with Hande who is Selco India managing director, said: "In India we have a terrific people's movement every five years. We have the power to vote out a government if it's not working in public interest. The right to vote is cherished in India."

Expanding on the topic, Sinha said in the current 543-member Parliament, there are only 13 persons who have been elected four times; his father, BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, has been elected thrice in the last four general elections. "This explains people's power in India. They know who works for them and who doesn't," he said.

The conversation moderated by Nilekani touched on the fact that while in most places governments intervene when markets fail, in India markets step in when the government fails in delivery of public goods.

Caption: Rohini Nilekani autographs her book, 'Uncommon Ground', for Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murty

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