

**THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE RAGHVENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN  
AND  
THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE B. VIJAYSEN REDDY  
WRIT PETITION (PIL) No. 67 OF 2020**

**ORDER:**

Mr. P. Anil Kumar had addressed a letter to this Court, wherein he had claimed that in order to raise a steel bridge, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation ('GHMC') had disturbed the graves at the Panjagutta cemetery. He had also submitted certain photographs to buttress his plea. On the basis of the said letter, the present Public Interest Litigation was taken up.

By order dated 27.04.2020, this Court appointed Mr. Vedula Srinivas as *amicus curiae* to assist this Court, and to inform this Court whether, indeed, any of the graves at the Panjagutta cemetery were disturbed or not?

After the notices were issued to the GHMC, on 06.06.2020, the GHMC had filed its report along with the google map, and photographs in order to buttress its plea that although a steel bridge is being raised, which will span over the Panjagutta cemetery, the GHMC has carefully drawn the portal pier design, and is trying to raise the construction carefully to the extent that it does not disturb any of the graves existing in the graveyard. In order to ensure that the graves are left undisturbed, only the places left between the graves are being utilized for raising the portal pier.

By order dated 08.06.2020, this Court had directed Mr. Vedula Srinivas, the learned *amicus curiae*, to visit the site, and to submit his report in order to assess the veracity of the report submitted by the GHMC, dated 06.06.2020. Consequently, Mr.

Vedula Srinivas has submitted his report on 22.06.2020. The same shall be taken on record.

In his report, Mr. Vedula Srinivas states that he had visited the Punjagutta graveyard on 20.06.2020 at 12.00 Noon. He was accompanied by the Superintendent Engineer, Projects, Central Zone, GHMC, and by Deputy Executive Engineer, GHMC. He was shown the complete graveyard. He further states that no damage has been done to any of the graves. In fact, the pillars which are under construction are being raised in the spaces between the graves. He has also submitted certain photographs to show the placement of the pillars. Furthermore, according to him, most of the construction is being raised away from the area where there are large numbers of graves are existing. Therefore, the graves are left untouched, while the GHMC carries on the construction of the project. According to Mr. Srinivas, the construction of the project is a dire necessity as the traffic on the road needs to be eased out. Therefore, the construction of the project is in the interest of the public at large.

Considering the counter submitted by the GHMC, and especially considering the report of the learned *amicus curiae*, this Court is of the opinion that the graves in the Punjagutta cemetery are not being disturbed by the GHMC. Moreover, the GHMC is taking sufficient care to ensure that the graves are not disturbed. Since the construction of the steel project is in the interest of the public at large, this Court does not find any reason to stop the construction from being raised.

For the reasons stated above, this Court does not find any merit in the letter submitted by the petitioner. Therefore, this Public Interest Litigation stands disposed of.

The Telangana State Legal Services Authority is directed to pay the fees of Mr. Vedula Srinivas. This Court certainly appreciates the efforts made, and the assistance given by Mr. Vedula Srinivas, the learned *amicus curiae*.

There shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous Applications, pending if any, shall stand closed.

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**(RAGHVENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN, CJ)**

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**(B. VIJAYSEN REDDY, J)**

June 23, 2020  
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