

St Helen Gets into Action at Majestic

The tunnel boring machines have been officially launched by CM Yeddyurappa

Express News Service

Bangalore: The Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) that have been named as St Helen were officially made operational.

This marked the start of the Namma Metro underground tunneling work on Friday by

located in Majestic.

Currently Bangalore metro has assembled the first TBM, while second machine will be ready by next month. These machines are deployed at 20 metres below ground and have the capability to burrow 18 to 20 metres per day.

With such challenging ter-

TUNNEL BORING MACHINE ST HELEN HAS SPECIALLY BEEN CUSTOMISED FOR BANGALORE METRO WHILE BOTH HARD ROCK TBM AND SLURRY TBM HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED

Robert L Moncrieff

Director, Rona Consulting Company



Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa.

TBM St Helen has specially been customised for Bangalore, while both Hard Rock TBM and Slurry TBM have been deployed. And since Majestic metro station is located at the most crowded section of the city, TBM Helen is specifically been designed to suit civilian structures that are sensitive to ground disturbances.

Further, though the TBMs will have to be dismantled and reassembled at each underground site—Central College, Vidhana Soudha, Cricket Stadium and City Railway Station, the main plant and monitoring section will be

rain, the TBM machines used in Bangalore are the first of the type to be used in India. "The Hitachi slurry TBM being used for metro is put to use for the first time in India," managing director of Rona Consulting, Robert L Moncrieff, said.

Bangalore metro also has taken proper measure to manage the slurry. During the tunneling process, the generated product is mixed with water and made into slurry, which is then sent to the slurry treatment plant at Majestic. Water is then separated and the waste is used in landfill, while the water is again sent back to be used for making more slurry.

FOR TUNNELLING WORK

Cost of TBMs: \$10 million

Work schedule: Day and Night, 12 hours daily in two shifts

Manpower: 520 personnel

Project length: 4.8 km

Deadline: 174 weeks, starting March 8, 2010



A view of the Majestic Metro underground site after the inauguration of the tunneling work in Bangalore on Friday | Nagaraja Gadekal

Yeddyurappa Hopes Metro will Run Soon

Express News Service

Bangalore: Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa on Friday expressed hope that the Bangalore Metro officials will be able to start operation on metro's Reach 1 (Bypanahalli to MG Road) line at the earliest.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the underground tunneling work at Majestic, Yeddyurappa said: "We were unable to keep our promise to start the metro on Reach

1 on Ugadi (April 4) as we couldn't get all the clearances. Now, the Bangalore Metro officials should make sure that Metro becomes operational at the earliest."

The chief minister in his speech also said the BMRL will adhere to utmost safe practices while undertaking underground tunnelling work and also be swift in its work.

BMRL Managing Director N Sivasailam said he was still clueless about when op-

A SYMPOSIUM

The BMRL has organised a symposium on tunneling, TBM technology and underground station and main guest of the event will be Managing Director of Delhi Metro E Sreedharan.

erations will start.

"I have no idea, but we are ready," Sivasailam said.

A senior BMRL official explaining the delay on the reach 1 said: "There has been

several delays from the start. We lost a lot of time during acquisition process after that there were truck strikes and strikes, while many a time we lost a lot of time for elections as well."

The reach 1 of Bangalore Metro between Bypanahalli and MG Road cost around ₹1,400 crore, while the entire Phase 1 of Namma Metro covering 42 km, including 8.8 km of underground stretch, is estimated to cost ₹11,609 crore.

According to the BMRL, an average of ₹273 to ₹275 crore is spent per kilometre and by the time the phase 1 work is complete, the average cost for each kilometre is expected to go up to ₹400 crore given the expensive nature of work.

Union Cabinet Secretary K M Chandrasekhar may review the metro work progress on May 21.

The Cabinet Secretary is expected to visit the underground section.