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H.C.P.No.2270 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18.04.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

H.C.P.No.2270 of 2022

Mukesh Kanna
S/o.Elumalai

.. Petitioner/Friend of Detenu

Vs.

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Avadi City.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Puzhal,
Chennai – 600 066.

4.The Inspector of Police,
Law and Order,
T-15 S.R.M.C. Police Station,
Chennai.

.. 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 connection with



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the order of detention passed by the second respondent dated 14.09.2022 in Memo No.114/BCDFGISSSV/2022 against Suriyaprakash @ Suriya, male, aged 22 years, S/o.Velu, who is confined at Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Ms.M.Kokila

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor
assisted by
Mr.M.Sylvester John, Advocate

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 friend of detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 14.09.2022 bearing reference 114/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.

2. Impugned detention order has been made under 'The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber law offenders,



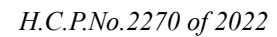
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Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral traffic offenders, Sand-offenders, Sexual-offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act No.14 of 1982)' [hereinafter 'Act 14 of 1982' for the sake of convenience and clarity]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

3. There are five adverse cases and one ground case. The ground case which is the substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.454 of 2022 on the file of T-15 S.R.M.C. Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 341, 294(b), 323, 336, 397 and 506(ii) of 'The Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)' [hereinafter 'IPC' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. 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. Ms.M.Kokila, learned counsel for petitioner and Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor assisted by Mr.M.Sylvester John, learned counsel 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



date of remand in the ground case is 09.08.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 14.09.2022.

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 in this exercise. Considering the facts / circumstances of the case on hand 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 a proposal by a 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 the other facet is 'unexplained



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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.

9. This Court is also informed that co-accused in the ground case were clamped with similar preventive detention orders and H.C.P.Nos.2053 and 2107 of 2022 pertaining to co-accused were allowed by this Bench by orders dated 30.03.2023 and 03.04.2023, respectively and the neutral citations are **2023:MHC:1554** and **2023:MHC:1695**, respectively.



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WEB COPY 10. Before concluding, we also remind ourselves that preventive detention is not a punishment and HCP is a high prerogative writ.

11. Apropos, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned detention order dated 14.09.2022 bearing reference 114/BCDFGISSSV/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Suriyaprakash @ Suriya, aged 22 years, son of Thiru.Velu, now detained in Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless required in connection with any other case/s. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S.,J.) (M.N.K.,J.)
18.04.2023

Index : Yes / No
Speaking / Non-speaking
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
rsi

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



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- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,
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- 5.The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras.



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