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Press Release

TBM Palar Breakthrough at Sterling Road Shaft

Chennai Metro Rail Limited is in the process of implementing the much - anticipated Phase 2 project across Chennai City in full swing with three corridors for a total length of 116.1 km.

The tunnelling work for Corridor 3, which runs from Chetpet to Sterling Road, commenced in September 2023 using two Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) named Siruvani and Palar. TBM Siruvani successfully reached the Sterling Road shaft in the Downline in August 2024. Meanwhile, TBM Palar, which began its tunnel drive in January 2024 from the Chetpet shaft in the Upline, completed its journey and broke through to the Sterling Road shaft on October 9, 2024. Each tunnel stretches 708 meters in length.

The tunnelling process encountered primarily clay and sand, along with sections of Grade V rock. Notably, the TBMs navigated beneath significant landmarks, including the Chetpet Corporation School, Chetpet Dhoby Ghat, Karukathamman Temple, and various shops along Valluvar Kottam High Road, all without causing any ground settlement. Many residents remained unaware of the TBM operations occurring beneath their structures, underscoring the precision of the work.

A particularly challenging segment involved crossing beneath the Coovam River, spanning 52 meters with only 6 meters of overburden in clay above the tunnel. This delicate operation was executed flawlessly, maintaining face pressure and alignment without any blowouts.

In total, the tunnelling drive took 260 days to complete, marking a significant achievement in the ongoing development of Chennai's metro network.

Thiru. Har Sahay Meena, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Special Initiatives Department, along with Thiru. T. Archunan, Director (Projects), CMRL, Tmt. Koneru Bhavani, Executive Vice President and Head Urban Transit SBG, Larsen & Toubro Ltd. and senior officials and staff of CMRL and contractors were present during the occasion.

Issued By: Joint Director / Public Relations Officer

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