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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 09.06.2026

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THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

AND

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE P.B.BALAJI

H.C.P.(MD)No.489 of 2026

R.Pathirakali

.. Petitioner / wife of the detenu
Vs.

1.The State of tamil Nadu,
represented by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District,
Thoothukudi.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District.

.. Respondents



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Prayer :Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the entire records connected with the impugned detention order passed by the second respondent made in H.S.(M) Confdl.No.140/2025 dated 13.12.2025 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the petitioner's husband, i.e., Ravikumar, aged about 53 years, s/o. Velsamy, now detained at the Central Prison, Palayamkottai before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.N.Pragalathan

For Respondents : Mr.G.Karuppasamy Pandian,
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 wife of the detenu, by name, Ravikumar, aged about 53 years, s/o. Velsamy. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in H.S.(M) Confdl.No.140/2025 dated 13.12.2025 holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.



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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.

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 there was one adverse case involving 2.100 kgs of ganja, which is also an intermediate quantify for which, FIR was registered in Crime No.29 of 2025 and the ground case involved 3.800 kgs of ganja which is also an intermediate quantity, for which, FIR was registered in Crime No.777 of 2025.

4. It was contended that in the ground case, intermediate quantity was involved, whereas the Detaining Authority in a casual manner has passed the detention order in a case where such an order is not warranted.

5. We are of the view that in the ground case, the quantity that is alleged to have been seized is only an intermediate quantity. Hence, it is not



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a serious offence under the NDPS Act, since it does not involve any commercial quantity, warranting passing of a detention order and the detenu could have been dealt with under regular penal law that is already available and there was no need for resorting to detention order under Act 14 of 1982.

6. For this purpose, we rely on the judgment in ***Rekha vs. State of Tamil Nadu (2011 (5) SCC 244)***.

7. The another ground that was raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner is that the detenu was arrested on 15.11.2025, whereas, the detention order was passed only on 13.12.2025. Hence, there is a delay of 28 days in passing the detention order and this delay is totally unexplained.

8. 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***.

9. The detention order is vitiated due to the fact that there was a solitary case and the live and proximate link between the grounds of detention and the purpose of the detention is completely absent.



WEB COPY 10. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in H.S.(M) Confdl.No.140/2025 dated 13.12.2025 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Ravikumar, aged about 53 years, s/o. Velsamy, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(N.A.V.,J..) (P.B.B.,J.)
09.06.2026

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

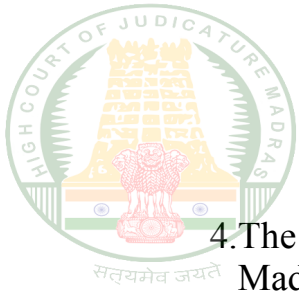
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To

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District,
Thoothukudi.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District.



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

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**N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.
AND
P.B.BALAJI,J.**

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