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Now, document corruption instantly

NGO plans to put up posters against bribes at over 30 government offices in the city

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Next time you are asked for a bribe, document it. In an effort to decipher the red hot zones of corruption in various government offices, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, in partnership with the state government, will begin an 'SMS campaign' to document instances of bribes given in various government offices in the city.

Posters will be put up at government offices across the city, with a number for citizens to register whether they are asked for a bribe or not. "It took us over a year and a number of meetings to get approval to put up these posters in government offices," Ramesh Ramanathan, co-founder of Janaagraha, said.

A part of the advocacy done by the corruption documentation website www.ipaidabribe.com, the campaign aims to achieve two objectives.

"Apart from helping us document corruption at government offices, these posters will act as a deterrent to people taking bribes. It is also an immediate tool that people can use to fight corruption," said Swathi Ramanathan, chairperson, India Urban Space (IndiaUSP).

"People are bothered by not only huge scams like 2G spectrum but smaller bribes that they have to pay every day. This will give them—especially those who want to make a difference—an opportunity to take responsibility," she said.

The poster campaign will also give students an opportunity to 'adopt' a government office and ensure that the posters they have put up at the office are not hidden or thrown away, said Subrahmanyam Ivatury, coordinator, Janaagraha online.

"Over 350 students from various colleges will adopt government offices near their homes and put up posters there. They will visit the offices regularly to make sure the posters are visible and not hidden or removed," he said.

"Based on the SMS we get from about 300 offices—including 198 ward offices of Bescom and those of BBMP, BWSSB and the registration department—we will identify offices from where the most number of SMS on bribes asked and bribes not asked is generated; these will be listed as red and green spots. We will name places from where the least number of bribery charges is reported as 'clean' offices," he added.



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