

Friday, September 16, 2022

Super shield in position to dig for city's Chongming Metro Line

Yang Jian

A COLOSSAL shield machine for the long-awaited Chongming Metro Line in Shanghai will start digging across the Yangtze River soon to connect China's third largest island with the Pudong New Area.

The 308-ton specialized shield Shentong, named after the city's Metro operator, was installed in place on Changxing Island, a county under the jurisdiction of Chongming District, and is ready to excavate.

"It will take two years to dig from Changxing Island to Pudong beneath the Yangtze River to become the city's first cross-Yangtze subway tunnel," said Jiang Zhigang, a project manager with the construction company of Shentong Metro.

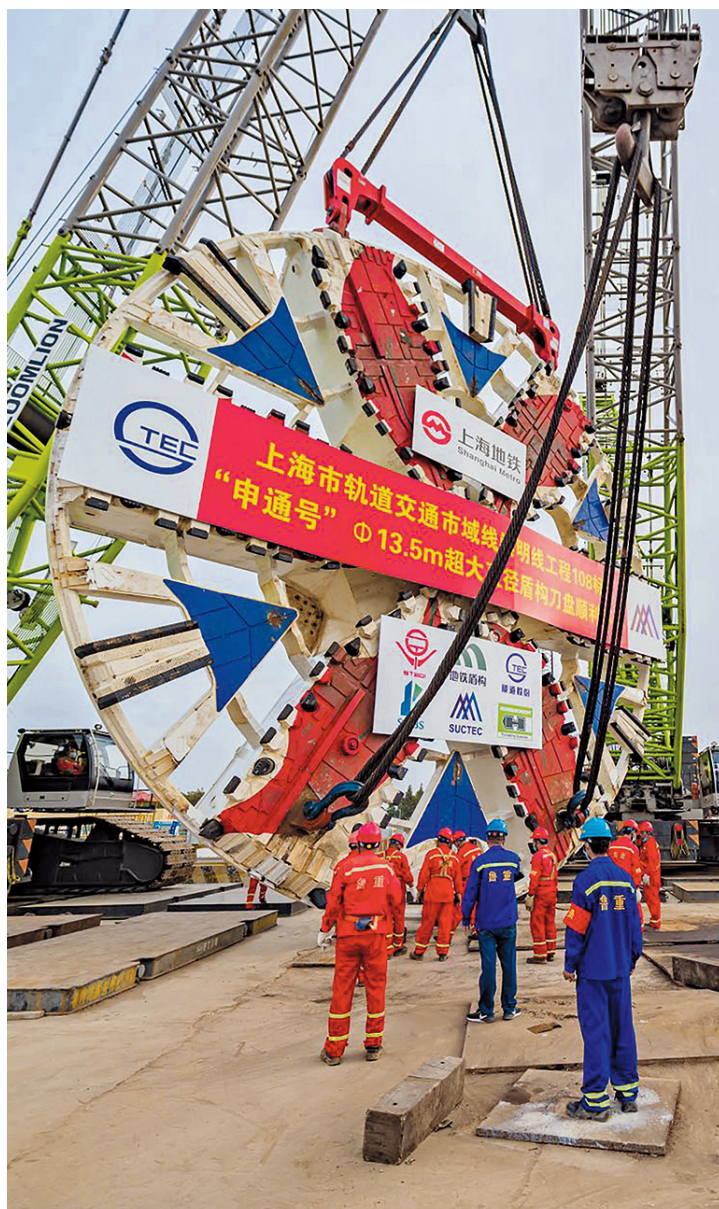
In the next step, another shield will dig northwards from Changxing to Chongming Island to create a complete subway tunnel for the future Chongming Line, Jiang revealed.

Shanghai's 20 Metro lines cover more than 830 kilometers, making it one of the largest Metro networks in the world. Chongming will become the last local district to connect with the system.

The Chongming Line, which will stretch from Pudong to Chongming via Changxing Island, will cover a total length of 43 kilometers.

Upon its completion in about five years, it will take about half an hour to reach Jinji Road in Pudong from Chongming's Chenjia Town.

A trip from Chongming to downtown by Metro will thus be shortened to less than an hour from the at least 90 minutes' drive currently, let alone the severe congestion during almost every holiday.



The 308-ton specialized shield Shentong was installed in place on Changxing Island this week and is ready to excavate. — Ti Gong

48-hour PCR report required to take flights, trains, long-distance buses

Yang Jian

TRAVELERS must have a 48-hour negative nucleic acid test report to take planes and trains as well as inter-provincial coaches and ships during the upcoming holidays, an official with the National Health Commission said last week.

Also, regular polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is "necessary" for all regions, even those without infections at present.

The stricter regulation, to take effect between last Saturday and the end of October, aims to cope with the rising infection risks nationwide during the holidays for the Mid-Autumn Festival, which fell on last Saturday, and the weeklong National Day that starts on October 1.

The nation's COVID-19 prevention and control protocol currently requires a 72-hour negative PCR report to take public transport.

"The increasing human migration during the holidays will raise the transmission risks, because the global pandemic is still rampant, while sporadic domestic cases are popping up frequently," said Wu Liangyou, deputy head of the NHC's disease control and prevention division.

People are advised to reduce cross-provincial travel and spend the holidays locally, he urged.

An "Arrival Test" is widely promoted for travelers during the holidays. Travelers can receive a free PCR test voluntarily upon arrival before allowed to move freely, according to the official.

"It will become an important measure to prevent the transmission of infection from other provinces," Wu told the COVID-19 prevention and control press briefing of the State Council, the nation's Cabinet, in Beijing.

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