IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO. OF 2026
(@ SLP(C) NO. 23905/2026)

ELE ANIMATIONS PVT. LTD. Appellant(s)

VERSUS

MAHESH KUMAR SAHU & OTHERS Respondent(s)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

We have heard learned senior counsel, Sri Devadatt Kamat for the appellant and learned Solicitor General, Sri Tushar Mehta for the State of Odisha/respondent No.4. Learned Solicitor General submitted that he has instructions to also appear for respondent Nos. 4 and 5. Learned counsel, Ms. Poornima Singh and learned counsel, Mr. Alabhya Dhamija submitted that they have instructions to appear for respondent Nos.1 to 3 (writ petitioners before the High Court) respectively and learned Advocate General, Sri Pitambar Acharya appearing for respondent No.8-Temple.

We have heard learned senior counsel for the appellant, Sri Kamat and learned Solicitor General, Sri Tushar Mehta for respondent Nos.4 and 5 and learned senior counsel, Sri Dama Seshadri Naidu and Sri Nachiketa Joshi for respondent Nos.1 to 3 (writ petitioners) respectively.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by RADHA SHARMA
Date: 2026.02.17 17:03:02 IST
Reason:

We have been appraised that the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra festival has commenced yesterday i.e. on 16.07.2026 and is to continue up to 27.07.2026.

The High Court by way of interim order has stated that the appellant herein shall not release the animated film titled *"Mahaprabhu Jagannath"* on 17.07.2026 and thereafter without the leave of the Court or until the next date whichever is earlier.

It is noted that the respondent No.7-Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has permitted the exhibition of this film and has cleared the same after considering the film having regard to the relevant parameters.

It is stated by learned senior counsel for the appellant that the film had earlier been exhibited as a television series and is also available on YouTube channel. Now the very same fictional story is in the form of an animated film and is to be exhibited in movie halls across the country from today.

We have also been appraised by learned Solicitor General that from yesterday i.e. 16.07.2026 onwards for a period of ten days, the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra procession and the rituals connected therewith are taking place. In the circumstances, we permit the film to be exhibited on or after 28.07.2026.

The appeal is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

……J.
(B.V. NAGARATHNA)

……J.
(R. MAHADEVAN)

NEW DELHI;
JULY 17, 2026

ITEM NO.61 COURT NO.3 SECTION XI-A

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 (C) No(s). 23905/2026
[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 15-07-2026 in WP(C) No. 21986/2026 passed by the High Court of Orissa at Cuttack]

ELE ANIMATIONS PVT. LTD. Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

MAHESH KUMAR SAHU & OTHERS Respondent(s)

(IA No. 201060/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 200938/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT
IA No. 200943/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 201063/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date : 17-07-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Devadatt Kamat, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Nishanth Patil, AOR
Mr. Arijit Dey, Adv.
Ms. Bhumi Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Awanish Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Ravindra Suryawanshi, Adv.
Ms. Tanvi Nandgaonkar, Adv.
Mr. Archis Bhatt, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Poornima Singh, AOR

Mr. Nachiketa Joshi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sridhar Potaraja, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Alabhya Dhamija, AOR
Mr. Praneet Pranjal, Adv.
Mr. Tadimalla Bhaskar Gowtham, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Raj, Adv.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, SGI
Mr. Pitambar Acharya, AG

Mr. Astha Singh, AOR
Mr. Debashis Tripathy, Adv.
Ms. Shailja Singh, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. **Issue notice to the respondents.**

2. **Learned counsel accepts notice for the respondents.**

3. **Leave granted.**

4. **The Civil Appeal is disposed of in terms of the signed order.**

5. **Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.**

(RADHA SHARMA) **(DIVYA BABBAR)**
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS **COURT MASTER (NSH)**

(Signed order is placed on the file)