



W.P.No.35682 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

WEB COPY

DATED: 03.04.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE **D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY**

W.P.No.35682 of 2024

JOHN RAVINDRANATH SOUNDARARAJAN

... Petitioner

Vs

1. THE REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICER,
REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE,
NO. 2 & 3, 4TH FLOOR,
OLD NO. 785, NEW NO.158,
RAYALA TOWERS,
ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI- 600 002.
2. THE STATE REPRESENTED BY THE
INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
CYBER CRIME CELL,
MADURAI POLICE STATION,
MADURAI DISTRICT.
3. THE STATE REPRESENTED BY THE
INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
THANJAVUR CCD - III POLICE STATION,
THANJAVUR DISTRICT.
4. THE STATE REPRESENTED BY THE
INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
PANDHANALLUR POLICE STATION,
THANJAVUR DISTRICT.
(R2 TO R4 ARE IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED
16.12.2024 IN WMP.41729/2024 IN WP.35682/2024 BY SSJ)

... Respondents



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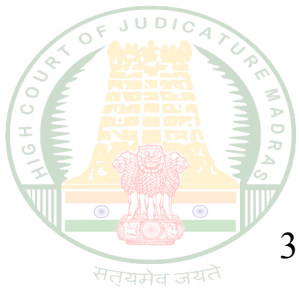
Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India for the issuance of Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondent to process the Tatkal Passport Application MA1076642536724 filed on 12.06.2024 and re-issue the passport of the petitioner.

For Petitioner	: M/s.Sunny Sheen Akkara
For R1	: Mr.R.Sidharth, Central Government Counsel
For R2 to R4	: Dr.C.E.Pratap Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

ORDER

This writ petition is filed with a direction to direct the respondents to process the Tatkal Passport Application MA1076642536724 dated 12.06.2024 and re-issue the passport of the petitioner.

2. The grievance of the petitioner is that the pages of the petitioner's passport got exhausted and therefore, he made the above application for re-issue. Upon receipt of an adverse police report, the same has not been acted upon.



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3. The matter is no longer res integra, having been considered by two

Hon'ble Division Benches of this Court in *Arumugam vs Regional Passport Officer* (W.A(MD) No. 301 of 2018) and judgment in *Regional Passport Officer v. Samsudeen Mohamed Salih* (W.A.No. 902 of 2023) for the pendency of the FIR or the criminal case, the re-issue of the passport need not be withheld and the petitioner can be immediately reissued the passport.

4. As far as the criminal case is concerned, a status report has been filed on behalf of the concerned Inspector of Police. It is stated that there are three FIRs pending against the petitioner. First case in Crime No.53 of 2023 is under investigation, the second case in Crime No.33 of 2023 culminated in C.C.No. 5 of 2024 and the petitioner has filed a quash application in CrI.O.P.(MD)No. 21602 of 2024, wherein his personal appearance is dispensed with and the matter is pending. The third case in Crime No.97 of 2023, corresponding to C.C. No.103 of 2024, the petitioner has challenged the same by way of CrI.O.P.(MD)No. 4341 of 2025, wherein a stay has been granted, and the matter is pending.

5. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the



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petitioner is a businessman who often visits China and other countries in connection with his business, and every time, he cannot be approaching the concerned Criminal Court. There is no condition that he must approach the Criminal Court every time. However, if he wants to make multiple exits to various foreign countries and to make multiple visits, the application itself can state that he may be permitted to visit multiple foreign countries with multiple entries and exits and the same will be considered by the concerned Court. This Court, in the judgment in *N.Chandrababu v. Sub Inspector of Police and another (2017 SSC Online Mad 37723)*, has decided that if the matter is pending in the quash application, then the High Court would be the concerned Court.

6. In view thereof, this writ petition is disposed of on the following terms:

(i) The first respondent is directed to consider the application of the petitioner and re-issue the passport de hors the pendency of the above criminal cases if there is no other impediment.

(ii) The said exercise shall be carried out within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of the web copy of the order without waiting for the



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certified copy of the order.

WEB COPY(iii) The petitioner shall get the permission of this Court in the concerned criminal O.Ps. by filing an appropriate application before leaving abroad. Needless to mention that the same can also be a comprehensive application for multiple visits. No costs.

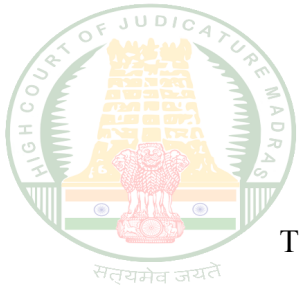
03.04.2025

Neutral Citation: Yes/No
nsl

To

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5/6



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D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

nsI

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