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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 16-06-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE DR.JUSTICE ANITA SUMANTH

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

HCP No. 789 of 2026

Sathya
W/o. Nepolian,
No.1, Ramji Nagar,
Thiru Vi Ka Street,
Naduveerapattu, Tambaram,
Chennai-600 045.

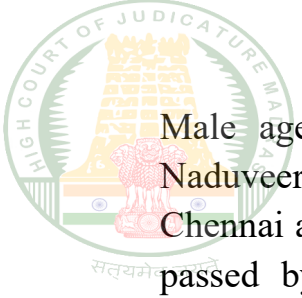
..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The State of Tamilnadu Rep. by its
Secretary to Government, (Home),
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
O/o. Commissioner of Police Greater Chennai,
Chennai-600 007.
3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Puzhal,
Chennai-600 006.
4. The Inspector of Police,
R-4, Soundarapandiaynar Angadi Police Station,
Chennai
Crime No.228/2025.

..Respondent(s)

Prayer: Habeas corpus petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records relating to the impugned Detention order against the detainee Thiru. Nelson,



Male age 26, S/o. Nepolian, No.1/309, Thiru.Vi.Ka. Street, Ramji Nagar Naduveerapattu, Tambaram, Chennai-600 045 detained Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai as GOONDA under No.867/BBCDEFGISSSV/2025 dated 27-10-2025 passed by the 2nd Respondent under u/s.3(1) of Tamilnadu 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 (Tamilnadu Act 14 of 1982) and set aside the same and direct the Respondents to produce the detenu before this Honorable Court.

For Petitioner(s): No appearance

For Respondent(s): Mr. C.R. Malarvannan

Counsel For Government Of Tamil Nadu
(Criminal Side)

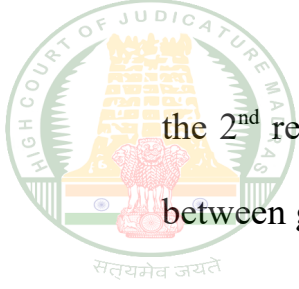
Order

(Order of the Court was made by Dr.Anita Sumanth J.)

There is no representation for the petitioner. We have heard Mr.C.R.Malarvannan, learned counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu (Criminal Side), learned counsel for the respondents.

2. The mother of one Nelson (detenu) S/o Nepolian, who was detained as a Goonda under Section 2(f) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 (in short 'Act') has approached this Court challenging the order of detention dated 27.10.2025.

3. It is seen from the impugned order and the grounds of detention that the detenu was arrested on 23.09.2025 and he was detained on 27.10.2025. We do not find any satisfactory explanation for the delay in passing the order of detention either in the grounds of detention or in the counter affidavit filed by



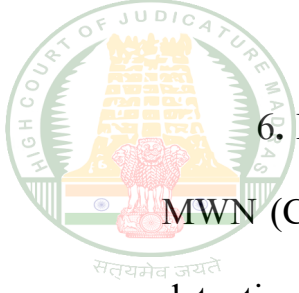
the 2nd respondent. Hence, we are of the view that the live and proximate link between grounds of detention and the purpose of detention stands snapped.

WEB COPY 4. In *Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura* (2022 LiveLaw (SC)

813), a similar issue arose, and the relevant discussion reads as follows:

“21. 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.”

5. 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* (2023 SCC OnLine Mad 6332), had held that when there is an inordinate delay between the date of arrest/date of proposal and 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.



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6. In yet another case i.e., in *Nagaraj Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, ((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. In the present case, the delay is more than a month, 35 days to be exact, and unexplained and for this reason, vitiates the order, rendering it liable to be quashed.

7. In light of the aforesaid discussion, we are of the considered view that there is neither a proximate link between the arrest (23.09.2025) and order of detention (27.10.2025), and nor is there any credible material brought on record by the detaining authority to substantiate his subjective satisfaction.

8. Hence, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the Detention Order passed by the second respondent in No.867/BBCDEFGISSSV/2025 dated 27.10.2025 is set aside.

9. The detenu, viz., Nelson, S/o.Nepolian, male aged 26 years, who is now confined in Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

(A.S.M.,J.) (S.M.,J.)
16-06-2026

sl

Index: Yes/No

Speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes

Note to Registry: Issue Today.



To

1. The Secretary to Government, (Home),
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
O/o. Commissioner of Police Greater Chennai,
Chennai-600 007.
3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Puzhal,
Chennai-600 006.
4. The Inspector of Police,
R-4, Soundarapandiaynar Angadi Police Station,
Chennai
5. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.
6. The Joint Secretary to Government
Public (Law and Order),
Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai – 9.

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DR.ANITA SUMANTH J.

AND

SUNDER MOHAN J.

SL

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