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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 23-11-2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

WP.Crl.No.3161 of 2026

Case QR

CNR:{HCMA012792052026}

S.Padmanabhan .. Petitioner(s)

Vs.

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Superintendent of Police (Rural) Office, State Bank Road,
Gopalapuram, Coimbatore.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Mettupalayam Police Station, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore. .. Respondent(s)

PRAYER To issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to consider the representation dated 29.10.2026 for conducting a public meeting at Nadur area of Mettupalayam Town on 02.12.2026 and thus render justice.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.R.Sankarasubbu

For Respondent(s): Mr.S.Yogaraja Sekar
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

ORDER

The petitioner claims that on account of fall of a 20 feet compound wall on 02.12.2019, 17 persons belonging to the Arundathiyar Community, a Scheduled Caste Community, lost their lives. The petitioner claims, in order to remember this incident, a committee was formed titled "Second December

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Memorial Committee". It has been decided that on 2nd December of every year, a meeting has to be held to mourn the death of those who have lost their lives during the said incident. This year, the petitioner has sent a representation on 29.10.2026, seeking permission to hold the meeting at Nadur area of Mettupalayam Town. As it had not been considered, the petitioner is before this Court.

2.I heard Mr.R.Sankarasubbu for the petitioner and Mr.S.Yogaraja Sekar for the respondents.

3.Mr.R.Sankarasubbu pointed out that the meeting is going to be a peaceful meeting, which is being held as a remembrance day function for those who died on account of the fall of the mammoth 20 feet compound wall. He states the purpose of the committee is also to abolish the caste system from the society. He points out that holding this meeting would not affect anyone and it is being done in the exercise of the rights conferred on the citizens under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. He states violation of granting permission amounts to violation of Article 17 of the Constitution of India.

4.Mr.S.Yogaraja Sekar states that the State is not opposing to hold a remembrance day function. He adds that the relatives of the deceased

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themselves have written to the police stating that they do not want the function to be held, as it could lead to caste conflicts in the area. Furthermore, he points out that Nadur area is in the thick of the town and if the meeting is held there, as proposed by Mr.R.Sankarasubbu's client, it would lead to heavy traffic congestion in the area. The tension is being compounded on account of the recent landslide in Ooty, where only one road is operative. Hence, he states that the petitioner should defer their remembrance meeting.

5.When the matter was taken up in the forenoon, I pointed out that the petitioner has undertaken a noble cause of eradicating the caste system from the society and also seeks to hold a remembrance meeting for those who died on 02.12.2019. Both the causes are not prohibited by law. On the contrary, they serve to uphold the Constitutional vision of doing away with the concept of untouchability.

6.While considering the rights of the petitioner, this Court also would have to take into consideration the difficulties that the police will face on account of the peculiar circumstances which are currently prevailing in Mettupalayam, namely, the recent landslide in Ooty. Therefore, I called upon Mr.S.Yogaraja Sekar to give two areas where the meeting could be held. I kept the matter aside.

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7.When I took up the matter post lunch, Mr.S.Yogaraja Sekar, on instructions suggested two places. They are:-

(i)Venmani Nagar;

(ii)Near Government Arts College, Kuttayur.

8.He states both these locations can accommodate a minimum number of 200 persons and a maximum number of 300 persons, which Mr.R.Sankarasubbu states, would attend the meeting.

9.Mr.R.Sankarasubbu, on instructions, reports that the area **near Government Arts College, Kuttayur** would be convenient for the meeting.

10.In view of the above, this Writ Petition (Criminal) stands disposed of with the following directions:-

(i)There shall be a direction to the respondent police to grant permission to the petitioner to hold remembrance as well as caste eradication meeting on **02.12.2026 between 03.00 PM to 05.00PM**.

(ii)It is made clear that no caste and political songs should be played in the remembrance meeting. The meeting should be confined only for the reason it is sought for, namely, for remembrance of the dead persons, who lost their lives on 02.12.2019 and for caste eradication.

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(iii)In the event, the police found any violation of the aforesaid conditions, they are free to take action, including stoppage of the meeting.

(iv)The installation of banners, if any, will be confined only to the area of meeting alone, and that too, only after obtaining prior permission from the respondent police. The banners so installed must be removed after the meeting is over.

(v)If any loudspeaker are going to be used, prior permission should be obtained.

23-11-2026

krk

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

NOTE : Upload order copy on **24.11.2026**.

To

1.The Superintendent of Police,
Superintendent of Police (Rural) Office, State Bank Road, Gopalapuram, Coimbatore.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Mettupalayam Police Station, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore.

3.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras, Chennai.

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V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN J.

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