

All 17 machines to start Metro tunnel work

Mumbai: Marking a pivotal milestone in the underground metro project, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation said it has started lowering the 17th Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). With this, all TBMs will soon start operating simultaneously to dig a 54-km-long tunnel between Colaba-Bandra-Seepz.

The first Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) to be used for the 33.5-km Metro III corridor arrived at Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) from Guangzhou, China, on September 5, 2017.

The lowering of the first Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) was done in the underground shaft at Naya Nagar in Mahim on September 21, 2017.

MMRC's managing director Ashwin Bhide tweeted, "MMRC commences lowering of TBM Tansa 2. With this all 17 Tunnel Boring Machines of @MumbaiMetro3 are underground and poised to complete #tunnelling at the earliest..." The Tansa 2 TBM is being lowered at Science Museum station, Worli.

An MMRC spokesperson said, "The cumulative tunnelling achieved so far is 10,445 metres. The first TBM which was lowered at Naya Nagar has completed 2,050 metres of digging." The TBM is being lowered at a depth of 25-30 metres. —**Manthan K Mehta**