



Crl. O.P.(MD) No.11213 of 2026

WEB COPY BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 10.07.2026

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.VIJAYAKUMAR

Crl.O.P(MD).No.11213 of 2026

Balaji

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep., by the Superintendent of Police,
O/o.The Superintendent of Police,
Ramanathapuram.
2. The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
O/o.The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Paramakudi.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Nainar Kovil Police Station,
Paramakudi,
Cr.No.85/2026.

... Respondents

PRAYER: To direct the 1st respondent to forthwith preserve the all CCTV footages installed in the 3rd respondent police station on 16.05.2026 from early morning 04.00 AM to 10.30 PM within a stipulated time that may be fixed by this Hon'ble Court based on the petitioner's representation on 02.06.2026.



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For petitioner : Mr.R.Senthil Kumar

For Respondents : Mr.B.Arun
Counsel for State of TN (Crl.Side)

ORDER

The present petition has been filed by the 1st accused in Cr.No.85 of 2026, on the file of the 1st respondent police, seeking a direction as against the 1st respondent to preserve the CCTV footage installed in the 3rd respondent Police Station for the period between 04.00 A.M. and 10.30 P.M. on 16.05.2026.

2. The learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing on behalf of the respondents has filed a counter of the 3rd respondent. Paragraph 6 and 7 of the said counter are extracted as follows:-

“ 6. I humbly submit that it is important to mention here that on 10.05.2026, there was heavy rain in and around the Nainar Kovil area and due to the lightning strike, all the electronics in the 3rd respondent Police Station including CCTV, DVR, computers and printers were damaged and the said news was published in the daily NEWS paper. Further the said information about damage was communicated to the



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Inspector, Technical (IT Cell), Police Telecommunication Branch, Ramanathapuram through phone on 11.05.2026. Based on the said information, officials from Police Telecommunication Branch inspected the 3rd respondent Police Station and analyzed the damage to the electronics.

7. I humbly submit that thereafter, damaged CCTV and other electronics in the 3rd respondent Police Station was repaired on 17.05.2026 at about 06.00 pm and after the test, it came into full function on 20.05.2026 vide report of Inspector, Technical (IT Cell), Police Telecommunication Branch, Ramanathapuram in Na.Ka.No.68/IT Cell/RMD Dist/2026 dated 19.06.2026. As such, the CCTV recordings from 10.05.2026 to 19.05.2026 in the 3rd respondent Police Station is not available.”

3. The communication of the Police Department Ramanathapuram District have also addressed to the 3rd respondent police to the aforesaid effect on 19.06.2026.

4. According to the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, when the petitioner has sought for CCTV footage, these documents have been created.

5. In view of the above said facts, it is clear that the respondent police claim that the CCTV footage was not working between 11.05.2026 till 20.05.2026. Therefore, the prayer sought for by the petitioner cannot be granted



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at this relevant point of time. However, liberty is granted to the petitioner to pursue his remedy under RTI Act.

6. This criminal original petition is disposed of with the above liberty.

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Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes / No
rgm



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To:

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O/o.The Superintendent of Police,
Ramanathapuram.
2. The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
O/o.The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Paramakudi.
3. The Inspector of Police,
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R.VIJAYAKUMAR, J.

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