

# CM asks for more tunnelling machines to finish work faster

## 1st tunnel of Metro-3 completed

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

The first tunnel of the underground Metro-3 line was completed on Monday. The Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) made a breakthrough near the metro construction site, T2 terminal of Mumbai International Airport. The breakthrough occurred after nearly nine months, covering a distance of 1.26 km from Marol to the T2 terminal. Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and top Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) officials attended the event to celebrate the achievement. The breakthrough occurred on Monday afternoon, and the workers hoisted the national flag after the first part of TBM — the cutter head — made its way out from the wall.

"This is a historic day for the city. I got a chance to see the real definition of breakthrough," said Mr Fadnavis. He added, "Already three sophisticated TBMs are in use and STEC has six such TBMs. Today, I told them to bring the other three machines so that the work can be completed faster."

The *Asian Age* was the first to report about the TBM breakthrough in its August 31 edition. The TBM, which was named after the river Wanganga, was commissioned on January 8 from Pali ground in Marol towards CSMIA T2 station. The

machine took 259 days, tunnelling 4.6 metres on a daily basis. The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), which is implementing the project, revealed that the tunnels were made beneath the operational Metro line 1 and Sahar elevated road.

Presently, the MMRC has managed to complete 9km out of the 33.5-km-long tunnel. Of 17 TBMs, 14 have been commissioned. Also, five TBMs have crossed the 1-km mark.

Meanwhile, Mr Fadnavis stressed that the infrastructure of the city would change vastly in next three years with projects such as the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), Coastal Road, Versova Bandra Sea Link (VBSL) and upcoming metro lines.



The TBM made the breakthrough near the metro construction site at T2 terminal of the Mumbai International Airport.  
—MRUGESH BANDIWADEKAR.

### MIN: REPAIR MUM-NASHIK HIGHWAY

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MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

After the Shiv Sena agitation, PWD minister Eknath Shinde ordered urgent repairs on the Mumbai-Nashik National highway from Padgha to Shahapur.

The Sena had closed down the toll plaza on September 21 due to the death of two children in an accident on raksha bandhan because of the potholes on the highway.

For the last eight years, toll is being charged at the Padgha plaza on the highway and the toll contractor is responsible for repairing potholes, construction of service roads and overbridges.

Despite of toll collection, the contractor has failed to complete these works. In the last few years, hundreds of people have lost their lives in accidents on the Padgha-Shahapur belt.

After the death of two children, local residents and the Sena agitated and closed down the toll plaza on September 21.

Taking serious note of the accidents and agitations, Mr Shinde called a meeting of the national highway authority officials in which he gave direction to start urgent repair work, completion of service roads, overbridges and bypass roads immediately.

## MMRDA to make WEH signal free

AISHWARYA NAIR  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has chalked out plans to reduce traffic congestion in the city, which will include providing additional and new signage to Western Express Highway (WEH) and Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). It also plans to make the junctions on the WEH signal free by making modifications in the expressway design. "We have floated tenders to install new

● **MMRDA to shell out more than ₹1cr to install the new maroon and white signage on WEH and BKC.**

● **It hopes to curb traffic congestion.**

signage and lane mapping in BKC as well as WEH. This will effectively reduce traffic snarls. We are also planning to redesign junctions on WEH to make it signal free. We are inviting tenders for the design. Maybe few underpasses

will be added to the existing route," said R.A. Rajeev, metropolitan commissioner, MMRDA.

He added, "Metro corridors will reduce the existing traffic once operations begin, apart from which we will create bus bays, taxi and auto stands at each metro station. Cycles will also be provided. It will help to reduce traffic."

MMRDA will shell out more than ₹1 crore to install the new maroon and white signage in place of the existing green and blue signage. The step has been taken

after a change in Indian Roads Congress (IRC) standards. Some of the new signage would include directions on which bridge needs to be taken for a particular destination, warning signs for no parking and no stopping.

Also informative boards on current metro works would be set up. The total cost for executing the project is around ₹1.40 crore.

Mr Rajeev added, "Tenders have been invited again since only one bidder came forward the first time."