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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 21.04.2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR

W.P.(MD)No.11391 of 2026

Vaathula Sankaran Shankarsriram

.. Petitioner

- Vs. -

1. The Regional Passport Officer,
Tiruchirappalli,
Tiruchirappalli District.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Vallam Police Station,
Thanjavur District

3. The Inspector of Police,
Thiruverumbur Police Station,
Trichy District.

.. Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this court to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the 1st respondent to re-issue passport to the petitioner considering the application in ARN.No.26-1054960151 dated 15.03.2026 for a normal period of 10 years.



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For Petitioner

: Mr.A.Logesh Kumar

For Respondents

: Ms.Mahalakshmi
Central Government Standing Counsel
for R1

: Mr.M.Vaikkam Karunanithi
Government Advocate(Crl. Side)
for R2 and R3

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court seeking for a direction to the first respondent to reissue passport pursuant to the application in ARN.No. 26-1054960151 dated 15.03.2026.

2. The petitioner's application for re-issuance of passport has not been processed citing the registration of FIR in Crime No.627 of 2025.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the registration of the FIR has been challenged before this Court in Crl.O.P(MD)No.22807 of 2025. This Court has directed the police not to file final report. As of today, no criminal case is pending against the petitioner in any court.



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4. Mr.M.Vaikkam Karunanithi, learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side), appearing for the respondent Nos.2 and 3, on receiving instructions, submitted that a criminal case has been registered against the petitioner.

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

6. 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.

7. In the present case, the only reason cited by the respondents is the registration of FIR against the petitioner. However, mere registration of FIR 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.

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8. Therefore, the action of the first respondent in withholding the petitioner's application solely on the basis of the registration of FIR is not in consonance with the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967.

9. In view of the above, this Court finds merit in the petitioner's contention. Accordingly, the Writ Petition is disposed of by directing the first respondent to process the petitioner's application for renewal of passport in ARN.No.26-1054960151 dated 15.03.2026 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. There shall be no order as to costs.

21.04.2026

Index :Yes/No
Internet :Yes/No
NCC :Yes/No
PJL



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To

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Tiruchirappalli District.
2. The Inspector of Police,
Vallam Police Station,
Thanjavur District
3. The Inspector of Police,
Thiruverumbur Police Station,
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HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR, J.

PJL

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