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Press Release

Chennai Metro Phase-II Achieves Hat-trick of TBM Breakthroughs in Three Days

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) achieved another significant milestone in Phase-II, with the successful breakthrough of the Downline Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) “Adyar” at RK Salai Station today. With this breakthrough, CMRL has achieved a hat-trick of TBM breakthroughs in three consecutive days, marking a significant achievement in the ongoing tunnelling works under Phase II:

- 29 September 2026: Corridor 3 Downline TBM “Kaveri” achieved breakthrough at KMC Station.
- 30 September 2026: Corridor 5 Downline TBM “Maruthan” achieved breakthrough at Villivakkam Station.
- 1 October 2026: Corridor 3 Downline TBM “Adyar” achieved breakthrough at RK Salai Station.

The breakthrough of TBM “Adyar” at RK Salai Station was witnessed by CMRL Director (Projects), Thiru. T. Archanan, IRSE, Chief General Manager Tmt. Rekha Prakash (P&D), General Manager (Underground), Thiru. Anto Jose Menachery, Consultant Team Leader Thiru. Tony Burchell, L&T Project Director Thiru. Lakshmi Prasad Vesangi, and other officials and staff of CMRL, the General Consultant and the Contractor.

The tunnelling works for the 12-km underground section of Corridor 3 between Kellys and Taramani are being executed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited, with the mobilisation of eight TBMs for the tunnelling works.

Tunnelling between Royapettah Station and RK Salai Station commenced in September 2024 with the deployment of two TBMs, “Bhavani” and “Adyar”. The Upline TBM “Bhavani” achieved its breakthrough on 13.10.2025, while the Downline TBM “Adyar” completed its drive on 01.10.2026. The Downline tunnel has a total length of 915 metres. The tunnelling drive commenced on 29 December 2025 and was completed in 277 days.

During the drive, TBM “Adyar” successfully negotiated several critical structures along Royapettah High Road, including Peters Bridge, the EPFO building, Andhra School and several shop lots. The tunnel was constructed with an overburden ranging from approximately 9 to 13 metres, through silty sand.

A total of 11 cutterhead interventions were carried out during the tunnelling drive. Despite the challenging urban conditions and the presence of several existing structures along the alignment, the entire drive was completed without any major ground settlement or adverse impact on existing infrastructure.

The successful breakthrough of TBM “Adyar” marks the 10th TBM breakthrough achieved under the TU02 Contract, representing another important milestone in the execution of Chennai Metro Phase-II tunnelling works.

Issued By: Additional Director / Public Relations Officer
CMRL, Chennai – 600 035.