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HCP.No.908 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 03.07.2025

CORAM :

**THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH**

**AND**

**THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN**

H.C.P.No.908 of 2025

Pavithasree

Petitioner(s) /wife of the detenue

Vs

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to  
Government  
Home Prohibition and Excise  
Department, Secretariat, Chennai-  
600009

2.The District Collector and District  
Magistrate  
Office of the District Collecctor,  
Ariyalur District.

3.The Superintendent of Police  
Ariyalur District, Ariyalur-621704

4.The Inspector of Police  
Udayarpalayam Circle, Ariyalur  
District-621804

5.The Superintendent  
Central Prison, Trichy-620020

Respondent(s)



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**PRAYER:** Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records leading to the detention of the petitioner's husband Shanmuganathan, son of Sonaimuthu, aged about 27 years vide detention order made in Cr.MP.No7/2025 dated 21.03.2025 passed by the 2nd respondent and quash the same and consequently, direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detainee, now detained at Central Prison, Thiruchirapalli before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Murugesan

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

### **ORDER**

**M.S.RAMESH, J.**  
**and**  
**V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.**

The petitioner herein, who is the wife of the detenu, Shanmuganathan, son of Sonaimuthu, aged about 27 years, now confined at Central Prison, Thiruchirapalli, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 21.03.2025 issued



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against her husband, branding him as "Goonda" 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 14 of 1982].

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner, as well as the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

3. Though several grounds are raised in the petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that there is an inordinate delay in passing the order of detention.

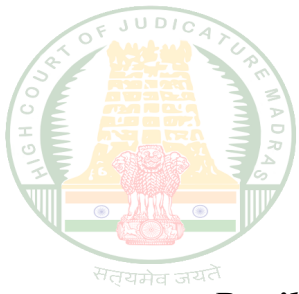
4. In the instant case, the detenu was arrested on 18.02.2025 and thereafter, the detention order came to be passed on 21.03.2025. This fact is not disputed by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor.

5. In the case of '*Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura*',



reported in '**2022 LiveLaw (SC) 813**', when there was an inordinate delay from the date of proposal till passing of the detention order and likewise, between the date of detention order and the actual arrest, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had held that the live and proximate link, between the grounds and the purpose of detention, stands snapped in arresting the detenu. The relevant observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is extracted hereunder:-

*“20. It is manifestly clear from a conspectus of the above decisions of this Court, that the underlying principle is that if there is unreasonable delay between the date of the order of detention & actual arrest of the detenu and in the same manner from the date of the proposal and passing of the order of detention, such delay unless satisfactorily explained throws a considerable doubt on the genuineness of the requisite subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority in passing the detention order and consequently render the detention order bad and invalid because the “live and proximate link” between the grounds of detention and the purpose of detention is snapped in arresting the detenu. A question whether the delay is unreasonable and stands unexplained depends on the facts and circumstances of each case.”*



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6. Drawing inspiration from the judgment in ***Sushanta Kumar***

***Banik's case***, a co-ordinate Bench of this Court in the case of '***Gomathi Vs. Principal Secretary to Government and Others***', reported in '***2023 SCC OnLine Mad 6332***', had held that when there is an inordinate delay from the date of arrest/date of proposal till the order of detention, the live and proximate link between them would also stand snapped and thereby, had quashed the detention order on this ground.

7. In yet another case i.e., in '***Nagaraj Vs. State of Tamil Nadu***', reported in '***(2018) 3 MWN (Cri) 428***', this Court had held that the delay of 36 days in passing the detention order after the arrest of the detenu would snap the live and proximate link between the grounds and purpose of detention. Hence, in view of the unexplained and inordinate delay in passing the order of detention, after the arrest of the detenu, the detention order in the present case, is liable to be quashed.

8. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 21.03.2025 in Cr.MP.No7/2025, is hereby set aside and the Habeas



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Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Shanmuganathan, son of Sonaimuthu, aged about 27 years, now confined at Central Prison, Thiruchirapalli, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless his confinement is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R., J] [V.L.N., J]  
03.07.2025

Index: Yes/No  
Speaking/Non-speaking order  
Internet: Yes/No  
Neutral Citation: Yes/No  
*Anu*

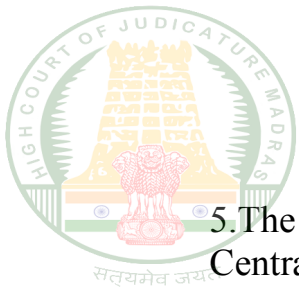
To

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Department, Secretariat, Chennai-  
600009

2. The District Collector and District  
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Udayarpalayam Circle, Ariyalur  
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5. The Superintendent  
Central Prison, Trichy-620020

6. The Joint Secretary,  
Law and Order Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai

7. The Public Prosecutor,  
High Court, Madras.

**M.S.RAMESH, J.**  
**and**  
**V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.**  
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