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H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 14.06.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and

THE HONOURABLE Mr. JUSTICE R.SAKTHIVEL

H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

Chinnapandi

..

Petitioner

Father of the detenu

Vs.

State rep. by

1. The Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat
Fort St. George
Chennai - 9

2. The Commissioner of Police
Salem City

3. The Superintendent of Police
Central Prison, Salem

4. The Inspector of Police
Salem Railway Police Station
Salem

... Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the records in

Page Nos.1/8



H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

C.M.P.No.114/Drug Offender/Salem/2022 dated 13.09.2022 on the file of the Commissioner of Police, Salem City, the second respondent herein and quash the same as illegal and direct the respondent to produce the detenu Thiru.Vellaiyan, son of Chinnapandi, aged about 20 years, now confined at Central Prison, Salem before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Siranjeevi
For Respondents : Mr.K.S.Mohandass
Public Prosecutor (Puducherry)

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.SUNDAR, J.,]

Captioned 'Habeas Corpus Petition' ['HCP' for the sake of brevity] has been filed by the father of the detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 13.09.2022 bearing reference C.M.P.No.114/Drug Offende/Salem/2022' [hereinafter 'impugned detention order' for the sake of convenience and brevity]. To be noted, fourth respondent is the sponsoring authority and second respondent is the detaining authority as impugned detention order has been made by second respondent.

2. Impugned detention order has been made under 'The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber law offenders, Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral traffic offenders,



H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

Sand-offenders, Sexual-offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act No.14 of 1982)' [hereinafter 'Act 14 of 1982' for the sake of convenience and clarity] on the premise that the detenu is a 'Drug Offender' within the meaning of Section 2(e) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There is no adverse case. This solitary case which is the sole substratum of the impugned preventive detention order is Crime No.124 of 2022 on the file of Salem Railway Police Station for alleged offences under Section 8(c) read with Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of 'Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985' [hereinafter 'NDPS Act' for the sake of brevity]. Owing to the nature of the challenge to the impugned detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix or be detained further by facts.

4. Mr.R.Siranjeevi, learned counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, for all respondents are before us.

5. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that 'live and proximate link' between the grounds of detention and purpose of detention has



H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

snapped as petitioner was arrested on 12.07.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 13.09.2022.

6. Mr. E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected /collated and time was consumed in this exercise. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and nature of ground case, we find that this explanation of learned Prosecutor is unacceptable.

7. We remind ourselves of *Sushanta Kumar Banik's* case [*Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura & others reported in 2022 LiveLaw (SC) 813 : 2022 SCC OnLine SC 1333*]. To be noted, *Banik* case law arose under 'Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988' [hereinafter 'PIT NDPS Act' for the sake of brevity] in Tirupura, wherein after considering the proposal by the Sponsoring Authority and after noticing the trajectory the matter took, Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the 'live and proximate link between grounds of detention and purpose of detention snapping' point should be examined on a case to



H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

case basis. Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in **Banik** case law that this point has two facets. One facet is 'unreasonable delay' and other facet is 'unexplained delay'. We find that the captioned matter falls under latter facet i.e., unexplained delay.

8. To be noted, **Banik** case has been respectfully followed by this Court in **Gomathi Vs. The Principal Secretary to Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023/MHC/334**, **Sadik Basha Yusuf Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023/MHC/733**, **Sangeetha Vs. The Secretary to the Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1110**, **N.Anitha Vs. The Secretary to Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1159** and a series of other orders in HCP cases.



H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

9. Before concluding, we also remind ourselves that preventive detention is not a punishment and HCP is a high prerogative writ.

10. Apropos, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned detention order dated 13.09.2022 bearing reference C.M.P.No.114/Drug Offender/Salem/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Vellaiyan, aged 20 years, son of Thiru.Chinnapandi is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in connection with any other case / cases. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S.,J.)

(R.S.V.,J.)

14.06.2023

Index : Yes

Speaking order

Neutral Citation : Yes

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P.S: Registry to forthwith communicate this order to Jail authorities in Central Prison, Salem



H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

To

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3. The Superintendent of Police
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4. The Inspector of Police
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5. The Public Prosecutor
Madras High Court, Chennai



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H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

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and
R.SAKTHIVEL, J.,

gpa

H.C.P.No.612 of 2023

14.06.2023

Page Nos.8/8