



WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

WEB COPY

Dated : 19/06/2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE L. VICTORIA GOWRI

WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

G.Saravanan

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The District Collector,
Madurai District.

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Municipal Corporation of Madurai,
Madurai.

3. The Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation of Madurai,
Madurai.

... Respondents

PRAYER :-

To direct the respondents Nos. 1 -3, to permit the petitioner to fasting on 22.06.2026 on front of the Rani Mangammal Chathiram Opp to Railway station and also to rechange the name of Gandhi Museum to the name of Rani Mangammal Palace, Madurai by considering the petitioner's representation dated 03.06.2026.



WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

WEB COPY

For Petitioner : Mr. G.Saravanan (Party in Person),
Advocate.

For Respondent : Mrs.M.R.Priyanka Jothi - for R1
Government Advocate (Civil Side)

Mr.D.Rajaboopathy - for R2
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

ORDER

This Writ Petition is filed seeking to issue Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents Nos. 1 -3, to permit the petitioner to fasting on 22.06.2026 in front of the Rani Mangammal Chathiram Opp to Railway station and also to rechange the name of Gandhi Museum to the name of Rani Mangammal Palace, Madurai by considering the petitioner's representation dated 03.06.2026.

2. The petitioner had appeared in person and submitted that having demolished the Rani Mangammal Chathiram, the respondent authorities are not taking any steps to honour her. In this regard, they have given a representation seeking to observe fasting on 22.06.2026. The same is not considered. Hence this petition.



WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

WEB COPY

3. The Government Advocate submitted that already the petitioner's representation was considered and rejected by order dated 09.06.2026 in proceedings bearing Na.Ka.No.71/2026.

4. The petitioner submits that he sought permission to conduct a fasting peacefully and that right of expression is a constitutionally guaranteed right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. It is the case of the petitioner that expressing one's views in a democratic nation cannot be criminalised unless the act satisfies the ingredients of a penal provision. Criminal law cannot be invoked to curtail peaceful expression, which is the bedrock of democratic governance.

5. Heard either sides and carefully perused the materials available on record.

6. Article 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b) of the Constitution guarantee freedom of speech and expression, and the right to peaceful assembly without arms. These rights can be restricted only by reasonable



WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

restrictions provided by law. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has consistently held that peaceful protest is a recognized democratic right. Peaceful protest and expression of dissent are integral to a democratic polity and are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, subject to reasonable restrictions. Criminal prosecution cannot be used as a tool to suppress lawful dissent.

7. In view of the same, the impugned order dated 09.06.2026 in proceedings bearing Na.Ka.No.71/2026 is quashed and the petitioner is permitted to observe fasting on 22/6/2026, as required in his representation. The police is directed to offer necessary police protection in this regard.

8. With the above direction, this Writ Petition is allowed.

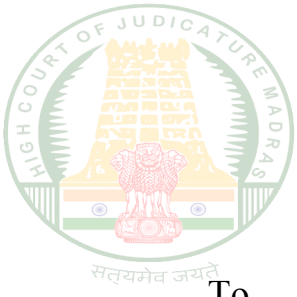
19.06.2026

NCC : yes / no
Index : yes / no

Note : Issue order copy on **19.06.2026**

pnn

4/6



WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

To
WEB COPY

1. The District Collector,
Madurai District.
2. The Commissioner of Police,
Municipal Corporation of Madurai,
Madurai.
3. The Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation of Madurai,
Madurai.
4. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.



WEB COPY



WP CRL.(MD). No.3281 of 2026

L. VICTORIA GOWRI, J.

pnn

ORDER
IN
WP CRL.(MD) No.3281 of 2026

Date : 19/06/2026