

# Work on first Metro tunnel under Mithi River complete

**Tanushree Venkatraman**

tanushree.venkatraman@htlive.com

**MUMBAI:** The city officially has a Metro line under water now. In its 27th tunnel breakthrough on Wednesday, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) completed one of the twin tunnels passing under the city's Mithi River.

A tunnel breakthrough is when the tunnel completes its pre-determined length. The 33.5-km underground Metro-3 (Colaba-Bandra-Seepz) has 32 tunnel breakthroughs in total.

The tunnel-boring machine (TBM) Godavari-3 covered a length of 1,500.80m between Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and Dharavi metro stations. The Terratec-manufactured TBM started its initial drive in July 2019.

SK Gupta, director (projects) said, "Tunnelling under the Mithi was a challenging task as the geology was weak and fractured; with a water body above. Hence, we had to deploy earth-pressure balance TBM and taken other necessary technical measures and expertise. We are happy to successfully complete one of the two tunnels."

The tunnels are almost 12.5m

## ABOUT METRO-3 CORRIDOR

**The 33.5 km Metro-3 corridor** (Colaba-Andheri-Seepz) will be the third metro in the country to have tunnels under a riverbed. The first one is being constructed in Kolkata under Hooghly river

**The 33.5-km underground** Metro-3 has 32 tunnel breakthroughs in total

**Of the 1.18km tunnels being** built between the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and Dharavi station, 270 metres (m) come under an active river channel

**The business hub of BKC, which** is not connected with existing suburban lines, will be the largest station along Metro-3 (474m in length).



■ Workers inside the underground tunnel below Mithi River at Bandra-Kurla Complex. HT FILE

below Mithi River. The second up-line tunnel is expected to be completed by end of March. In fact, of the total 7.97-km pack-age, 7.56-km has been completed

till date. Apart from Mumbai, Kolkata is also building a Metro under the Hooghly river, while Chennai has an operational line under water.