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H.C.P.No.2684 of 2022

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.2684 of 2022

Dhanalakshmi

..

Petitioner /  
Wife of Detenu

Vs.

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department  
Fort St.George, Chennai – 600 009
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate  
Coimbatore District  
Coimbatore – 641 018
3. The Superintendent of Police  
Nilgiris Police Station  
The Nilgiris – 643 001
4. The Superintendent of Prison  
Central Prison, Coimbatore  
Coimbatore – 642 018
5. The Inspector of Police  
All Women Police Station

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Mettupalayam  
Coimbatore – 641 301

... Respondents

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Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus calling for the records of the District Collector and District Magistrate, Coimbatore District, the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent herein in connection with the Detention order vide Cr.M.P.No.32/S.O/2022/E1, dated 07.11.2022 and quash the same and further direct the respondents to produce the detenu Thiru.J.Parameshwaran, son of Jayaraman, who is detained in Central Prison, Coimbatore before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Raman Reddy

For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak  
Additional Public Prosecutor

### **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 detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 07.11.2022 bearing reference Cr.M.P.No.32/S.O/2022/E1' [hereinafter 'impugned detention order' for the sake of convenience and brevity]. To be noted, fifth 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 'Sexual Offender' within the meaning of Section 2(ggg) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There is no adverse case. The ground case which is the sole substratum of the impugned preventive detention order is Crime No.690 of 2022 on the file of Mettupalayam All Women Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 5(n) read with Section 6 of Protection of Children Sexual Offence Act, 2012 and Section 506(ii) of 'Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Act 45 of 1860)' ['IPC' for 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.V.Ramana Reddy learned counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor for all respondents are before us.



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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 arrested on 20.08.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 07.11.2022.

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



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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 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.



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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 07.11.2022 bearing reference Cr.M.P.No.32/S.O/2022/E1 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.J.Parameshwaran, aged 41 years, son of Thiru.Jayaraman 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, Coimbatore**



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To

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6. The Public Prosecutor  
Madras High Court, Chennai



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**M.SUNDAR, J.,**  
**and**  
**R.SAKTHIVEL, J.,**

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