

# INSIGHT

**AFCONS**

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2019

  
Shapoorji Pallonji

## GUIDING LIGHTS

Afconians begin New Year with an employee volunteer programme to mentor children at a tribal ashramshala **PG 4 & 5**





## New year, renewed vigour

I would like to cordially wish all Afconians and our esteemed customers a very happy new year. I am sure with our collaborative and innovative approach we'll continue to prosper in our journey of learning and insight.

My dear Afconians, last year was memorable. Your commitment and passion turned Afcons into a Great Workplace. You brought so much to the table. We went into record books for our underwater Metro tunneling feat in Kolkata and mind-boggling figures in concrete pumping at Annaram Barrage. We continued to expand by entering new geographies and embraced new engineering and socio-economic challenges. We were named the 10th best Marine contractor in the world, and, ranked 22nd globally in the Bridges sector by ENR, USA, survey. We bagged multiple awards for constructing India's longest jetty and largest container terminal (Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals) in record time at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

We built West Africa's fastest multi-facility port in Gabon, and, installed the heaviest railway car dumper and stacker reclaimer for Guinea's largest bauxite export facility, among other achievements.

We must also take inspiration from our colleagues, who volunteered to mentor youngsters from a tribal school we have supported over the years as part of our community development programme.

It is indeed a huge privilege to be part of this exciting journey. I am sure your diligence and determination will pave way for more glory in the time to come. All the best!

**K Subramanian**



### MINISTER VISITS LUSAKA ROAD PROJECT

The minister of Local Government, Mr Vincent Mwale, and his team visited various site locations of the Lusaka City Road Decongestion Road Project and the camp area on November 6, 2018. Mr Mwale expressed his satisfaction over the quality of works and project progress so far.

### HISTORIC MOMENT FOR AFCONS

Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first multi-modal Inland Waterways Terminal (IWT), in Varanasi, on November 12, 2018.

The project is a stepping stone towards robust inland waterway transport network in the country.

This project is part of the Jal Marg Vikas (JMV) project on National Waterway-1 (NW-1), and, is being financially and technically supported by the World Bank.



### A PIER TALLER THAN THE QUTUB MINAR



The KRCL team broke its own record in December 2018 by constructing one of the tallest piers in the country using the slipform technique. The 103.45m pier - P5 - including 13m of conventional built up, is a part of Bridge 39, which is one of the 16 bridges being built on the

Katra-Dharam section of the Udhampur-Srinagar- Baramullah Rail Link (USBRL) Project, in Jammu & Kashmir. This is perhaps the tallest pier built in the history of Indian Railways. Afcons completed the work in just 31 days. The pier is taller than the Qutub Minar.

### OFFICE ADDRESS

Afcons House,  
16, Shah Industrial Estate, Veera Desai Road, Azadnagar,  
Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 053, Maharashtra, India.

**Tel No.** +91-22-67191000

**Fax.** +91-22-2673 0047/ 2673 0026

**Website.** www.afcons.com

**CIN No.** U45200MH1976PLC019335

### EDITORIAL

Bhakti Prasad, Krishnakumari C,  
Bivabasu Kumar, Chandrika Sen



**TALL ORDER**  
Afcons constructs one of the tallest piers in the country using slipform technique. The 89.1m rectangular tapered pier, part of a bridge in J&K, is built in less than two months



**HISTORY WITH TBMs**  
We make history by constructing India's first twin underwater Metro tunnels, in Kolkata, safely before time

**DIAMOND MOMENT**  
Our corporate film wins Diamond award at the 12th Global Communication Conclave in Pune; Two Bronze awards in different categories



**NEW CERTIFICATION**  
Afcons transits to ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System Standard



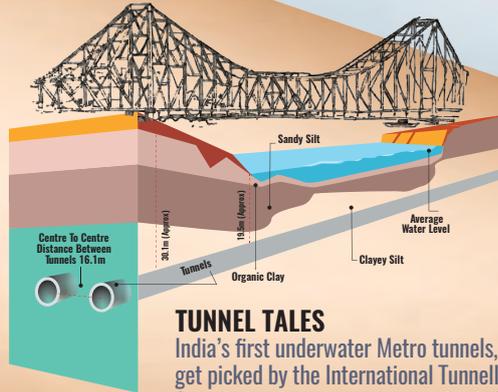
**GREAT WORKPLACE**  
Afcons becomes first Indian infrastructure company to be certified as a Great Place to Work

**MISSION MOZAMBIQUE**  
Afcons sets foot in yet another African country

**ANNARAM APPRECIATION**  
Govt of Telangana hails Afcons for achieving more than 1 lakh cum of concrete pumping in a single month for four consecutive months at Annaram Barrage

**HELLO ZAMBIA**  
Afcons announces start of its Zambia operations with ground-breaking ceremony of Lusaka City Decongestion project

