



P.R.No.66/2025

Date: 21.08.2025

Press Release

TBM “Kurinji” Breakthrough at Kolathur 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 5.8 km UG and 41.2 km elevated. 4 TBMs namely Kurinji, Mullai, Neithal, and Marutham are being used for tunnelling activities in the 5.8km UG Section.

CMRL has reached a significant milestone in its successful implementation of UG portion of Corridor-5 by the first breakthrough of Tunnel Boring Machine “Kurinji” at Kolathur Station North Shaft on 21.08.2025. The tunnel drive, which commenced on 20.02.2025 from Kolathur Ramp towards Kolathur Station, has covered a bored tunnel length of 246 m.

The main challenges faced during this drive included extremely low overburden of 1.8 m, a steep gradient of 3.8%, and the requirement for ground protection in middle of Inner Ring Road (IRR) which is subject to heavy traffic. Despite these constraints, the breakthrough was completed without any disruption to the general public and ongoing traffic.

Thiru. T. Archunan, IRSE, Director Projects of CMRL, Thiru. T. Livingstone Eliazer, CGM (PP&D), Tmt. S. Rekha Prakash, CGM (P&D), Thiru. Karthikeyan M., JGM, officials from Tata Projects Ltd. including Thiru. K. Ramesh (Project Director), Thiru. Natthapong Katkaew (Project Manager), and General Consultant representatives Thiru. Ian Watson (Team Leader) & Thiru. Usman Sheriff (Chief Resident Engineer) were present during the event along with other senior officials and team members from CMRL, Tata Projects Ltd., and the General Consultants.

This underground section of Corridor 5 includes 5 stations and 2 ramps with a total length of 5.8 km, executed by Tata Projects Ltd. with funding support from JICA.

This achievement marks the first breakthrough in Corridor5 (Package C5-UG06) and reflects CMRL’s continued commitment to safe, sustainable, and efficient urban transport for Chennai’s growing population.

**Issued By: Public Relations Department,
CMRL, Chennai – 600 035.**