* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\+ W.P.(C) No.7885/2020

IN THE MATTER OF :

COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION : In Re : Pedestrianization Project of Chandni Chowk.

Versus

1. Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC), Government of NCT of Delhi
2. Public Works Department (PWD)
3. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES)
4. Delhi Jal Board (DJB)
5. Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB)
6. Delhi Traffic Police

CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

O R D E R

% **08.10.2020**

1. We have come across a news article published in the Times of India, New Delhi edition on 7.10.2020, titled *"Chandni Chowk, A Boulevard of Broken Dreams"*, that highlights how the project of pedestrianization of the stretch of road between the Red Fort intersection and Fatehpuri Masjid at

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Chandni Chowk, has been derailed. The photographs of the stones and garbage strewn all over the pathway, of the broken bollards and dug up footpaths are a witness to the sorry state of affairs.

2. It may be highlighted that pedestrianization of the above stretch of road is a part of the prestigious project of redevelopment of the entire Chandni Chowk area, that was conceptualized by the GNCTD of Delhi over a decade ago and for which, Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC) was set up. Several government agencies including PWD, BSES, DJB and DUSIB and the Traffic Police were roped in for proper coordination between departments to implement the project and give a major face lift to Delhi's iconic market. This included widening of the aforesaid stretch of road, declaring the same as a car-free zone, decongestion the said area and making the 1.3 kms. stretch pedestrian friendly. However, the pathetic condition of the area, as appears from the photographs accompanying the news article shows complete apathy and mis-management on the part of the authorities and the stakeholders that needs to be remedied at the earliest.

3. This court therefore takes *suo mottu* notice of the above and directs the Registry to register a petition in public interest and place the matter before Hon'ble the Chief Justice for being assigned to the appropriate Bench.

4. A copy of this order be forwarded to the Standing Counsel of Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC), Government of NCT of Delhi, Public Works Department (PWD), Bombay Suburban Electric

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Supply (BSES), Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) and the Delhi Police, to enable them to obtain necessary instructions and come prepared on the next date.

5. List before the appropriate Bench on 15.10.2020.

HIMA KOHLI, J

SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J

OCTOBER 08, 2020
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