**B'DESH BONDING**  
New job from Bangladesh Railway; Afcons continues its good work with neighbours

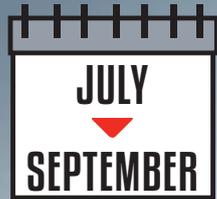


**TUNNEL TALES**  
India's first underwater Metro tunnels, in Kolkata, get picked by the International Tunnelling Association for poster presentation in Dubai



# TOTAL RECALL

2019 marks a new beginning. And before we get busy with our new goals, let's quickly reflect on the highlights of 2018



**AWARDS TIME**  
Afcons named runner-up for Infrastructure Company of the Year award, and, Project Manager of the Year award in Construction Week India Awards



**T&D AWARD**  
Afcons wins the Times Ascent National Award for excellence in training & development



**DUBAI MILESTONE**  
Al Awir Road project gets inaugurated

**DEVELOPING BHUTAN**  
Afcons marks entry into Bhutan

**HSE AWARD**  
Afcons wins Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) Excellence Award from CII for two years in a row

**MAURITIUS AGAIN**  
Afcons bags job for infrastructure development in Mauritius



**TOP-MOST HONOUR**  
Executive Vice Chairman K Subramanian is bestowed with the honour of Distinguished Alumni by National Institute of Technology - Tiruchi

**NATIONAL SAFETY AWARD**  
T74R project wins National Safety Award from Directorate of General Factory Advice & Labour Institute



**DOUBLE DELIGHT**  
Afcons wins Construction Times award for best executed port & harbour project of the year for the Fourth Container Terminal at JNPT. The project also wins Afcons the best infrastructure company of the year award at the National Infrastructure & Construction Awards 2018



**TALLER THAN QUTUB MINAR**  
Afcons betters its own record by constructing one of India's tallest piers. The 103.45m structure, in J&K, is arguably the tallest pier in the history of Indian Railways

**INTO HISTORY BOOKS**  
Honourable PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates India's first multi-modal Inland Waterways Terminal (IWT), constructed by Afcons, in Varanasi

**VIZHINJAM VICTORY**  
Vizhinjam project, in Kerala, wins two awards at the CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards

**KAKINADA PROJECT**  
Afcons-SFSB consortium bags offshore process platform project from ONGC

**AWESOME ALEP**  
Agra Lucknow Expressway (Pkgs II & IV) wins best infrastructure project award at Dun & Bradstreet Infra Awards

# SCIENCE FUN FOR TRIBAL KIDS

Seven Afconians join hands to form first-ever team of volunteers to take part in mentorship programme at a tribal *ashramshala*

2019 began on a uniquely sweet note for Bharat Salunkhe, Devendra Jivatode, Gaurav Nerkar, Madhuri Jadhav, Omkar Dalal, Pratik Kolekar and Vikas Rane. They formed the first-ever team from Afcons to volunteer for a pioneering mentorship programme, Chotte Scientist, at Matoshree Yamunabai Limaye Adivasi Ashramshala.

The thought behind the initiative was to introduce scientific concepts to children using practical experiments inspired by day-to-day activities through corporate volunteering. The Shapoorji Pallonji Group invited volunteers from across Group companies to implement this first-of-its-kind programme. The Limaye Ashramshala is a 'model school' for tribal children at Raigad, and, Afcons supports with additional educational programmes for several years now.

A total of 25 volunteers signed up for the event from the SP Group. The seven volunteers from Afcons were divided into three teams and each of them mentored groups of eight to 10 children from classes 7 to 9. The mentors took part in a day-long workshop a week before they headed to the school. "We prepared for the whole week between the workshop and the mentoring session. The concepts,

though simple, had to be taught in an interesting manner," says Bharat Salunkhe from Marine business unit.

The ashramshala is located in a remote hilly region near Pali in Raigad district of Maharashtra. Around 550 children of migrant labourers, from the local area, live and study in the school. "Most of our children are first-generation schoolers. Given their impoverished family backgrounds, they are unexposed to the outside world. While they are independent and bright, most of them are shy and lack basic communication skills," expresses Meenakshi Dhope, primary principal.

Bearing this in mind, the mentors tried to break ice with the children before explaining the concepts. "When Omkar and I were first introduced to our team, the youngsters





cagey. Before setting out to show them experiments in centrifugal and centripetal force, we played the Clap 7 game to make them comfortable. They were incredibly receptive and friendly after that,” shares Vikas Rane from design team.

Pratik Kolekar (Corp Comm team) and Madhuri Jadhav (Marine business unit) approached with a different gameplan altogether. “Apart from explaining the law of conservation of energy with practical examples, we enhanced their understanding by showing them short videos. This helped the children grasp the concept better,” says Pratik.



