



W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

WEB COPY

DATED: 06.04.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR**

W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

Michealraj

... Petitioner

vs.

1.The Regional Passport Officer,
O/o. Regional Passport Office,
Trichy District.

2.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by the Inspector of Police,
Keeranur Police Station, Pudukkottai.

3.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by the Inspector of Police,
Mathur Police Station, Pudukkottai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of Writ of Mandamus, to direct first respondent to renew the passport based on the petitioner's application in File No.TR2076420597726 dated 17.02.2026.



W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

For Petitioner :Mr.P.Ganapathi Subramanian
For R1 :Mr.G.Vishnuram
For R2 and R3 :Mr.M.Vaikkam Karunanithi
Government Advocate (Crl.side)

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court seeking issuance of a writ of mandamus directing the first respondent to renew his passport based on his application in File No. TR2076420597726 dated 17.02.2026.

2. The grievance of the petitioner is that, though he has submitted an application for renewal of his passport, the same has not been processed by the first respondent. According to the petitioner, the application has been kept pending on the ground that criminal cases have been registered against him.

3. Mr. M. Vaikkam Karunanithi, learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side), appearing for the respondents 2 and 3, on instructions, submitted that two criminal cases have been registered against the petitioner.



W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing on either side and perused the materials available on record.

5. The refusal to issue or renew a passport is governed by the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967. Under Section 6 of the Act, the Passport Authority is empowered to refuse issuance or renewal of a passport only on the grounds specifically enumerated therein. One such ground is where proceedings in respect of an offence alleged to have been committed by the applicant are pending before a competent criminal court in India.

6. In the present case, the only reason cited by the respondents is the registration of FIRs against the petitioner. However, mere registration of FIRs does not fall within the grounds contemplated under Section 6 of the Act. The statutory bar arises only when criminal proceedings are pending before a competent criminal court.

7. Therefore, the action of the first respondent in withholding the petitioner's application solely on the basis of the registration of FIRs is



W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

not in consonance with the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967.

WEB COPY

8. In view of the above, this Court finds merit in the petitioner's contention.

9. Accordingly, the writ petition is allowed, and the first respondent is directed to process the petitioner's application for renewal of passport in File No. TR2076420597726 dated 17.02.2026 and issue the passport, subject to the petitioner satisfying all other eligibility criteria prescribed under law.

10. The above exercise shall be completed within a period of four (4) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

11. No costs.

Index :Yes / No
NCC :Yes / No
cmr

06.04.2026



W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

To
WEB COPY

1.The Inspector of Police,
The State of Tamil Nadu,
Keeranur Police Station, Pudukkottai.

2.The Inspector of Police,
The State of Tamil Nadu,
Mathur Police Station, Pudukkottai.



WEB COPY



W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR, J.

cmr

W.P.(MD)No.9266 of 2026

06.04.2026