

Metro project comes alive at night

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It is ten at night on the now quite Poonamallee high road. Across the closed gates of Pachaiyappa's college, a set of workers in gum boots, fluorescent jackets and yellow helmets make a journey into a barricaded zone lit up by halogen lights. They further travel underground, where

15 meters below the ground a machine churns out soil, eating through the belly of the city.

The men and their machines together are in the process of creating one of the most magnificent structures that the city has seen in modern times - the Chennai metro rail.

From the road, all that is visible of the barricaded zone are the orange colored

gantry cranes, accompanied by loud noises of machines at work. But six meters below the surface at the site of metro's underground station, it is a different world. While Chennai settles down for the night, men and machines at the metro construction sites work with renewed vigour to build the city's integrated, rapid transport system.



Metro rail workers at the underground station near Pachaiyappa's college in Chennai.

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