



H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 22-09-2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE J. NISHA BANU

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE S. SOUNTHAR

H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

Deepak Ragunath,
S/o Palanisamy

... Petitioner

Vs.

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

2.The Commissioner of Police/ Detaining Authority,
Tiruppur City,
Tiruppur District..

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Coimbatore.

4. State rep. by
The Inspector of Police,
Veerapandi Police Station,
Tiruppur District..

... Respondents

PRAYER: The Habeas Corpus Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for the issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the 2nd respondent dtd 15.04.2025 in C.No.18/G/IS/Tiruppur City/2025 against the petitioner's brother Stephenraj, M/20 years, son of Palanisamy



H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

who is confined at Central Coimbatore and set aside the same and consequently direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this Court and set him at liberty.

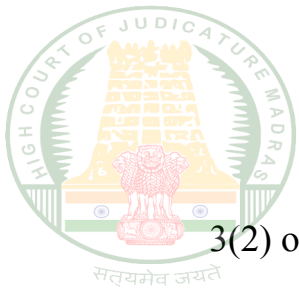
For Petitioner : Mr.A.Saranraj

For Respondents : Mr.A.Gokulakrishnan
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

J.Nisha Banu,J.
and
S.Sounthar,J

The petitioner is the brother of the detenu, viz., Stephenraj, son of Palanisamy, aged 20 years, who is confined at Central Prison, Coimbatore, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent in C.No.18/G/IS/Tiruppur City/2025 dated 15.04.2025, 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] read with the order issued by the Government in G.O.(D).No.09 Home Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department dated 09.01.2025 under section



H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

3(2) of the aforesaid Act.

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2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

3. Though several grounds are raised in the petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner pointed out that the Detaining Authority has not applied its mind while expressing its subjective satisfaction that the detenu is also likely to be released on bail. It is his submission that the case relied upon by the Detaining Authority, is not similar to the present case, as the bail was granted in favour of the accused therein only by referring to Covid-19 pandemic situation.

4. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor would also state that the similar case relied upon by the detaining authority is not a similar one.

5. On a perusal of the Booklet, this Court finds that in Vol.II, Page 38, the bail order passed in the case relied upon by the Detaining



H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

Authority, in Cr.M.P.No.810 of 2021, dated 20.05.2021, is not similar to the case on hand, since the accused therein was released on bail mainly by citing Covid-19 pandemic situation. Therefore, this Court finds that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority is irrational and the detention order is liable to be quashed on the ground of non-application of mind.

6. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the case of ***Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu through Secretary to Government and Another*** reported in ***2011 [5] SCC 244***, has dealt with a situation where the Detention Order is passed without an application of mind. In case any of the reasons stated in the order of detention is non-existent or a material information is wrongly assumed, that will vitiate the Detention Order. In the instant case, the Detaining Authority has arrived at the subjective satisfaction that the detenu is likely to be released on bail by referring to a bail order granted to the accused in a similar case, wherein, the said bail was granted mainly by citing Covid-19 Pandemic. Therefore, the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority that the detenu is likely to be released on bail suffers from non-application of mind. When the subjective satisfaction was irrational or there was non-application of



mind, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the order of detention is liable to be quashed. It is relevant to extract paragraphs No.10 and 11 of the

said judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court:-

“10.In our opinion, if details are given by the respondent authority about the alleged bail orders in similar cases mentioning the date of the orders, the bail application number, whether the bail order was passed in respect of the co-accused in the same case, and whether the case of the co-accused was on the same footing as the case of the petitioner, then, of course, it could be argued that there is likelihood of the accused being released on bail, because it is the normal practice of most courts that if a co-accused has been granted bail and his case is on the same footing as that of the petitioner, then the petitioner is ordinarily granted bail. However, the respondent authority should have given details about the alleged bail order in similar cases, which has not been done in the present case. A mere ipse dixit statement in the grounds of detention cannot sustain the detention order and has to be ignored.

11.In our opinion, the detention order in question only contains ipse dixit regarding the alleged imminent possibility of the accused coming out on bail and there was no reliable material to this



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H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

effect. Hence, the detention order in question cannot be sustained."

In view of the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in view of the aforesaid facts, this Court is of the view that the detention order is liable to be quashed.

7. Accordingly, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the detention order passed by the second respondent in C.No.18/G/IS/Tiruppur City/2025 dated 15.04.2025 is hereby set aside. The detenu, viz., Stephenraj, Son of Palanisamy, aged about 20 years, who is now confined in the Central Prison, Coimbatore, is hereby directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

(J.NISHA BANU J.) (S.SOUNTHAR J.)

22.09.2025

vsi

To

1.The Secretary to Government,
Home Prohibition and Excise Department,



H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

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2. The Commissioner of Police/ Detaining Authority,
Tiruppur City,
Tiruppur District..
3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Coimbatore.
4. The Inspector of Police,
Veerapandi Police Station,
Tiruppur District
5. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Chennai



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H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

J. NISHA BANU, J.
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H.C.P.No.1662 of 2025

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