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Press Release

TBM “Mullai” Breakthrough at Kolathur Station &

TBM "Kurunji" Begins Tunneling work from Kolathur Station to Srinivasa Nagar

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is in the process of implementing the much-anticipated Phase 2 project across Chennai City with multiple corridors. Corridor 5, with a total length of 47 km, is a vital part of this expansion, which consists of 5.8km UG and 41.2 km elevated. 4 TBMs namely Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham and Neithal are being used for tunnelling activities in the 5.8km UG Section.

CMRL has reached a significant milestone in its Phase 2 expansion with the successful breakthrough of Tunnel Boring Machine “Mullai” at Kolathur Station North Shaft. The tunnel drive, which commenced on 23.05.2025 from Kolathur Ramp towards Kolathur Station, has covered a bored tunnel length of 246m.

The main challenges faced during this drive included extremely low overburden of 1.8 m, a steep gradient of -3.8%, and the requirement for ground protection in a heavily trafficked region. Despite these constraints, the breakthrough was completed without any disruption to the general public and ongoing traffic.

At the same time, the Launching of Tunnel Boring Machine “Kurinji” at Kolathur South shaft has commenced, this tunnel drive is between Kolathur and Srinivasa Nagar station which covers a tunnel distance of 1060m in Grade-5&4 rocky strata and including a sharp curve of 230m.

This is a unique achievement and a first time in our country as a TBM has been launched and another TBM breakthrough has also been done simultaneously in the same Underground metro station (Kolathur Station).

Thiru. T. Archunan, IRSE, Director Projects of CMRL, Thiru. T. Livingstone Eliazar, CGM (PP&D), Thiru. Karthikeyan M, JGM, along with officials from Tata Projects Ltd. including Thiru. K. Ramesh (Project Director), Thiru. Natthapong Katkaew (Project Manager), and General Consultant representatives Thiru. Tony Burchell (Team Leader) & Thiru. Udayakumar A (Chief Resident Engineer), and other senior officials and team members from CMRL, Tata Projects Ltd., and the General Consultants were present during the event.

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