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Court dismisses residents' plea against underground metro line alignment

HC okays metro tunnelling work

J. STALIN | DC
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The Madras high court on Friday dismissed a petition that sought to restrain Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) from constructing the underground metro railway line in the segment from Washermanpet to Mannadi via Seven Well, George Town and Prakasam Raod in Corridor-I according to its deviated alignment.

Justice Vinod K. Sharma dismissed the petition filed by the George Town Building Owners Welfare Association that sought a direct to CMRL to construct the railway line from Washermanpet to Mannadi via Old Jail Road and Prakasam Road according to its original alignment.

The judge said the apprehension of the petitioner that the construction was likely to pose grave danger to their lives and buildings was misconceived in view of the positive stand of CMRL that the construction was being raised in a safe manner by protecting the life and liberty of people concerned.

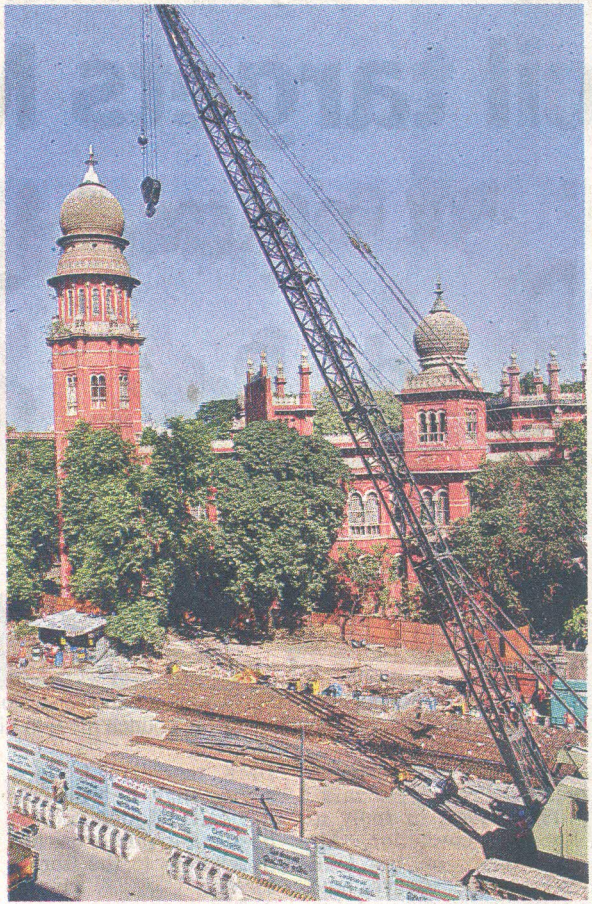
Judge said apprehension of the petitioner that construction was likely to pose grave danger to their lives and buildings was misconceived

Once Chapter III of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act (acquisition of land) was not applicable to construction, the petitioner cannot claim that the laying of railway line was violative of Section 6 of the Act or that any right of the petitioner was violated.

The right at best of the petitioner was to have water and this right of the petitioner was duly protected according to the stand in the counter filed by the CMRL.

The CMRL was right in contending that construction work comes under the Chapter IV of the Act and in terms of Section 19 of the Act, not only opportunity of hearing have been given, but also the interest of the people have been safeguarded by affording alternative borewells or compensation.

The petitioner, therefore, cannot have any grievance, the judge said.



Merto Rail work in progress near the Madras high court. — DC