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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.11421 of 2026

Karthik

.. Petitioner

- Vs. -

1. The Regional Passport Officer,
Regional Passport Office,
New Municipal Complex,
Thillai Nagar,
7th Cross,
Tiruchirappalli District- 620 018.

2. The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep by the Inspector of Police,
Thirugokarnam Police Station,
Pudukkottai District.
Crime No. 565/2021.

.. 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 the passport based on the petitioner's application pending in File No. TR2076185245026 dated 05.01.2026.



For Petitioner : Mr.B.Nagarjuna Samy

For Respondents : Mr.P.Sivachandran
Central Government Standing Counsel
for R1

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

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court seeking for a direction to the first respondent to reissue passport pursuant to the application in File No. TR2076185245026 dated 05.01.2026.

2. The application submitted by the petitioner for re-issuance of passport has not been processed citing a criminal case was registered in Crime No.565 of 2021.

3. Mr.M.Vaikkam Karunanithi, learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side), appearing for the respondent No.2, on receiving instructions, submitted that a criminal case has been registered against the petitioner.



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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 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.

7. 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.

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8. 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 File No. TR2076185245026 dated 05.01.2026 and issue the passport, subject to the petitioner satisfying all other eligibility criteria prescribed under law.

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

10. There shall be no order as to costs.

21.04.2026

Index :Yes/No
Internet :Yes/No
NCC :Yes/No
PJJ



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To

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Thillai Nagar,
7th Cross,
Tiruchirappalli District- 620 018.
2. The Inspector of Police,
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HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR, J.

PJL

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