

# METRO-3: AZAD MAIDAN-MUM CENTRAL TUNNEL READY

The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) on Friday completed its longest tunnel drive

**AT WORK:** Tunnel boring machine (TBM) Vaitarna-1. It is the first TBM to complete an entire 3.184-km drive of tunnelling

## TUNNEL VISION

Total distance covered by Vaitarna-1: **3.184km**

**Where:** Azad Maidan to Mumbai Central Metro Station

**Period:** 20 months

**Speed:** An average of 190m every month

**Total tunnelling distance covered:** 31km

**Total breakthroughs required for project:** 32

**Challenges:** 169 structures in the influential zone — including 14 high-rise buildings and 28 heritage, old and dilapidated buildings in the area

## WHAT ARE TUNNEL BORING MACHINES?

The TBMs are huge machines being used to drill underground tunnels in the city. The 17 highly-mechanized machines being used for Metro-3 have been named after the rivers of Maharashtra

## ABOUT METRO-3

Colaba-Bandra-Seepz

length:

**33.5km**

Stations: **27**

Deadline: **December 2021**

**Expected ridership:** Around 13 lakh by 2021 and around 17 lakh by 2030

**Underground:** It is the first and only fully-underground Metro for the city. After its completion, it will be the fifth largest underground tunnel in Asia

**₹23,136 cr**  
Project cost



## OFFICIALSPEAK

**"The task was** challenging and daunting. However, successful completion makes us more confident of completing the project as scheduled. We are also progressing well at station works simultaneously."

**ASHWINI BHIDE**, managing director, MMRC.

TEXT: TANUSHREE VENKATRAMAN



■ MMRC workers at the Mumbai Central station spot after the TBM breakthrough.

HT PHOTO