



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 21-01-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

WP No. 2029 of 2026

K.Saraswathi

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Inspector of Panchayats / District Collector
Ranipet District.
2. The Tahsildar
Walaja (T.K),
Ranipet (Dist)

..Respondent(s)

calling for the entire records relating to the Notice of Meeting in
Na.Ka. No.A1/987/ 2024 dated 12.01.2026 by the 2nd respondent and quash the
same

For Petitioner(s): Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram

For Respondent(s): Mr.Ramanlal, AAG

Asst. by Mr.L.S.M.Hasan Fizal, AGP

ORDER

Heard Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram for the petitioner and Mr.Ramanlal,
learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Mr.L.S.M.Hasan Fizal,
learned Additional Government Pleader for the respondents.



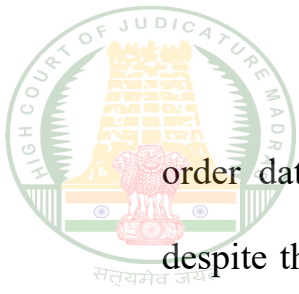
2. The petitioner challenges the notice inviting for a meeting pursuant to an order passed by the District Collector under Section 205 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act of 1994.

3. This is yet another round of litigation at the hands of the writ petitioner.

4. The writ petitioner was elected as a President of the Navlock Village Panchayat in the year 2021. In the year 2024, a notice under Section 205 setting forth certain allegations was issued to the writ petitioner and two other persons, calling upon them to submit their explanations. Not being satisfied with the explanation offered by the petitioner, the first respondent had directed the Tahsildar to convene a meeting, who issued proceedings on 02.05.2024. Challenging the same, the writ petitioner and two other members, viz., C.Suresh and R.Satyamurthy, filed W.P. No. 13568 of 2024.

5. This Court taking into consideration the submissions of the learned Special Government Pleader, who represented the District Collector and the Tahsildar, set aside the notice and directed the respondents to afford a fresh opportunity to the petitioners therein.

6. Subsequently, after fresh notices were issued to the petitioner, she challenged the same by way of a writ petition in W.P. No. 18836 of 2024. By an



order dated 16.08.2024, this Court dismissed the writ petition, holding that despite the opportunity granted to the petitioner, she had not availed the same.

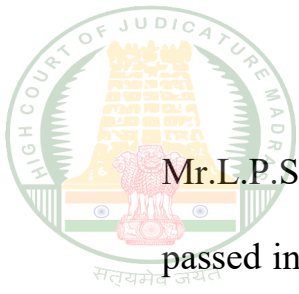
Challenging the said order, a writ appeal had been preferred by the writ petitioner in W.A. No. 2572 of 2024. A Division Bench found that the notice itself was faulty since it had been issued by the Assistant Director of Panchayats and not by the District Collector. Hence, the proceedings were quashed, and a direction was given to the Assistant Director of Panchayats to transmit the entire papers to the District Collector. It was left open to the District Collector to issue a notice under Section 205(1)(a) of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act of 1994, in case he so desires and proceed in accordance with law. Even at that stage, it was pointed out that the District Collector should furnish all the records that he is relying upon for the purpose of initiating a proceeding under Section 205 of the Act. This order was passed in the open Court in the presence of the learned counsel for the petitioner(Appellant therein), as well as the learned Additional Advocate General.

7. The District Collector acting on the order of this Court, issued a notice on 04.12.2025. On receipt of the said notice, on the very next day, the petitioner gave a representation seeking certain documents for the purpose of taking/stating her defence. As the same was not furnished, the petitioner filed yet another writ petition in W.P. No. 49022 of 2025.



8. When the matter came up before me, I pointed out to the learned Additional Advocate General, who appeared on behalf of the District Collector in this round of litigation too, that principles of natural justice require that the records be furnished to the petitioner. The learned Additional Advocate General, on the next date of hearing, had produced four volumes of documents, as well as the response given to the petitioner on 16.12.2025. While disposing of the said writ petition, I had pointed out that in case the petitioner requires any further document, she can specifically make a request for the same. I also directed that the District Collector should furnish the document to her forthwith on its demand.

