

6. *Corruption is the biggest impediment to the development of a nation. You strongly believe that fighting corruption is the responsibility of every individual. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily to create awareness and public opinion on the matter.*

Subject: Fighting corruption

Through the columns of your widely read newspaper, I would like to highlight the problem of the rampant incidents of corruption that all the Indian systems are plagued with. The common person is the most affected by this malaise.

The ordinary citizen is truly frustrated with the dishonest or illegal behaviour that infests all government systems and business practices. Be it the passport renewal, a police report, a loan sanction, an electricity bill correction or a hospital admission, nothing moves unless the palms of the officials are greased. To a large extent, corruption is the result of our own acts that have boomeranged on us. In our impatience to get a job done fast or to avoid long queues, we often try to shortcut the process. Many times, to avoid paying a fine for violating traffic rules, people try to bribe the cops. Consequently, corruption has spread and like a termite eaten into every sphere of our life.

The onus to combat corruption rests on the citizens. We need to be honest and fair in all our dealings, and instead of shortcutting the processes, we need to follow the procedures and say 'no' to bribe. Corrupt officials should be brought to book rather than appeased. The media could play an important role in educating the people about correct practices and by exposing the corrupt. Also, an easy helpline number to report corrupt officials should be propagated. If the citizens pledge to be honest, corruption can be eradicated.