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Press Release

TBM Peacock Breakthrough at Kodambakkam Ramp

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.

CMRL has reached a significant milestone in its Phase 2 expansion with the successful breakthrough of Tunnel Boring Machine “Peacock” (DL 1074) at Kodambakkam Ramp Retrieval shaft near Meenakshi College at Arcot Road today (23.07.2025). This achievement marks a major step forward in the development of Corridor 4, which will span 26.8km from Light House to Poonamallee Bypass. The TBM Peacock tunnel drive, which commenced on May 02, 2024, from Panagal Park Crossover towards Kodambakkam Ramp Retrieval Shaft, has covered a bored tunnel length of 2047m. The main challenge for this tunnel boring was that it had to pass through 190 no’s of building mostly residential out of which more than 50 no’s of buildings were old buildings. Also the TBM had to bore parallel to the active railway line before crossing the multiple railway tracks. The TBM also passed through two churches and below the Kodambakkam flyover. Despite the challenges, this is the longest tunnel of phase 2 with 2.047 km has been achieved without any disturbance to the public and existing traffic.

Thiru. T. Archunan, Director Projects of CMRL, Thiru. Jayanta Basu, Managing Director at ITD Cementation India Ltd, along with Tmt. Rekha Prakash, CGM (P&D), Thiru. S. Ashok Kumar, CGM (T&EC), Dr. Rajeev K Srivastava, Chief Advisor (Environment), Thiru. R. Ranganathan (General Manager), Thiru. C. Murugamoorthy (Team Leader-GC), Thiru. Jaspreet Singh Kocher (Chief Resident Engineer- GC), & Thiru. Subhasish Mukherjee (Project Director - ITD Cem), Thiru. M.G. Sambosankaran (Project Manager – ITD Cementation), & other senior officials and staff from CMRL, GC and ITD Cementation India Ltd were present during the event.

Corridor 4, which includes 12 underground stations and 18 elevated stations, is part of CMRL's extensive infrastructure development plan, funded by bilateral and multilateral funding agencies such as ADB, AIIB, and NDB. The 10.03 km underground section of Corridor 4 from Light House Station to Kodambakkam Flyover is being executed by ITD Cementation India Limited, with the mobilization of 4 TBMs.

This achievement demonstrates CMRL's commitment to expanding Chennai's metro rail network and providing efficient, reliable transportation to the city's growing population.

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