



Crl.O.P(MD)No.514 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 20.01.2026

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THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE L.VICTORIA GOWRI

Crl.O.P(MD)No.514 of 2026

Bala Arun Raja

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep.by the Superintendent of Police,
Nagercoil,
Kanyakumari District.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Vadasery Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.

3.Public Information Officer,
Kanyakumari District,
Kanyakumar.

4.The Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St.George, Chennai-9. ... Respondents

(R4 is suo motu impleaded by this Court dated 20.01.2026)

Prayer: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 528 of BNSS, 2023, to direct the 1st respondent to save the CCTV footage of vadasery Police Station dated 30.10.2025 from 8.30 AM to 9.00 PM and CCTV



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footages of Vadasery police station dated 10.11.2025 from 9.45AM to 10.45PM.

For Petitioner : Mr.KA.Raamakrishnan
For R1-R3 : Mr.M.Sakthi Kumar
Government Advocate(Crl.Side)
For R4 : Mr.T.Amjad Khan
Government Advocate
assisted by Mr.Ajmal Khan
Additional Advocate General

ORDER

Preface :

The present Criminal Original Petition raises an issue of recurring constitutional concern touching upon the accountability of police machinery, the right of citizens to safety within police stations, and the indispensability of CCTV surveillance as a safeguard against arbitrariness and excesses. The prayer is limited in nature, yet the ramifications are of considerable public importance.

2. Factual Backdrop :

The petitioner seeks a direction for preservation and furnishing of CCTV footage of the Vadasery Police Station for two specific dates and time slots, namely 30.10.2025 and 10.11.2025, asserting that certain



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untoward incidents had occurred during his presence in the police station pursuant to bail conditions imposed by a competent court.

Submissions :

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner was granted anticipatory bail in Crl.M.P.No.3882 of 2025 dated 17.12.2025 by the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Kanyakumari District at Nagercoil, in connection with Crime No.383 of 2025 on the file of the second respondent police. In compliance with the conditions imposed in the said anticipatory bail order, the petitioner appeared before the second respondent police on 30.10.2025 and 10.11.2025. During the said appearances, the petitioner was allegedly subjected to treatment warranting preservation of CCTV footage to protect his legal rights and personal safety. Despite making a request for preservation of the CCTV footage pertaining to the relevant dates and time periods, the second respondent police failed and refused to act upon the same. It was further contended that the Investigating Officer had appeared before the learned trial Court and tendered an apology for the manner in which the



petitioner was treated, thereby lending credence to the petitioner's apprehension and request. Hence, it was prayed that this Court may issue an appropriate direction to preserve and furnish the CCTV footage.

4. Per contra, the learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) submitted that the FIR in Crime No.383 of 2025 came to be registered based on a complaint lodged by one Yasoda, the *defacto* complainant. The prosecution case is that the *defacto* complainant had borrowed a sum of Rs.12,00,000/- from the petitioner and allegedly repaid a total sum of Rs.58,50,000/-, yet the petitioner continued to threaten her. It was further submitted that the petitioner had retained the key of a vehicle which was allegedly handed over as security, and upon insistence by the police to return the same, the petitioner became aggrieved and has now filed the present petition. The learned Government Advocate also contended that even after being granted anticipatory bail, the petitioner did not cooperate with the investigation.



5. Rejoinder by the petitioner:

The learned counsel for the petitioner emphatically denied the allegation of non-cooperation and reiterated that the conduct of the police officials themselves was questionable, warranting preservation of CCTV footage as an objective and neutral piece of evidence.

6. Point for consideration :

Whether this Court, in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction under Section 528 BNSS, can direct preservation and furnishing of CCTV footage from a police station to ensure protection of individual rights and transparency in police functioning?

7. Analysis:

(i) This Court has repeatedly noticed a disturbing pattern where citizens are constrained to approach constitutional Courts seeking preservation of CCTV footage from police stations. More often than not, a routine submission is made on behalf of the police that the



footage would be preserved “if available”. Such a submission is wholly unacceptable.

(ii) The presence of functional CCTV cameras in police stations is not a matter of discretion, but a constitutional necessity flowing from Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India. CCTV surveillance serves as a two-fold safeguard, protecting citizens from excesses and honest police officers from false allegations.

8. It is the considered view of this Court that:

(i) CCTV cameras in police stations must function 24×7 without exception.

(ii) CCTV footage must be preserved for a reasonable minimum period, enabling citizens to seek redressal when required.

(iii) The State cannot plead inadequacy of storage or technical limitations as an excuse.

(iv) In the present case, the request of the petitioner pertains to specific dates and limited time frames, and the same is neither vague



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nor oppressive. Preservation and furnishing of such footage would not prejudice the investigation but would rather advance the cause of justice. Transparency in policing is not an administrative luxury but a constitutional imperative. The legitimacy of law enforcement stands fortified only when power is exercised under the watchful lens of accountability. CCTV surveillance in police stations is one such indispensable instrument in preserving the balance between authority and liberty.

9. Suo motu impleadment and systemic directions:

In view of the larger public interest involved, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu has been *suo motu* impleaded as the fourth respondent.

10. The fourth respondent is directed to:

(i) Enhance the storage capacity of CCTV systems installed in all police stations across the State of Tamil Nadu, ensuring preservation of



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footage for a minimum period of one year to eighteen months from the date of recording.

(ii) Ensure that whenever a request is made by a citizen for CCTV footage relating to their safety or legal rights, and such request is made within 12 months, the same shall be provided expeditiously, subject to law.

11. Accordingly,

(i) The second respondent is directed to preserve and furnish the CCTV footage of Vadasery Police Station:

- a. dated 30.10.2025 from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m., and
- b. dated 10.11.2025 from 9.45 a.m. to 10.45 p.m.

(ii) The fourth respondent shall comply with the systemic directions issued herein and place a compliance report before this Court.

12. This Criminal Original Petition is allowed.



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13. Post on **25.02.2026** for reporting compliance by the second and fourth respondents.

20.01.2026

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

Note : Issue order copy on 23.01.2026.

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To

1.The Superintendent of Police,
Nagercoil,
Kanyakumari District.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Vadasery Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.

3.Public Information Officer,
Kanyakumari District,
Kanyakumar.

4.The Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St.George, Chennai-9.



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5.The Additional Advocate General,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

6.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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L.VICTORIA GOWRI, J.

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