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Press Release

Chennai Metro Phase-II: Kaveri TBM Achieves Breakthrough at Kilpauk Medical College Station

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) achieved a significant milestone in Phase-II, Corridor-3, with the successful breakthrough of the Downline Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) “Kaveri” at the Kilpauk Medical College Station.

Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II, Corridor-3 Downline tunnelling between Chetpet to KMC commenced on 06.09.2025 and the TBM breakthrough at KMC station conducted on 29.09.2026 and witnessed by MD, CMRL Thiru. Ashish Chatterjee, Thiru. T. Archunan (Director Projects), Thiru. T. Livingstone Eliazer, CGM (PP&D), Thiru. Anto Jos Menachery (GM - Underground), Thiru. Tony Burchell (Consultant Team leader), L&T Project Director Tmt. Lakshmi Prasad Vesangi and other CMRL, Consultant and Contractor staff.

Tunnelling between Chetpet Station and KMC Station commenced in February 2024, deploying two TBMs, “Tamarabharani” and “Kaveri”. While the Upline TBM Tamarabharani achieved its breakthrough earlier on 26.11.2025, the Downline TBM Kaveri completed its drive on 29.09.2026.

The tunnel, executed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd, has a total length of 685 metres. During the drive, the TBM successfully negotiated several critical structures, including:

- Five live Southern Railway Tracks near Chetpet Station with an approximate overburden of 18 metres.
- The Chetpet Eco Park lake and several buildings of Kilpauk Medical college with an overburden ranging from 21 to 26 m.
- Existing Chennai Metro Phase-I tunnels with a minimum clearance of 6.1 metres between Phase-I and Phase-II tunnels.

The entire drive was completed without any major ground settlements or adverse impacts to the existing infrastructures. A total of 10 cutterhead interventions were carried out during the tunnel drive. The tunnelling operations were completed in 252 days. This breakthrough represents the 9th TBM breakthrough achieved under the TU02 Contract.

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