9. After passing such directions, I also granted time to the petitioner to seek for any further documents till 29.12.2025, and granted time to the petitioner till 09.01.2026 to give her reply. I pointed out that in case the reply seems sufficient, the District Collector may drop the proceedings as stated under Section 205 or proceed with the same. I directed for the entire proceedings to be completed by 31.01.2026. Even while passing the said order, Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram, who appeared for the petitioner, wanted some more time to be granted to the petitioner to submit her reply. The said request was refused, since the matter has been under consideration for two years and more. The petitioner had filed miscellaneous petition seeking extension of time to submit her explanations in W.M.P. No. 816 of 2026. When



Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram made a mention seeking appropriate orders to be passed in the said WMP, pointing out the fixation of time and the refusal of his request even at the time when the orders were passed, no orders were passed in the said writ miscellaneous petition seeking extension of time. It transpires that the petitioner had sent a representation to the District Collector on 26.12.2025 seeking certain documents. Though the letter is dated 26.12.2025, it came to be signed only on 29.12.2025.

10. The grievance of the petitioner in this writ petition is that, since the requested documents have not been furnished to her, the notice issued by the District Collector calling for the meeting should be quashed, and a direction must be given to the District Collector to furnish the 15 documents sought for by her vide letter dated 26.12.2025.

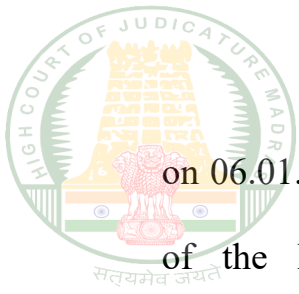
11. Considering the plea made by Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram, I directed Mr.L.S.M.Hasan Fizal to instruct the learned Additional Advocate General, who has been appearing in the matter from its inception. I further called upon the learned counsel appearing for the respondents to get instructions from the respondents.

12. When I took up the matter for hearing, the learned Additional Advocate General has filed a typed set of papers, after the same was duly served



on Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram. A perusal of the same shows that though the letter is dated 26.12.2025, the same had been presented to the office of the District Collector only on 29.12.2025. The proceedings of the District Collector dated 05.01.2026 indicate that the letter was presented to the Tapal Section of the Revenue Department and not to the Tapal Section of the Panchayat Department of the District Collector's Office. The proceedings also show that when the Tapal Section had insisted that it needs to be presented to the appropriate branch of the District Collector's Office, the petitioner had refused to comply with the said request and had insisted upon the Revenue Department of the District Collector's Office to forward the same to the Panchayat Department's Tapal Section. The papers were then forwarded by the Revenue Department to the Panchayat Department of the District Collector's office on 05.01.2026. On the very same day, the District Collector had called upon the writ petitioner to appear before the authority, who was in possession of the records on 07.01.2026, and peruse the same and if necessary to take copies thereof. The typed set also discloses the said proceedings had been communicated to the petitioner electronically and the same had been received and seen by her on the very same day.

13. In addition to the same, the Office of the District Collector had despatched the letter of the District Collector dated 05.01.2026, by way of a Registered post with acknowledgment due, to the address of the writ petitioner

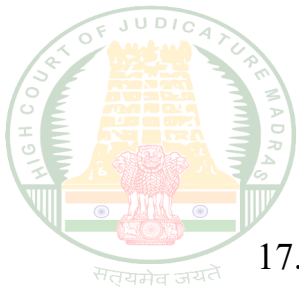


on 06.01.2026 at 15.04.45 hours. The said letter had been returned to the office of the District Collector with the following endorsement:- “*Addressee unclaimed. Returned to sender*”. The return was on 14.01.2026. The petitioner had given another representation on 09.01.2026 and the same was presented to the District Collector’s Office on 12.01.2026, seeking further extension of time. The District Collector, acting under the directions of this Court to complete the proceedings by 31.01.2026, had passed an order on the same day declining the request of the petitioner. Thereafter, he has instructed the 2nd respondent to conduct a meeting on 22.01.2026 at 11 a.m. at the panchayat premises. It is this notice, which is being put to challenge in this writ petition.

14. I have gone through the records and have considered the submission of both sides.

15. The sheet anchor of Mr.L.P.Shanmugasundaram is that, the petitioner has not been given sufficient time to submit her reply, and that she has not been furnished with the documents sought for by way of her letter dated 26.12.2025 (signed on 29.12.2025).

