



HCP No. 2418 of 2025

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 25-06-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE DR.JUSTICE ANITA SUMANTH

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

HCP No. 2418 of 2025

Geetha

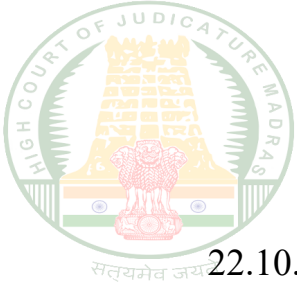
..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Secretary to the Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate
Villupuram District,
Villupuram.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Villupuram District,
Villupuram.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Cuddalore.
5. The Inspector of Police,
Vellimedupettai Police Station,
Villupuram District.

..Respondent(s)

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, seeking for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records in connection with the order of Detention passed by the second respondent dated



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22.10.2025 in Rc.No.C2/51/2025 against the petitioner son Sakthivel, male aged 19 years S/o Ayyanar, who is confined at Central prison, Cuddalore and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before the Court and set him at Liberty.

For Petitioner(s):

Ms. J.K. Madhumathi
for Mr.D.Balaji

For Respondent(s):

Mr.C.R.Malarvannan,
Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu
(Criminal Side)

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by Sunder Mohan J.)

The mother of the detenu - Sakthivel, S/o.Ayyanar, aged about 19 years, has filed this petition challenging the detention order dated 22.10.2025, branding him as a 'Drug Offender' under Section 2(e) of the Tamil Nadu Preventive Detention Act, 1982 (Act 14/1982).

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu (Criminal Side) for the respondents.



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3. It is seen from the impugned order and the grounds of detention that the detenu was arrested on 22.09.2025 and he was detained on 22.10.2025. The respondents have not satisfactorily explained the delay in passing the order of detention either in the grounds of detention or in the counter affidavit. We are of the view that in view of the delay, the live and proximate link between grounds of detention and the purpose of detention, stood snapped. In this regard, we may rely upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in '**Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura**', reported in '**2022 SCC OnLine SC 1333**' and the relevant paragraph 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.”



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4. 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 the grounds and purpose of detention would stand snapped.

5. 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.

6. In light of the above discussion, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the Detention Order passed by the second respondent in Rc.No.C2/51/2025, dated 22.10.2025 is set aside.



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7.The detenu, viz., Sakthivel, S/o.Ayyanar, aged about 19 years, now confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore, 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.)
25-06-2026

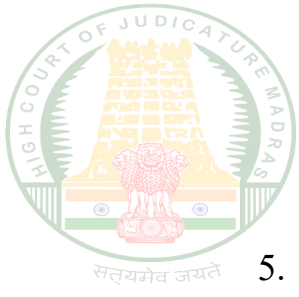
Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

TSG

Note: Issue order copy today.

To

1. The Secretary to the Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate
Villupuram District,
Villupuram.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Villupuram District,
Villupuram.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Cuddalore.



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5. The Inspector of Police,
Vellimedupettai Police Station,
Villupuram District.
6. The Joint Secretary,
Law and Order Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009.
7. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.



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**DR.ANITA SUMANTH, J.
AND
SUNDER MOHAN, J.**

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