Work on first Metro tunnel under Mithi River complete

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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 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 package, 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.

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.

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Of the 1.18 km 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.