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HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA



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HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA



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Status: Pending

Case Number: WP 3931/2026
(KAHC010078292026)

Classification: GM RES

Date of Filing: 30/01/2026
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Petitioner: V SHAILAJA

Petitioner Advocate:

Respondent: THE
COMMISSIONER

Respondent Advocate: G.B.
SHARATH GOWDA

Filing No.: WP 3602/2026

Judge: SURAJ GOVINDARAJ

Last Posted For: ADMISSION

Last Date of Action: 13/08/2026

Last Action Taken:
ADJOURNED

Next Hearing Date: 09/09/2026

Daily Orders: WP 3931/2026

1	<u>13/08/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
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- ,1. Learned AGA on instruction submits that the CCTV system at the Whitefield Police Station remained operational only when there was a supply of mains electricity. In the event of a power failure, the CCTV system could continue to function only if it was supported by a working UPS. According to him, the UPS had remained non-functional for nearly eleven months, including on 04.09.2024, the date on which the alleged incident is stated to have occurred. Consequently, it is contended that, in the absence of a functioning UPS during a power outage, the CCTV system would not have recorded the alleged incident.
2. The said submission does not inspire any confidence. CCTVs in all the Police Stations were directed to be installed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Shafhi Mohammad vs. State of Himachal Pradesh to monitor the activities in the police station and on account of various complaints have been received as regards atrocities etc., being committed in the police station.
3. The very purpose of installing CCTV cameras in a police station is defeated if the system is allowed to remain non-functional during power outages. If the UPS meant to provide backup power remained defective for nearly eleven months, the Station House Officer could not have remained a passive spectator twiddling his thumbs. Equally, the supervisory officers at every higher level cannot escape responsibility by adopting a similar approach. Once it was brought to the notice of the concerned authorities that the UPS was not functioning, it was incumbent upon every officer responsible for the maintenance and supervision of the police station to take immediate steps to get repaired or replaced the UPS so that the CCTV system remained operational even during interruptions in the electricity supply. Failure to do so defeats the very object for which CCTV cameras were directed to be installed, namely, to ensure continuous surveillance, transparency, accountability, and preservation of evidence.
4. A report has also been placed before the Court setting out the details of the CCTV cameras and UPS systems installed in various police stations. A perusal of the report reveals several disturbing features. Under the column relating to the status of the UPS, the expression "not working" the word nil has been used, as if to indicate all CCTV's are working 24/7, 365 days a year.
5. The report further discloses that while most police stations have approximately four CCTV cameras installed, the capacity of the UPS provided varies considerably, with some stations having only a 0.5 KVA or 1 KVA UPS, others having capacities ranging up to 600 KVA, and in certain cases the CCTV system is merely connected to the main UPS of the police station. The report does not explain the basis on which such varying capacities have been provided or whether the installed UPS has sufficient capacity to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the CCTV system during power failures. It is also unclear whether the UPS dedicated to the CCTV system is independent of other electrical loads or whether it forms part of a common backup system serving the entire police station. These deficiencies raise serious concerns regarding the adequacy of the backup infrastructure and the effectiveness of the CCTV systems intended to ensure continuous surveillance.
6. The installation of a CCTV is not a mere formality. The object and reasons are as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Shafhi Mohammad vs. State of Himachal Pradesh.
7. The respondent–Police cannot contend that they have complied with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court merely because CCTV cameras have been installed in police stations. Compliance with those directions is not confined to the physical installation of CCTV cameras but extends to ensuring that the system remains continuously functional and capable of recording at all times. A CCTV system without an effective and reliable power backup is liable to become inoperative during power failures, thereby defeating the very purpose for which such cameras were mandated. Therefore, unless adequate backup power is provided and maintained so as to ensure uninterrupted operation of the CCTV system, the installation of CCTV cameras by itself cannot be regarded as compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
8. The Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Home Department, and the Director General and Inspector General of Police shall personally examine this matter and ensure that a detailed enquiry is conducted. The enquiry shall, at the minimum, cover the following aspects as regards all police stations and establishments across the State of Karnataka:
- 8.1. A complete technical and administrative audit shall be conducted of the CCTV system in every police station. The audit shall ascertain:
- 8.1.1. the number of CCTV cameras installed;
- 8.1.2. the location of each camera and whether all important places, including lock-ups, entrances, exits, corridors, interrogation rooms and other vulnerable areas, are covered;
- 8.1.3. whether every camera is in working condition;
- 8.1.4. the date of installation of each camera;
- 8.1.5. the make, model and technical specifications of the cameras and recording equipment;
- 8.1.6. the recording device provided in each police station and its storage capacity;
- 8.1.7. whether the recording equipment is functioning properly;
- 8.1.8. whether the footage is being continuously recorded without interruption;
- 8.1.9. the period for which the footage is preserved;
- 8.1.10. whether the footage can be retrieved whenever required and in what manner;
- 8.1.11. whether the footage is stored only in the police station or is also uploaded to any central server or cloud storage;
- 8.1.12. whether the uploaded footage can be accessed even if the local recording device fails.

