



Kanpur Metro's 4th TBM Vidyarthi Launched by Afcons Infra

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Afcons Infrastructure in December-end quietly commissioned their second tunnel boring machine, TBM Vidyarthi (S-639B), for constructing Kanpur Metro's underground package KNPCC-06 (Nayaganj Station – Transport Nagar Ramp).

This Herrenknecht Earth Pressure Balance machine is 32.38 km Kanpur Metro [Phase 1](#) project's fourth TBM to be deployed so far for constructing [23.785 km Line-1](#) between IIT Kanpur and Naubasta.

The machine had earlier been deployed in Kolkata by Afcons to build the up-line tunnel of Kolkata Metro's [16.34 km Line-2](#) between Howrah Maidan – Esplanade. Along the way, it [passed under](#) the Hooghly River in June 2017. It was then refurbished at Afcons' yard in Butibori, Maharashtra where it [passed](#) factory acceptance tests (FAT) in June 2023.

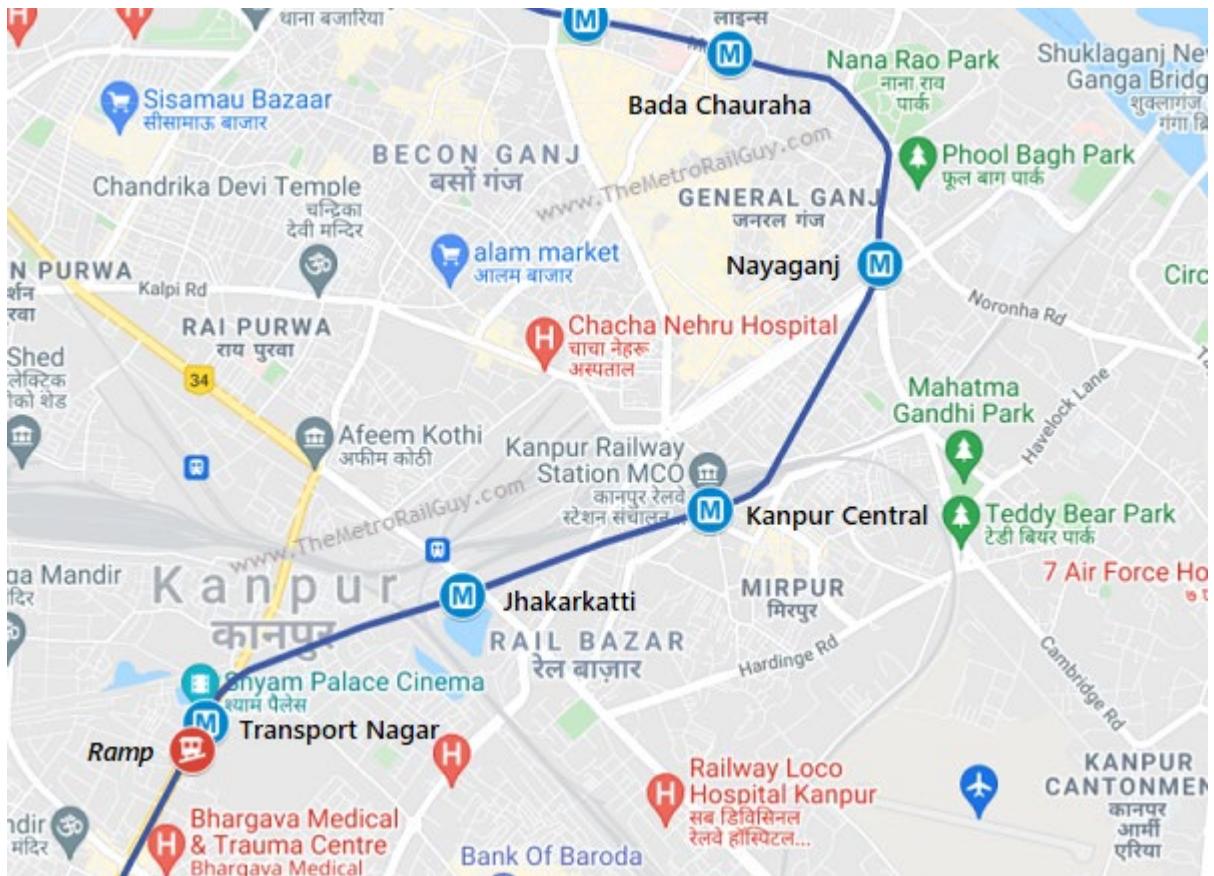
Afcons' team [started lowering](#) TBM Vidyarthi's parts into Kanpur Central Station's shaft in September 2023. For its first assignment, Vidyarthi will build a roughly 1250m long underground tunnel for the down-line from Kanpur Central Station towards Nayaganj Station.

The machine has so far built 8 temporary and at least 12 permanent rings (1 ring is 1.4m wide) for its initial drive. Its back-up gantry will be lowered and attached later for the main drive.

Segments installed by Vidyarthi – Photo by a follower

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) had [awarded](#) Afcons – SAM JV with 4.65 km KNPCC-06's contract in March 2022 with a 36 month deadline and value of Rs. 1087.67 crore (INR 1062,02,00,000 + EURO 29,00,000).

This section connects Nayaganj Station and Transport Nagar Ramp via 3 underground stations at Kanpur Central, Jhakarkatti and Transport Nagar.



Route of Kanpur Metro's Package KNPCC-06: Nayaganj to Transport Nagar – [view Kanpur Metro route map & information](#)



Photo by a follower

Afcons' first machine (S-640B known as TBM Azad) working on the parallel up-line tunnel [started tunneling](#) in October, and I hear it has built 190 rings so far from a total scope of roughly 800 rings.