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Press Release

Milestone Events in Corridor-4 of Phase-2 Project

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is implementing the much-anticipated Phase-2 Metro Rail Project across Chennai city, covering 118.9 km across three corridors with 128 metro stations. Significant milestones have been achieved in Corridor-4 (Light House to Poonamallee Bypass – 26.1 km), particularly in the underground works.

1. TBM “Eagle” Achieves Breakthrough at Thirumayilai (UG-01 – Upline)

CMRL has achieved a major milestone with the successful breakthrough of the Upline Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) “Eagle” at the Thirumayilai Shaft, marking the first TBM breakthrough under the UG-01 contract.

The underground section of Corridor-4 from Light House Station to Kodambakkam Flyover has been divided into two packages—UG-01 and UG-02, each comprising approximately 4 km of twin tunnels. To execute nearly 16 km of tunnelling in both directions, four TBMs with an excavated diameter of 6.67 metres have been deployed.

Tunnelling between Light House Station and Thirumayilai Station commenced in January 2024 using TBMs “Eagle” and “Flamingo.” TBM “Eagle” achieved its breakthrough on February 9, 2026.

The 1,981-metre-long tunnel, executed by M/s Cemindia Projects Limited, passes beneath several historic and sensitive structures, including Chennai Lighthouse, All India Radio, Russian Embassy, Dominic Savio School, Rosary Church, and St. Raphael’s School. The alignment crosses 151 buildings, with overburden depths ranging from 4.5 metres to 23 metres. The tunnel drive encountered challenging geological conditions, including rock strata and gas leakage, particularly near St. Raphael’s School. The TBM operated mainly in closed-face mode, with 17 cutterhead interventions, and the tunnel was completed over a period of 24 months.

2. TBM “Pelican” Commences Tunnelling from Panagal Park to Boat Club (UG-02)

CMRL has successfully launched TBM “Pelican” for the underground stretch from Panagal Park to Boat Club Station under Corridor-4, UG-02. TBM “Pelican” has been launched from Panagal Park Station towards Boat Club Station for its final drive. Another TBM, “Peacock,” launched earlier on the same stretch, has already completed 370 metres of tunnelling out of a total drive length of 1,898 metres.

TBM “Pelican” had earlier completed a 2 km tunnel drive from Panagal Park to Meenakshi College, safely passing beneath active Indian Railways tracks. Following this breakthrough, TBM “Peacock” was dismantled, transported back to Panagal Park, and reassembled for its new drive towards Boat Club Station, marking the second and final TBM launch in this section.

The upcoming drive involves complex engineering challenges, including tunnelling beneath the operational Phase-1 Metro tunnels near Nandanam Metro Station, with depths reaching up to 30.2 metres below ground level. Completion of the tunnel drive is targeted for December 2026.

The milestone events took place in the presence of Thiru. T. Archunan, Director (Projects), CMRL; Thiru. R. Ranganathan, General Manager (Construction), CMRL; Thiru. C. Murugamoorthy, Team Leader, General Consultants, along with officials from CMRL, M/s AEON Consortium, and M/s Cemindia Projects Limited (formerly ITD Cementation India Limited).

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