



P.R.No.55/2026

Date: 06.08.2026

Press Release

TBM “Nilagiri” Breakthrough at Moolakadai Metro (North) 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 118.9 km.

The tunnel construction for the first 9 km underground section of Corridor 3 from Madhavaram Milk Colony to Kellys is being executed through M/s Tata Projects limited and mobilized 7 TBMs for the tunnelling works. The TBM Nilagiri (S 96) tunnel drive started from Madhavaram High Road Station to Moolakadai station (Up line), covering a bored tunnel length of 819 m and break-through done at Moolakadai North shaft on 05.08.2026. This is the 11th TBM breakthrough carried out by M/s Tata Projects Limited under TU-01 contract.

As a whole, CMRL has completed 24 TBM breakthroughs in Phase-2 project. The tunnel section between Madhavaram High Road and Moolakadai is the complex tunnel section under the contract TU-01 with major challenges, such as the TBM S 96 (Nilagiri) passing beneath Buckingham canal and under a live traffic road, addressing more than 14 No. of bore wells along the alignment by providing alternate water sources without any issue to the public.

The complete tunnel drive was well managed within the allowable minimum settlements and extensive instrumentation, and monitoring was ensured throughout the drive.

Thiru. Kolli Venkata Ramana, AGM (UG)/CMRL, Thiru. PSS Naidu, CRE/GC1, Thiru. Vijaya Kumar, Project Manager/Tata Projects, other officials of CMRL, General Consultant and Tata Projects were present during the event.

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