



WEB COPY



CrI.O.P.No.8827 of 2024

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS**

Dated: 05.04.2024

Coram:

**THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE G.JAYACHANDRAN**

**CrI.O.P.No.8827 of 2024**

S.ShreDharmaaraghavan

... Petitioner

-vs-

1. Inspector of Police  
E1-Singanallur Police Station,  
Sembier Complex, Plot No.2199,  
Agraharam, Trichy Road,  
Singanallur 641 005, Coimbatore District,  
Tamil Nadu, India.

2. Deputy Returning Officer,  
No.121-Singanallur Assembly Constituency,  
(Also the District Adhi Dravidar and  
Scheduled Tribe Welfare Officer)  
District Collector Office Campus,  
Coimbaore – 641018.  
Tamil Nadu, India,  
[cbedadwo@gamil.co](mailto:cbedadwo@gamil.co)  
[dadwch@nic.in](mailto:dadwch@nic.in)

3. The District Collector, Coimbatore,  
7/1, State Bank Road, Gopalapuram,  
Coimbatore 641018,  
Tamil Nadu, India.

... Respondents



Crl.O.P.No.8827 of 2024

**PRAYER:** Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to call for the records relating to Communication C.No.32/E1/PS/Election /Permission/2024, dated 03.04.2024 issued by the first respondent and communication Na.Ka.No.500/2024/Ka 4 dated 03.04.2024 respectively issued by the second respondent and quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Sankaranarayanan, Senior Counsel  
for M/s.Ramaswamy Meyyappan

For Respondents : Mr.K.M.D.Muhilan for R1  
Government Advocate  
Mr.Niranjan Rajagopalan,  
for M/s.G.R.Associates for R2 & R3

### **ORDER**

This petition has been moved as an urgent application before this Court since the request of the petitioner to grant permission to release a book in a door function scheduled to be conducted on 06.04.2024 at 4.00 P.M. was declined by the Assistant Election Officer, Singanallur, Coimbatore.

2. The contention of the petitioner is that the book is on the theme of “Professionals in Politics” schedule to be conducted at “Sri Sai Vivahaa Mahal” in Coimbatore. When applications for permission made on 02.04.2024, the same have been declined *vide* proceedings dated 03.04.2024 at 09.00 p.m citing an earlier incident, when a Round Table debate program conducted by



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one of the Television channel ended in disturbance. Whereas, the incident cited

**WEB COPY** is a political debate, unlike the book release function which is non-political.

3. In this petition, it is stated that the function is a non political program and there is no debate or any other conflicting view as the impugned rejection order cites. Except the participation of Mr.K.Annamalai, President of B.J.P along with Drona Charya Awardee Mr.RB Ramesh, the famed chess Coach; Technocrat, Publisher and TV Panelist, Mr.Badri Seshadri; Technocrat and Businessman, Mr.Murali, Journalist and Anchor, Mr.Rangaraj Pandey and others, it is not a program intending for any debate or discussion.

4. The Learned Counsel appearing for the Election Commission representing the second respondent, which passed the impugned order, submitted that there may not be any difficulty for the Election Commission if it is satisfied that there will not be any Law & Order issue, and the program conducted strictly followed the Code of Conduct. The application for permission will be considered afresh and decision will be made by tomorrow afternoon.

5. The Learned Counsel appearing for the State Government would submit that even before seeking permission to organize the function, the



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invitation was circulated in the social media. Earlier, when a round table debate

was organized by “Puthiyathalaimurai” Television Channels on 23.02.2024, in the indoor auditorium there was tensed situation. Therefore, based on the past experience, the permission cannot be granted for the book release function.

6. After considering the submissions made by the Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner, the learned counsel appearing for the Election Commission and the learned counsel for the State Government, this Court is of the view that the State cannot feel shy for granting permission to the Book release function just because it is about a person who is a candidate in the Election or he is going to participate in the function.

7. Recording the submission made by the Learned Counsel appearing for the Election Commission, who has promised to revisit the earlier order and pass appropriate order on 06.04.2024 by 01.30 P.M, this Court disposed of this Criminal Original Petition with hope that both the State Government as well as the Election Commission will pass appropriate orders in accordance with law and spirit of Part-III of the Indian Constitution and Article 324 of the Constitution.



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8. With the above direction and observation, this ***Criminal***

**WEB ORIGINAL Petition is disposed of.**

**05.04.2024**

**(1/2)**

Index : Yes/No.

Internet : Yes/No.

dna

**Note: Issue today (05.04.2024)**

Copy to:-

- 1 The District Collector, Coimbatore,  
No.7/1, State Bank Road, Gopalapuram,  
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- 4.The Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.

**DR.G.JAYACHANDRAN.J.**

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