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Press Release

TBM "Kurinji" Breakthrough at Srinivasa Nagar Metro Station

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 underground and 41.2 km elevated. 4 TBMs namely Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham and Neithal are being used for tunnelling activities in the 5.8km Underground Section. The underground section of Corridor 5 includes 5 stations, 2 ramps executed by Tata Projects Ltd. with funding support from JICA.

CMRL has reached a significant milestone in its Phase 2 expansion with the successful breakthrough of Tunnel Boring Machine "Kurinji" at Srinivasa Nagar Metro Station North Shaft on 13.11.2026. The tunnel drive, which commenced on 27.11.2025 from Kolathur metro station towards Srinivasa Nagar Metro Station, has covered a bored tunnel length of 1080 m.

The main challenges faced during this drive included doing tunnel drive are crossing the steep curve of 230m radius in a varying Geological condition ranging from soil weathered rock and Hard Rock (Grade1-5), crossing 70+ borewells and Open wells in a heavy residential area. Despite these constraints, the breakthrough was completed without any disruption to the general public and ongoing traffic.

Thiru. Ashish Chatterjee I.A.S, Managing Director-CMRL, Thiru. T. Archunan, IRSE, Director Projects of CMRL, Thiru. T. Livingstone Eliazer, CGM (PP&D), Thiru. K. Gurusamy, CGM (EC / UGC), Thiru. Karthikeyan M, JGM (UGC), 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.

This achievement marks the completion of first tunnel breakthrough without confinement crossing steep curve below heavy residential buildings and schools in Corridor 5 (Package C5UG06) & subsequent tunnel completion of 3.78km in corridor 5 which reflects CMRL's continued commitment to safe, sustainable, and efficient urban transport for Chennai's growing population.

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