

50% tunnelling completed on Mumbai Metro 3

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In barely 19 months of tunnelling work being started on the Metro 3, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) has completed constructing 50% of the tunnels of the city's only underground line.

Ashwini Bhide, managing director, MMRC, said the daunting task of tunnelling under heritage buildings, old residential complexes, and an existing elevated Metro line with different geological conditions was achieved with the help of technology and a team of experts.

"Of course, this is just one part of the project. The work of underground station along with excavation, base slab, concourse slab, columns, and wall construction is progressing on a war footing. We are looking at completing the project as scheduled with the help of the Chief Minister's war room, multiple stakeholders, and the backing of Mumbaikars," Ms. Bhide said.

The MMRC has constructed 28 km of the 56 km of tunnels, which will make up 33.5-km line. The 56 km includes two tunnels for the up and down lines of the corridor, and does not include the underground station boxes in between. The first tunnel boring machine (TBM), Krishna 1, was launched at Naya Nagar in Mahim in September 2017, and at present, 17 TBMs are working across the alignment. According to officials, around 80% of tun-

13 breakthroughs

From	To	Length	Date of completion
Marol Naka	Airport Terminal 2	1.26 km	Sept. 24, 2018
Sariputnagar (Andheri East)	SEEPZ Metro station	568 metre	Dec. 26, 2018
Nayanagar (Mahim)	Dadar Metro station	1.77 km	Jan. 30, 2019
Nayanagar (Mahim)	Dadar Metro station	2.4 km	Jan. 30, 2019
Marol Naka	Airport T2 (package 6)	1.31 km	Feb. 13, 2019
Airport T2	Sahar Road	692 metre	Feb. 20, 2019
Marol Naka	MIDC	689 metre	Mar. 13, 2019
Siddhivinayak	Worli	1.3 km	Mar. 15, 2019
BKC	Vidyanagri (Kalina)	890 metre	Mar. 18, 2019
Vidyanagri (Kalina)	Airport T1	3.9 km	April 5, 2019
Cuffee Parade	Vidhan Bhavan	1.22 km	April 18, 2019
BKC	Vidyanagari	889 metre	April 18, 2019
Cuffe Parade	Vidhan Bhavan	1.24 km	May 17, 2019

nelling will be completed by March 2020.

Tunnelling work started in November 2017 and over the past nine months, 13 breakthroughs – a TBM has tunneled an entire section and retrieved at a station – have been achieved. The first one was accomplished at Mumbai airport T2 in September 2018, while the others have been achieved at SEEPZ, Sahar station, MIDC, airport T1, Dadar, Worli, Vidyanagari, and Vidhan Bhavan. Tunnels on both up and down lines have been completed between airport T2 and Marol Naka and between Naya Nagar and Dadar Metro station near Sena Bhavan.

"The longest tunnel so far has been the one from Vidyanagari to airport (3.9 km) and the shortest one is from Sariput Nagar to SEEPZ (562



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metre). In all, 19,504 segment rings have been used to complete 28-km tunnelling. Nineteen more breakthroughs are awaited through the 33.5-km Metro 3 alignment," S.K.Gupta, director (projects), MMRC, said.

The Metro corridor bet-

ween Cuffe Parade in Colaba and SEEPZ in Andheri will connect Nariman Point, Bandra Kurla Complex, the two airport terminals, Mumbai Central, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Kalbadevi, Girgaum, Kalbadevi, and Dharavi.