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EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Electoral Bonds – Democracy's Blind Spot or Necessary Evil?

THE HINDU

14 March 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

POLITY

ECONOMY

GS PAPERS

GS2

ESSAY

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 The Hindu

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GS2

ESSAY



The Hindu

MAINS RELEVANCE:

GS Paper 2

Essay Paper



INTERVIEW ANGLE

"What is your view on the Supreme Court's electoral bonds judgment? Does transparency in political funding conflict with donor privacy?"

EDITORIAL SUMMARY

The Hindu editorial of March 14 analyses the Supreme Court's landmark judgment striking down the Electoral Bonds Scheme (EBS) as unconstitutional...

KEY ARGUMENTS IN THE EDITORIAL

For transparency — Voters have a fundamental right to know who funds political parties

Against the scheme — Asymmetry of information (government could know donors, opposition couldn't)

The privacy angle — SC held that right to privacy of donors does not override voters' right to information

UPSC MAINS RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 — Polity & Governance

Electoral reforms and political funding

Role of Election Commission

Judicial review and judicial activism

Essay Paper

"Money power in Indian democracy"

“Transparency vs privacy in public life”

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

that the scheme created a quid-pro-quo ecosystem...

Counter-argument worth noting: Some economists argue that anonymous corporate donations prevent retribution...

KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS

Term	Meaning
Electoral Bond	An instrument like a promissory note for political donations
ECI	Election Commission of India — custodian of electoral rolls
RTI exemption	Electoral bonds were exempt from RTI disclosures

VOCABULARY WORTH NOTING

Quid pro quo — a favour or advantage given in return for something

Opacity — lack of transparency

Asymmetric — unequal distribution of information

INTERVIEW PREP POINTS

Know the chronology: scheme launched 2018 → challenged → SC judgment Feb 2024

Know the key constitutional provisions: Article 19(1)(a), Article 14

Have a balanced view — acknowledge both transparency and privacy concerns

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