8.2. The enquiry shall also ascertain the details relating to the power backup provided for the CCTV system, namely:

8.2.1. whether a separate UPS has been provided for the CCTV system or whether it is connected to the main UPS of the police station;

8.2.2. the capacity of the UPS;

8.2.3. whether the capacity of the UPS is sufficient to keep all CCTV cameras and recording devices operational during a power failure;

8.2.4. the actual backup time available from the UPS;

8.2.5. whether the UPS is in working condition;

8.2.6. if not, since when it has remained non-functional;

8.2.7. whether complaints regarding the defective UPS were made in any of the police stations and, if so, by whom, to whom;

8.2.8. what action was taken on such complaints;

8.2.9. who was responsible for repairing or replacing the UPS;

8.2.10. whether periodic inspection and maintenance of the UPS were carried out; and

8.2.11. whether proper records of inspection and maintenance are maintained.

8.3. The enquiry shall further ascertain the electricity supply position in each police station, including:

8.3.1. the frequency and duration of power failures;

8.3.2. whether the existing UPS capacity is sufficient having regard to the power outages in that area;

8.3.3. whether additional backup such as an inverter or generator is required;

8.3.4. whether rural police stations require larger backup facilities than urban police stations because of longer and more frequent power interruptions.

8.4. In so far as the present case is concerned, the enquiry shall specifically ascertain:

8.4.1. whether there was any interruption in the electricity supply on 04.09.2024 between 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.;

8.4.2. if there was a power failure, the exact time at which it commenced and ended;

8.4.3. whether the UPS was functioning on that day;

8.4.4. if the UPS was not functioning, since when it had remained defective;

8.4.5. whether the CCTV cameras continued to record during the relevant period;

8.4.6. whether any footage was lost because of the failure of the UPS or any other reason;

8.4.7. whether any footage was uploaded to the cloud or any central server during that period;

8.4.8. whether such footage is still available; and

8.4.9. if no footage is available, the exact reason for its non-availability.

8.5. All necessary records from BESCO shall be obtained regarding the supply of electricity to the concerned Whitefield police station on 04.09.2024, particularly between 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., including records of any interruption in power supply, so that the correctness of the stand taken by the jurisdictional police can be independently verified.

8.6. The enquiry shall also identify the officers responsible for ensuring that the CCTV system and the UPS remain functional in all police stations as also the Whitefield Police Station. It shall ascertain:

8.6.1. who is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the CCTV system;

8.6.2. who is responsible for maintaining the UPS;

8.6.3. who is required to periodically inspect the system;

8.6.4. whether inspection reports are prepared;

8.6.5. whether any officer noticed that the UPS had become non-functional;

8.6.6. whether the matter was reported to higher authorities;

8.6.7. whether funds were available for repairs;

8.6.8. whether any delay occurred in sanctioning or carrying out repairs; and

8.6.9. whether any officer failed to discharge his duties.

8.7. The enquiry shall also examine whether the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding installation, operation, maintenance and preservation of CCTV footage have been fully complied with in every police station. If any deficiency is noticed, the reasons therefor shall be identified and immediate corrective measures shall be taken.

8.8. The Principal Secretary and the Director General and Inspector General of Police shall also put in place a proper monitoring system throughout the State to ensure that:

8.8.1. every CCTV camera remains operational twenty-four hours a day;

8.8.2. recording takes place continuously without interruption;

8.8.3. adequate power backup is always available;

8.8.4. any failure of a camera, recorder or UPS is immediately detected;

8.8.5. repairs are carried out without delay;

8.8.6. footage is preserved for the required period;

8.8.7. regular inspections and audits are conducted;

8.8.8. higher officers receive periodic reports regarding the functioning of CCTV systems; and

8.8.9. responsibility is fixed wherever prolonged failure of any CCTV system or power backup is noticed.

9. The Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Home Department, and the Director General and Inspector General of Police shall also direct the Police Computer Wing to design, develop and implement a suitable State-level information technology system for monitoring the functioning of CCTV systems in all police stations. The system shall, at the minimum, provide for the following:

9.1. a centralised dashboard showing every police station and the status of each CCTV camera;

9.2. the working status of every camera, recorder, UPS and other equipment connected with the CCTV system;

9.3. automatic alerts whenever any camera, recorder, UPS or other equipment stops functioning or goes offline;

9.4. continuous monitoring of the health of the CCTV system, including the recording status, storage capacity, available recording period, cloud synchronisation, network connectivity and power backup;

9.5. monitoring of the battery health, charging status and backup time of every UPS;

9.6. automatic generation of alerts whenever the available backup power falls below the prescribed level or whenever the UPS develops a fault;

9.7. maintenance of a complete digital log showing the date and time when any camera, recorder or UPS became non-functional, the date and time when the defect was reported, the officer to whom it was reported, the action taken and the date and time when the defect was rectified;

9.8. automatic escalation of unresolved faults to the Station House Officer, the Circle Inspector, the Superintendent of Police and other supervisory officers if the defect is not rectified within the prescribed time;

