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Press Release

TBM "Peacock" Begins Tunneling work from Panagal Park Station to Boat Club

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 118.9 km with 128 metro stations.

Corridor-4 from Light House to Poonamallee Bypass (26.1 km) includes a significant underground section from Light House Station at Marina Beach to Kodambakkam Flyover, has been divided into two construction packages, UG-01 and UG-02, each comprising nearly 4 km of twin tunnels. To complete approximately 16 km of total tunnelling in both directions, four Tunnel Boring Machines with an excavated diameter of 6.67 m have been deployed.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has successfully launched the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) of the underground stretch from Panagal Park to Boat Club today (12.12.2025) for Corridor-4, UG-02 in the presence of Thiru. R. Ranganathan, General Manager (Construction), CMRL, Thiru. C. Murugamoorthy, Team Leader, General Consultants, and officials from CMRL, the General Consultants, M/s AEON Consortium, and the contractor, M/s Cemindia Projects Limited (formerly ITD Cementation India Limited).

This TBM has already demonstrated exceptional performance, having earlier completed a 2 km drive from Panagal Park to Kodambakkam Ramp Retrieval Shaft near Meenakshi College at Arcot Road and achieving the first breakthrough in the entire underground stretch of Corridor-4 on July 23, 2025. That drive was of critical significance as tunnelling was conducted safely beneath live Indian Railways tracks.

Following the breakthrough, TBM Peacock was dismantled at Kodambakkam Ramp Retrieval Shaft, transported back to Panagal Park, and reassembled at the Panagal Park Station launching shaft for its second new drive of 1,898m towards Boat Club Station. It is the first machine to be launched for constructing one tunnel of the twin tunnels in this section. This drive consists of significant engineering challenges, including tunnelling beneath the existing operational Phase 1 Metro tunnels near Nandanam Metro Station. The alignment reaches depths of upto 30.2m (100 feet) below ground level.

TBM Peacock has been launched on the Down Line of Corridor-4 and will advance from Panagal Park towards Nandanam before finally reaching the retrieval shaft at Boat Club Station. The completion of this tunnel drive is expected by November 2026.

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