

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 17027/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 03-08-2026 in WPCRL(MD) No. 4272/2026 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Madras at Madurai]

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, SUN GROUP/
ADITHYA TV CHANNEL, SUN TV NETWORK LIMITED

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

R. KANAGAVEL PANDIAN & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 272971/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 272968/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 23-09-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MEHTA

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Nalin Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Sneha, Adv.
Mr. Kv Jagdishvaran, Adv.
Ms. G. Indira, AOR
Mr. P Gandepan, Adv.
Ms. Anjali Singh, Adv.
Mr. Joseph Manavalan, Adv.
Mr. Vimal Mohan, Adv.
Mr. Ayushman Aroraa, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. R. Ramesh, Adv.
Mr. P V Yogeswaran, Adv.
Mr. P Somasundaram, Adv.
Mr. M Jegadeesa Pandian, Adv.
Mr. V B Sundhareshwar, Adv.
Mr. V S Rajeshwaran, Adv.
Ms. C. Rubavathi, AOR

Ms. Haripriya Padmanabhan, A.A.G.v (NP)
Mr. S. Gowthaman, AOR
Mr. Abhisar Thakral, Adv.

Mr. Akash Verma, Adv.
Mr. C Chinappa, Adv.
Ms. Shivpa Taneja, Adv.
Mr. Nilesh Ukey, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Issue notice.

Ms. C. Rubavathi and Mr. S. Gowthaman, learned Advocates-on-Record represent respondent no.1 and respondent nos. 2 to 4, respectively. Hence, formal service of notice is dispensed with.

Learned counsel for the respondent(s) pray for and are granted four weeks' time to file counter affidavit(s).

The High Court while disposing of the writ petition vide impugned order dated 03.08.2026 issued certain directions which, *inter alia*, read as follows :

"xxx	xxx	xxx
xxx	xxx	xxx

(vii) In discharge of its social responsibility, and from the funds lawfully allocable for Corporate Social Responsibility activities, the fourth respondent shall institute an annual State-level elocution competition concerning the life, sacrifices, legal career, Swadeshi enterprise and economic vision of Thiru V.O. Chidambaram Pillai.

(viii) The said competition shall be conducted every year in connection with the birth anniversary of Thiru V.O. Chidambaram Pillai on 5 September. The first such competition shall be conducted during the academic year 2026-2027.

(ix) To ensure meaningful participation, the competition shall be organised in age-appropriate categories for:

- (a) students of Standards I to V;
- (b) students of Standards VI to VIII;
- (c) students of Standards IX to XII; and
- (d) students pursuing undergraduate courses.

The topic, language, duration and mode of presentation shall be suitably adapted to each category. Participation shall be open and inclusive, without discrimination. The final round of competitions to be telecasted by the 4th respondent every year.

(x) The fourth respondent may coordinate with the School Education Department, the Higher Education Department and recognised educational institutions for conducting preliminary, district-level and State-level rounds. The exercise shall be educational and non-commercial and shall not be used as a vehicle for partisan publicity.

(xi) The fourth respondent shall procure and distribute 1000 copies each of the books- Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire, authored by Professor A.R. Venkatachalapathy, VA.VU.CHI - Pannool Thirattu: Vee.Arasu-special publication of the Government of Tamil Nadu and Kelaatha Kathai: Gurusamy Mayilvahanan- subject to availability and compliance with copyright and procurement requirements.

(xii) The said books shall be distributed to students and libraries of identified schools administered by the Greater Chennai Corporation and other Government schools, in consultation with the competent educational authorities. The distribution shall prioritise institutions where access to books concerning the freedom movement is limited.

(xiii) The fourth respondent shall bear the expenditure for the annual competition, prizes and distribution of books from its eligible Corporate Social Responsibility allocation, subject to the Companies Act, 2013, the applicable rules and all statutory accounting and

disclosure requirements. Nothing in this order shall be construed as permitting expenditure contrary to the governing CSR framework.

(xiv) The fourth respondent shall telecast, on or about 5 September every year, an educational programme or documentary of reasonable duration concerning the life and contributions of Thiru V.O. Chidambaram Pillai. The programme shall be historically researched, suitable for young audiences and presented in an engaging manner.

(xv) A compliance affidavit concerning the initial telecast of the apology, commencement of the book-distribution exercise and the proposed schedule of the first State-level competition shall be filed before the Registry within eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

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Subject to the petitioner ensuring compliance of direction nos. (xi), (xii) and (xiv), including bearing the expenditure towards procurement and distribution of the books and filing a compliance affidavit to that effect, the remaining direction nos. (vii), (viii), (ix), (x), (xiii) and (xv), to the extent indicated above, shall remain stayed.

(NEETU KHAJURIA)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RANJANA SHAILEY)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR