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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 30.10.2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE N.RAMESH

CRL.O.P.No.31392 of 2026

CNR: {HCMA012577312026}

T.M.Sadhasivam @ Muthuselvam ..Petitioner

Vs

The State Rep by The Inspector of Police,
Central Crime Bureau,
Chennai.
Crime No.187 of 2001. ..Respondent

PRAYER: To release the petitioner on bail with suitable condition and to pass such other orders deem fit in the circumstance of the case.

For Petitioner : Mr.J.Kamaraj

For Respondent : Mr.M.M.I.Khaleel,
Government Advocate (Crl.side).

ORDER

The petitioner, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on **01.10.2026** execution of a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) for the alleged offences punishable under **Sections 420 r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, in **Crime No.187 of 2001** (now pending trial in **C.C.No.401 of 2002** on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvottiyur), seeks regular bail.

2. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that this is a case of cheating of the year 2002 which has been pending trial for the past 24 years.

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Order QR

Initially, there were two accused persons, out of whom the first accused (A1) passed away on 11.12.2019, leaving the petitioner as the sole surviving accused to face trial. He further submits that the case is now posted for the examination of PW5 on the next hearing date, i.e., 18.11.2026. He contends that the petitioner has been in continuous custody since 01.10.2026 and prays for the grant of bail, assuring that the petitioner will cooperate with the trial without any further delay.

3. The learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the respondent strongly opposes the grant of bail, submitting that the matter has been systematically dragged out for nearly a quarter of a century primarily due to the deliberate non-appearance and evasive tactics of the petitioner. He points out that an Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) was issued by the trial court as early as 09.12.2024, and it took almost two years of execution efforts before the petitioner could finally be apprehended and arrested on 01.10.2026. He further produced a letter written by the concerned Judicial Magistrate to the Commissioner of Police requesting the execution of the NBW, wherein the learned Magistrate, at paragraph 4, expressed deep anguish over the long pendency of the case and the conduct of the petitioner.

4. Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.

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5. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, particularly the fact that this criminal proceeding has been pending for the past 24 years before the Magistrate Court, and that the petitioner is now the sole surviving accused who has successfully evaded the process of law for a considerable period after the issuance of the NBW, this Court is not inclined to grant bail to the petitioner.

6. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition stands dismissed.

7. However, taking into account the long pendency of the case, the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvottiyur, is directed to conduct the trial in **C.C.No.401 of 2002** on a day-to-day basis and complete the entire trial proceedings within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

8. It is made clear that if the trial is not completed within the stipulated period of six weeks as stated above, the petitioner is at liberty to renew his application for bail before the trial court or this Court.

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Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
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N.RAMESH, J.

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To

1. The Inspector of Police,
Central Crime Bureau,
Chennai.

2. The Public Prosecutor, High Court of Madras.

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