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H.C.P.No.1775 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 20.03.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.ANAND VENKATESH

H.C.P.No.1775 of 2022

Mano @ Manokaran
S/o.Sankar

..

Petitioner/
brother of detenu

Vs.

1. The State rep. By its
Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
Avadi City
3. The Superintendent of Police
Central Prison
Puzhal
4. The Inspector of Police
Law and Order
E-5, Sholavaram Police Station
Thiruvallur District – 600 067

.. Respondents



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Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the entire records of the 2nd respondent in his proceeding vide No.101/BCDFGISSSV/2022 dated 17.08.2022 to quash the same and consequently direct the respondents to produce the detenu Prabhakaran @ Prabha, male, aged 29 years, son of Sankar, now confined in Central Prison, Puzhal and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr. C.Premkumar

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor
Assisted by
Mr.N.Narkeeran

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 brother of detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 17.08.2022 bearing reference 101/BCDFGISSSV/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.

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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, 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 'Goonda' within the meaning of Section 2(f) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There is one adverse case. The ground case which is the sole substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.500 of 2022 on the file of E-5, Sholavaram Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 341, 294(b), 336, 427, 392, 397 and 506(ii) of 'The Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)' [hereinafter 'IPC' for the sake of convenience and clarity] read with Section 3 of Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Act, 1992. 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.



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4. Mr.C.Premkumar, learned counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, assisted by Mr.N.Narkeeran, Advocate, 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 snapped as petitioner was surrendered and remanded to judicial custody on 28.06.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 17.08.2022.

6. Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected and time was consumed for the same. 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***



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(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 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 Bench 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** and series of other HCP matters.



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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 17.08.2022 bearing reference No.101/BCDFGISSSV /2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Prabhakaran @ Prabha, male, aged 29 years, son of Thiru.Sankar 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.)

(N.A.V.,J.)

20.03.2023

Index : Yes / No

Speaking / Non-speaking

Neutral Citation : Yes / No

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



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To

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Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
Avadi City
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5. The Public Prosecutor
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