

The Hindu (English)

Dated: 20.07.2024

SC to hear plea to probe 'quid pro quo' via electoral bonds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, on Friday, said a petition seeking the constitution of a Special Investigation Team to probe each and every instance of *quid pro quo*, corruption, and kickbacks revealed through the disclosure of details of the electoral bonds would be listed for hearing on July 22.

The petition was filed by Common Cause and Centre for Public Interest Litigation, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan, Neha Rathi, and Cheryl D'Souza.

The petition submitted that some of the country's main investigative agencies "appear to have become accessories to corruption". Several firms that were

under investigation by these agencies have donated large sums of money to the ruling party, potentially to influence the outcomes of probes, the petition has said.

"Thus, the investigation, in this case, would not only need to unravel the entire conspiracy in each instance, but also the officers concerned of agencies like the ED/I-T and CBI, etc., who appear to have become part of this conspiracy," it said. Referring to reports and extensive data mining done by *The Hindu* and other media outlets, the petition has said the information published reveals that the bulk of the bonds appear to have been given as *quid pro quo* arrangements by corporate firms to political parties.