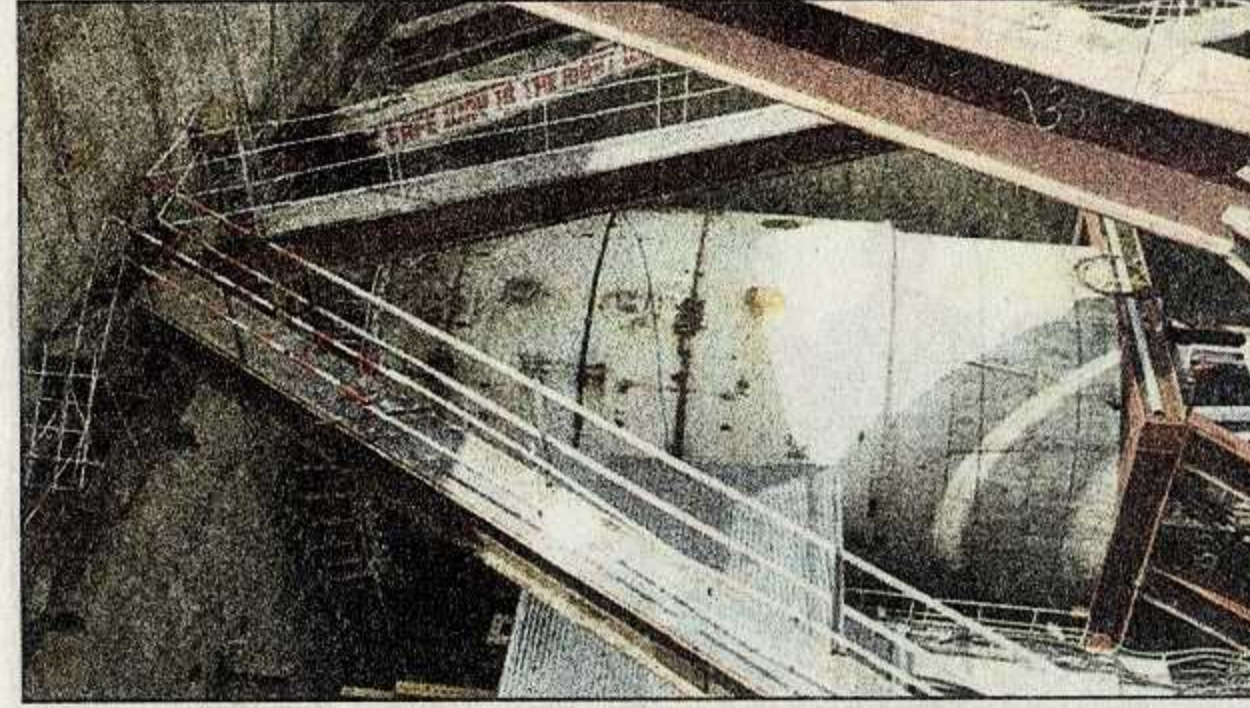


# Metro rail tunneling work begins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Two mammoth tunnel boring machines, each weighing 400 tonnes, began tunneling work for metro rail at Nehru Park in Kilpauk on Saturday. The machines will bore through 939 metres to reach the Egmore station in five months. The first phase of metro rail will run 24km underground with 19 stations along two corridors.

Union urban development ministry secretary Sudhir Krishna launched the



Boring machines began their work at Nehru Park in Kilapuk and will bore through 939 metres to reach Egmore station

tunnel boring work on Saturday. The Nehru Park-Egmore stretch lies on the Chennai Central-St Thomas Mount corridor. The contract for construction of twin tunnels on the stretch, including three underground stations at Nehru Park, Kilpauk Medical College and Pachappa's College, was awarded to Larsen & Toubro, which is in a joint venture with Shanghai Urban Construction Group (SUCG). They have completed 20-metre deep underground

shafts to install the machines. The boring machines were lowered into a pit with supporting walls and a one metre-thick basement slab which will bear the machine as it drills forward.

As the boring machines function mostly on automatic mode, more than 100 engineers and system experts will be monitoring its work progress at a control centre.

Sophisticated machines are being used on the sidelines to check vibrations in nearby buildings.