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Press Release

Noyyal TBM Achieves Breakthrough at Mandaveli Station

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) achieved a significant milestone in Phase 2, Corridor-3, with the successful breakthrough of the Downline Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) “Noyyal” at the Mandaveli shaft today.

Tunnelling between Greenways Station and Mandaveli Station commenced on September 2023, deploying two TBMs, “Noyyal” and “Vaigai.” While the Upline TBM Vaigai achieved its breakthrough earlier on 18 October 2025, the Downline TBM Noyyal completed its drive on 07 February 2026.

This breakthrough marks the 8th TBM breakthrough under the TU-02 contract, reinforcing steady progress in the implementation of Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2.

The tunnel, executed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd, has a total length of 763 metres and passes beneath densely built-up areas, including below 75 buildings, with an overburden ranging from 9 to 12 metres. The Mandaveli shaft area posed additional challenges due to the presence of major underground utilities such as sewer lines, water pipelines, and electrical cables, necessitating careful planning and extended construction time.

The TBMs encountered predominantly silty sand and sandy soil conditions and were operated mainly in closed-face mode. A total of 14 cutterhead interventions were carried out on TBM Noyyal. The tunnel drive was completed in 449 days, excluding the waiting period near the shaft for completion of shaft construction.

The breakthrough event was witnessed by Thiru. T. Archunan, Director (Projects), CMRL, in the presence of senior officials of CMRL, consultants, and representatives from the contractor M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd, including Thiru. Anto Jos Menachery (GM – Underground), Thiru. Livingstone Eliazer (CGM – PP&D), Thiru. S. Ashok Kumar (CGM – T& EC), Thiru. Ravichandran (GM – UG Stations), Consultant DRE Thiru. Subramanian, Thiru. Lakshmi Prasad (Project Director – L&T), and Thiru. Ahmet (Project Manager – L&T).

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