9.9. generation of daily, weekly and monthly reports showing the uptime of the CCTV system in every police station, the number of failures, the duration of each failure and the time taken for rectification;

9.10. maintenance of an audit trail so that no entry relating to the functioning, failure or repair of the CCTV system can be altered or deleted without leaving a record;

9.11. facility to verify whether the CCTV system has recorded continuously for twenty-four hours every day and whether the footage has been preserved for the prescribed period;

9.12. integration with cloud storage, wherever provided, so that the status of uploading, preservation and retrieval of footage can be monitored;

9.13. generation of automatic reminders for preventive maintenance, replacement of batteries, servicing of UPS units and periodic inspection of CCTV systems;

9.14. role-based access so that Station House Officers, supervisory officers, District Police Offices, the Police Computer Wing and the Home Department can monitor the functioning of the CCTV systems according to their respective responsibilities;

9.15. preservation of all logs, alerts and audit records for such period as may be prescribed so that accountability can be fixed in the event of any failure.

9.16. The Police Computer Wing shall also prepare and place before the Principal Secretary and the Director General and Inspector General of Police a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prescribing the procedure for daily health checks, preventive maintenance, reporting of faults, timelines for rectification, replacement of defective equipment, preservation of CCTV footage, verification of cloud backups, periodic audits and fixation of responsibility in the event of any lapse.

9.17. The Principal Secretary and the Director General and Inspector General of Police shall ensure that the above monitoring system is implemented in a time-bound manner in all police stations in the State. The object of such a system shall be to ensure that failures are detected immediately, responsibility is fixed without delay, and the CCTV system remains operational at all times in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The monitoring system shall move from a complaint-based approach to a real-time, automated and accountable mechanism, so that prolonged failures of CCTV cameras, recording devices or UPS systems do not go unnoticed.

10. The above matters are only illustrative. The Principal Secretary and the Director General and Inspector General of Police shall be at liberty to examine any other issue connected with the installation, maintenance, operation, monitoring and preservation of CCTV systems in police stations so as to ensure full and effective compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The object of the enquiry shall not merely be to identify lapses in the present case but to ensure that such lapses do not occur in any police station in the State in future.

11. The submission of learned AGA that he would immediately furnish the recording of the body-worn camera is placed on record.

12. Re-list on 09.09.2026 for further hearing and submission of a compliance report in regards to the above.

13. Interim order granted earlier is extended till the next date of hearing.

Last Updated On: 2026-08-17 15:38:55

2	11/08/2026	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
 View Order	,PDF Format uploaded. Last Updated On: 2026-08-12 10:47:24		

3	<u>10/08/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
4	<u>04/08/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
 View Order	,PDF Format uploaded. Last Updated On: 2026-08-06 15:04:20		
5	<u>31/07/2026</u>	R. NATARAJ	ADJOURNED
	Transferred to CH - 12. Last Updated On: 2026-08-01 11:20:53		
6	<u>31/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
	Transferred to CH - 12. Last Updated On: 2026-08-01 11:20:53		
7	<u>23/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
 View Order	,PDF Format uploaded. Last Updated On: 2026-07-28 10:32:54		
8	<u>22/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
	ADJOURNED,		
9	<u>21/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
	LIST ON 22/07/2026.		
10	<u>17/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
 View Order	,1. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Whitefield, Bengaluru, is directed to be present through video conferencing on next date of hearing. 2. Re-list on 21.07.2026 at 2.30 p.m. Last Updated On: 2026-07-17 17:58:48		
11	<u>13/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
 View Order	,PDF Format uploaded. Last Updated On: 2026-07-14 11:07:46		
12	<u>09/07/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED

 View Order	, 1. Learned AGA seeks for and is granted three days time to secure instructions as regards the availability of the CCTV footage and when the CCTV footage would be made available to the petitioner. 2. Re-list this matter on 13.07.2026 at 02.30 p.m. Last Updated On: 2026-07-10 15:59:53		
13	<u>12/06/2026</u>	SURAJ GOVINDARAJ	ADJOURNED
	list ON 09/07/2026,		
14	<u>08/04/2026</u>	SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM	ADJOURNED
	List this matter on 12.06.2026. Last Updated On: 2026-04-09 15:33:05		
15	<u>06/04/2026</u>	SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM	ADJOURNED
	Re-list this matter in 'preliminary hearing-fresh matter' on 08.04.2026. Last Updated On: 2026-04-08 16:12:13		
16	<u>11/03/2026</u>	SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM	NOTICE
	Party-in-person is not present. Learned AGA is directed to accept notice for respondents No.2 and 3. Sri Sharath Gowda G.B., learned standing counsel is directed to accept notice for respondent No.1. Learned counsel for the petitioner shall serve two sets of copies of the writ petition on the standing counsel. Re-list this matter on 06.04.2026. Last Updated On: 2026-03-12 10:53:53		
17	<u>10/02/2026</u>	DISTRICT JUDGE (OOD1)	ADJOURNED
	Absent. Two weeks time for compliance.		



