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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 19.06.2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

AND

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE K.K.RAMAKRISHNAN

H.C.P.(MD)No.242 of 2026

Manikandan @ Vatti Mani

.. Petitioner / detenu

Vs.

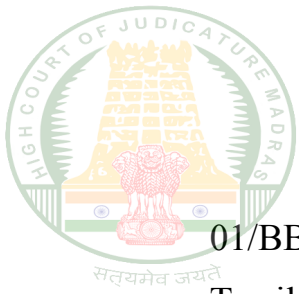
1.State of Tamil Nadu,
represented by the Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City,
Madurai.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai.

.. Respondents

Prayer :Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention dated 06.01.2026 passed by the second respondent in No.



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01/BBCDEFGISSSV/2026 in detaining the detenu under Section 2(f) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 as a “Goonda” and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu, namely, Manikandan @ Vatti Mani, aged about 24 years, who is detained at Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.Dr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.G.Karuppasamy Pandian,
learned counsel for the State
of Tamil Nadu (Criminal
Side)

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.)

The petitioner is the detenu, namely, Manikandan @ Vatti Mani, aged about 24 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in No.01/BBCDEFGISSSV/2026 dated 06.01.2026 holding him to be a “Goonda”, as contemplated under Section 2(f) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned counsel for the State of Tamil Nadu (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.



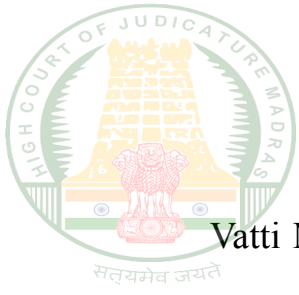
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3. Though several grounds have been raised in the Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would mainly focus his argument on the ground that the detenu was arrested on 17.11.2025, whereas, the detention order was passed only on 06.01.2026. Hence, there is a delay of 50 days in passing the detention order and this delay is totally unexplained.

4. In our considered view, the issue is squarely covered by the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of ***Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura and Others*** reported in ***2022 SCC Online SC 1333***.

5. The detention order is vitiated due to the fact that there was three adverse cases and one ground case and the live and proximate link between the grounds of detention and the purpose of the detention is completely absent.

6. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in No.01/BBCDEFGISSSV/2026 dated 06.01.2026 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., namely, Manikandan @



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Vatti Mani, aged about 24 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(N.A.V.,J..) (K.K.R.K.,J.,)
19.06.2026

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

TSG

To

1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City,
Madurai.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai.

4.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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**N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.
AND
K.K.RAMAKRISHNAN,J.**

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