16. Mr.Ramanlal states that despite having afforded an opportunity to the petitioner, she did not avail the same and therefore, the 1st respondent cannot be found fault with.



17. The principles of natural justice are not a straitjacket formula to be applied mechanically, like a Procrustean bed. The petitioner was granted with an opportunity as early as 2024, and she had not availed the same. The learned Single Judge, in the second round of litigation, had come to a conclusion that the petitioner had not availed the opportunity and dismissed the writ petition. This aspect of the case had not been interfered with by the Division Bench, but the order had been set aside on the ground that the notice had been issued by an incompetent authority, though it had been signed by the District Collector himself. Even in that order, it was made clear that the District Collector should make all endeavours to furnish copies of the documents that the petitioner seeks. This direction was reiterated by this Court again in W.P. No. 49022 of 2025 dated 17.12.2025.

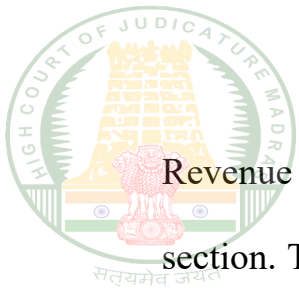
18. Even at the time of disposal of the last of the writ petition filed by the petitioner herein, a time limit had been fixed for the service of any additional documents that the petitioner so desires to procure, and also for filing her explanations. The District Collector was called upon to complete the entire proceedings by 31.01.2026. The request for extension of time had been rejected, as stated above, at the time of pronouncement of the judgment, as well as when the petition, seeking extension of time was presented before this Court.



19. Despite the opportunity having been granted to the petitioner to peruse the records on 07.01.2026 and submit her explanation by 09.01.2026, she did not avail of the same. If any one is to be blamed for not having furnished the response in time; failing to receive the records, it is certainly not the Office of the District Collector. The position in which the petitioner has been placed is on account of her own actions, and not on account of the inaction of the respondents.

20. When an opportunity is afforded and a party does not avail of the same, she cannot plead that the principles of natural justice have been violated. It is not the mandate of the respondents to wait *ad infinitum* for the petitioner to submit her reply. When the petitioner, having been given an opportunity in and by way of the letter of the District Collector dated 05.01.2026, and she has not availed the same, then when the adverse orders are passed, the petitioner cannot certainly plead violation of principles of natural justice as one amongst the grounds of attack.

21. Furthermore, the petitioner has gone about things in a manner, which leaves much to be desired. She has dated the letter as 26.12.2025 and filed it in the District Collector's Office on 29.12.2025. To the letter dated 05.01.2026, the petitioner has not given any reply to the specific statement made by the 1st respondent, that the petitioner had deliberately handed over the letter to the



Revenue Department Tapal Section, instead of, Panchayat Department Tapal section. The electronic communication that has been produced before this Court

too, has not been disclosed in the affidavit filed in support of this writ petition.

The only conclusion that this Court can arrive is that the petitioner, by hook or crook, wants to delay the holding of the meetings in terms of Section 205 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

22. The petitioner's attitude in predating the letter and submitting the same in the District Collector's Office, does not seem to be a solitary instance confined to the letter dated 26.12.2025 above. Even the letter dated 09.01.2026 shows that though it was signed on that day, it was handed over to the District Collector's office only on 12.01.2026. An attempt by a party to create records, as if she has been denied the opportunity, can certainly not be accepted by any authority let alone this Court.

23. It is a settled position of law that the conduct of the petitioner should also be taken into account by this Court at the time of entertaining their writ petition, as well as at the time of passing of an order. The conduct of the petitioner does not inspire confidence in this Court for it to come to hers rescue.



24. In the light of the above discussion, I do not find any merits in the writ petition, the same is dismissed. No costs.

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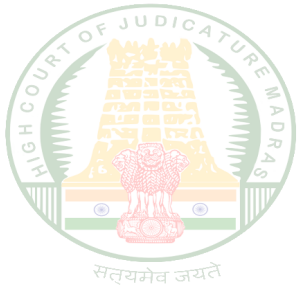
21-01-2026

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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WP No. 2029 of 2



V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.

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To

1. The Inspector of Panchayats / District Collector
Ranipet District.
2. The Tahsildar
Walaja (T.K),
Ranipet (Dist)

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