



W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 12.06.2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR**

W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

S.Vignesh

... Petitioner

vs.

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

2.The Inspector of Police,
Samayanallur Police Station,
Trichy District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of Writ of Mandamus, to direct the 1st respondent to issue a passport to the petitioner by considering the Application in file No.TR2066484884726 dated 03.03.2026 within the time limit stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner	:Mr.M.Jegadeesh Pandian
For R1	:Mr.B.Brijesh Kishore Central Government Standing Counsel
For R2	:Mr.R.Mohamed Riyaz Government Advocate (Crl.side)



W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

WEB COPY

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court seeking issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the first respondent to issue a passport based upon his application in File No. TR2066484884726 dated 03.03.2026.

2. The grievance of the petitioner is that, though an application has been submitted for issuance of a fresh 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 a criminal case has been registered against him.

3. Mr. R.Mohamed Riyaz, learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the second respondent, on instructions, submitted that a criminal case has been registered against the petitioner in Cr.No.160 of 2022.

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



W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

WEB COPY

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 in the circumstances 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 criminal court in India.

6. In the present case, the only reason cited by the respondents is the registration of an FIR against the petitioner. However, mere registration of an 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 an FIR is not in consonance with the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967.



W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

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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 issuance of a fresh passport bearing File No. TR2066484884726 dated 03.03.2026. 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.

11. No costs.

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

12.06.2026

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W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

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The Inspector of Police,
Samayanallur Police Station,
Trichy District.



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W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR, J.

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W.P.(MD)No.15938 of 2026

12.06.2026