



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29-06-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE C.KUMARAPPAN

CRL OP No. 10487 of 2026

1. Sujaysukumar
S/o. Nandhagopan,
Residing at,
No.2 79, Nadu Veethi,
Sevinthipatti,
Namakkal.
2. Narayansami
S/o. Ramasamy,
No.2/231, Melaputhur,
Udayakulamputhur,
Tirichirapalli.

..Petitioners/
Accused 3 and 4

Vs

State, rep. by the Inspector of Police,
Idol Wing Police Station,
Chennai.
Cr.No. 04/2026.

..Respondent/
complainant

PRAYER : Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Act, 2023, to release of the Petitioners on bail in the event of their arrest by the respondent police in Cr.No.04 of 2026 pending on the file of the Respondent Police.

For Petitioners:

Mr. P.Aravindhan

For Respondent:

MR.N.PALANIVEL, GOVT.ADVOCATE
(CRL.SIDE)



ORDER

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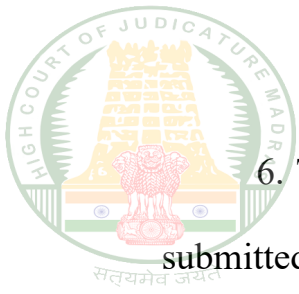
The petitioners apprehend arrest for the alleged offence **under Sections 408, 420, 465, 468 and 201 of IPC in Crime No. 04 of 2026** on the file of the respondent police seek anticipatory bail.

2. It is the case of the prosecution that the petitioners along with the 1st accused, are the hereditary Arangavalars of Thalamalai Venkatachalapathy Temple. The allegation is that they, in furtherance of their common intention, committed theft of the impon Vilakku Nachiyar Statute idol belonging to the temple and replaced it with a fake idol made of brass, thereby attempting to conceal the theft. It is further alleged that they also committed theft of the Gouram Kalasam. Hence the complaint.

3. I have given my anxious consideration to the submissions made by the learned counsel appearing on either side.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the idol alleged to have been stolen from the temple is only an imaginary one and that the idol presently available in the temple is the very same idol that has been in existence there for a long time.

5. At this juncture, the learned counsel for the intervenor objected to the said submission and contended that the stolen idol is yet to be recovered.



6. The learned Government Advocate, on instructions, produced a report submitted by the Superintendent of the Archaeology Department (Retired), Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai, who is presently associated with the Idol Wing-CID, Chennai. The report states that the idol presently available in the temple does not tally with the *Vilakku Nachiyar* idol seen in the video footage recorded earlier. According to the report, the idol seen in the video footage belongs to the 17th or 18th century, whereas the idol presently available in the temple is of recent origin.

7. In view of the above factual position, and taking into consideration the importance of preserving the nation's precious cultural and heritage resources, as well as the fact that the stolen idol has not yet been recovered, this Court finds force in the contention of the learned Government Advocate that, if the petitioner is enlarged on bail at this stage, it would *jeopardize* the prosecution case.

8. Accordingly, this Court is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners. The Anticipatory bail application stands dismissed.

29-06-2026

JRS



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C.KUMARAPPAN, J.

JRS

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To

1.The II Metropolitan Magistrate, Chennai.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Idol Wing Police Station,
Chennai.

Cr.No. 04/2026.

3.The Public Prosecutor, High Court of Madras.

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