

# Tunneling process for Metro-III project begins at Naya Nagar

By Priyanka Dhomse

The Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) for construction of the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro-III corridor have started tunneling work at Naya Nagar, Mahim, yesterday. According to an official, a total of 17 machines will be placed on different shafts along the Metro-III corridor. The underground tunneling process that began at Naya Nagar will cover a total stretch of 2.15 km and terminate near the Shiv Sena Bhavan at Dadar.

The TBMs will be utilised for constructing a 33.5 km long twin tunnel. They will be lowered at 7 launching shafts located at various locations. "A total of 12 TBMs have cleared the factory acceptance test. While 4 TBMs have already arrived, another 13 TBMs are expected to arrive in the city within 2 months," said Ashwini Bhide, Managing Director, MMRC.

According to the official, 3 of the 4 TBMs that have arrived in the city have been lowered and 1 machine has started excavation of the tunnel. "All of the 17 machines will soon be lowered at the different shafts. Hence the entire tunneling activity is likely to be completed by 2019 and the Metro-III project is expected to be completed by December 2021," said Bhide.

The TBMs will be lowered at 7 launching shafts, including Colaba Woods (Cuffe Parade), Azad Maidan (CSMT), Science Museum (Worli), Naya Nagar

(Mahim), Vidyanagari (Kalina), Sahar Road (Andheri East) and Pali Ground (Marol Naka).

"The MMRC will take care of the

structures, to ensure they don't get affected during the tunneling process, as the TBM's are one of the safest method used for this project. Hence,

besides other safety protocols, the triple end method which has an alarm system will be followed during the tunneling process," said Bhide.