

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**  
**CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**  
**WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 880 OF 2017**  
**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Association For Democratic Reforms & Anr. ...Petitioners

Versus

Union Of India & Ors. ...Respondents

**APPLICATION FOR URGENCY**

**IN TERMS OF THE CIRCULAR DATED 24.06.2021**

To,

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and His Companion Justices of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Humble Application of the  
Petitioners/Applicants above-named

**Most Respectfully Showeth:**

**1. Synopsis of Urgency:**

- i. That the Petitioners had, on 04.09.2017, filed the captioned Public Interest Litigation under Article 32 of the Constitution of India on the issue of corruption and subversion of democracy through illicit & foreign funding of political parties and lack of transparency in the accounts of all political parties. The Petitioners sought directions from this Hon'ble Court to strike down certain amendments made through Finance Act, 2017 and earlier Finance Act, 2016, both passed as money bills, and which have opened doors to unlimited political donations, even from foreign companies and thereby legitimizing electoral corruption at a huge scale, while at the same time ensuring complete non-transparency in political funding.
- ii. That the Electoral Bonds Scheme has opened the floodgates to unlimited corporate donations to political parties and anonymous financing by Indian as well as foreign companies which can have serious repercussions on the Indian democracy. The Finance Act of 2017 has introduced the use of electoral

bonds which is exempt from disclosure under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, opening doors to unchecked, unknown funding to political parties. The said amendments have removed the existing cap of 7.5% of net profit in the last 3 years on campaign donations by companies and have legalised anonymous donations.

- iii. That since the time of its introduction of Electoral Bond Scheme in March 2018, in total 17 tranches of Electoral Bonds have been opened for sale in which 14,363 Electoral Bonds worth Rs.7380.638 crores have been sold from March 2018 – July 2021. Most of these bonds are in favour of the ruling political party in the country.
- iv. It is to be noted that the instant matter is tagged with WPC 333/2015 and WPC 434/2018 which was last listed on 20.01.2020 on which date two weeks time was granted to the respondents to file counter affidavits. However, since then neither WPC 333/2015, WPC 434/2018 nor the instant matter (WPC 880/2017) have been listed.

**2. Case details:** *Writ Pet. (C) No. 880 / 2017*

**3. Contact details of AoR of the Petitioner/Applicant:**

Mr. Prashant Bhushan

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Email ID: [prashantbhush@gmail.com](mailto:prashantbhush@gmail.com)

Office address: 301, New Lawyers Chamber, Supreme Court Of India, New Delhi -110001

**4. Prayer for exemption from filing Affidavit:**

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown, the Applicant is unable to affirm the Affidavit and deliver it to the undersigned. It is, therefore, respectfully prayed that the Applicants be exempted from filing duly verified affidavit under the prevailing circumstances.

**5.Undertaking re: Court Fees**

The Applicants undertake to pay the requisite Court Fees for the application as and when called upon to do so.

## 6. Consent for hearing through Video Conferencing:

The Petitioners/Applicants herein consent to the matter being heard through video conferencing for which purpose they will link through their own desktop/mobile as per the instructions set out in the Circulars issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.



**PRASHANT BHUSHAN**  
(COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONERS/APPLICANTS)

### VERIFICATION:

I, Prashant Bhushan, do hereby verify that the contents of my above Application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief as derived from the instruction of the Petitioner; that no part of it is false and that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021.



**PRASHANT BHUSHAN**  
(COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONERS/APPLICANTS)