Afcons Photos



The efforts of the mentors bore fruits on the final leg of the programme, when the children performed the experiments in front of a huge audience comprising representatives from SP Group as well as their own peers. “After grasping the experiments, the children then displayed them successfully in front of a huge audience. This is a huge achievement for us all, and I am very proud of them,” says Sarita Sawant, secondary principal.

The beaming children were elated with the whole experience. Speaking on behalf of all participants of Chotte Scientist programme, Mangesh from Class 9, says, “Vikas Sir and Omkar Sir from Afcons explained the concepts of centripetal and centrifugal force in ways we could never have imagined. They made science fun for us. They also groomed us to face the audience. Today, we have become Chotte Scientists, and we are looking forward to the next programme with our mentors!”

## OTHER EVENTS

### English Literacy Programme (Class 2-9)

**Implementing partner:** Leap ForWord  
**Skills covered:** English language reading and structuring correct sentences

### Introduction to Basic Technology (Class 8-9)

**Implementing partner:** Indian Institute of Education, Vigyan Ashram  
**Skills covered:** Agriculture, animal husbandry, food processing, home science

### Pradnya Vikas (personality development) (Class 7-9)

**Implementing partner:** Jnana Prabodhini  
**Skills covered:** Learning skills, experiences correlating with academics

**(Photo left):** Vikas Rane and Omkar Dalal explain a science concept to their group  
**(Photo top left):** Bharat Salukne, Devendra Jivatode and Gaurav Nerkar express their satisfaction at their group’s performance  
**(Photo top right):** Children of Class 3 teach Chandrika Sen a word or two of the English language

## OTHER SOCIAL INITIATIVES

**Flood relief:** Afcons lent a helping hand to Kerala flood victims by providing two trucks of cleaning materials. The materials were handed over to District Collector at Common Collection Centre, SD College, Alappuzha district. There was also an employee volunteering through payroll drive.

**Smile for a Smile:** Afcons collaborated with Goonj and collected 25 cartons of clothes, toys, footwear and toys from employees at its headquarters as part of a donation drive around Diwali. These items were processed, refurbished, and offered to families as hampers in exchange for developing their own village in lieu of Shramdan.

**Walking for a cause:** Six teams from Afcons took part in OXFAM Trailwalker in 2018 to raise funds for the charitable organisation dedicated to alleviate global poverty. Three teams of four each displayed immense physical and mental endurance to successfully complete the 100-km and 50-km trail walks. **(Flip to Pg 6 for more)**

**Community work in Guinea:** As part of its ongoing community development initiatives in Africa, Afcons refurbished a government school **(in pic)** in Kamsar, Guinea. Afcons constructed approach roads, repaired old buildings, provided study tables, and did landscaping around the school area. Also, to promote sports among youngsters, Afcons sponsors a local football team and has provided nets, football and training kits to all players. Several village roads have also been repaired around the project area.

**Community work in Gabon:** The Afcons’ team in Gabon volunteered to refurbish a government school. Study tables, books and miscellaneous items were shared with the school authorities.





### AFCONIANS MAINTAIN WINNING STREAK

It was an Octoberfest for Afconians in the world of sports! Ravindra Ekande and Tejaswini Joshi maintained their top billing in the city's elite corporate table tennis tournament. They won the mixed doubles event by defeating teams from Bank of America and TCS,

respectively. The tournament, organised by Nsportz, was held at Juhu Gymkhana.

In a separate event, Arjun Singh (pic: bottom left) from Mat. Control dept successfully completed a 7-km walk in the Sketchers Mumbai Marathon.

Elsewhere, Prasad Hatwalne from the IT department completed the 10-km Destroyer Run in one hour, 21 mins and 46 secs at the Indian Oil WNC Navy Marathon 2018 in November 2018.



### NEW INITIATIVE IN ZAMBIA

The Tallest Employee of The Month Award Programme was launched at Lusaka City Roads Decongestion Project in Zambia in a bid to recognise the dedication and efforts of Afconians.



### HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAMME HELD IN CHENNAI

A dengue and common occupational-related health diseases awareness programme and nilavembu kasayam distribution was held for the workmen at the Labour Colony on October 28, 2018.



### AFCONS MAKES A MARK AT ODISHA STATE SAFETY CONCLAVE

Odisha State Safety Conclave was held on November 2-3, in Bhubaneswar. Afcons

was present at the conclave and made a mark in more than one ways. Ramakrishna Rao, GM, HSE, was invited as a speaker on the occasion wherein he addressed the gathering with his valuable inputs about safety.

A safety quiz was also organised during the conclave and Pritam Mukherjee, Senior Officer, HSE, Gopalpur Port project, won the contest.



### EVC VISITS MG SETU PROJECT

Executive Vice Chairman K Subramanian visited MG Setu Project, Patna, on November 2 -3, 2018, to review the progress of the project. He was accompanied by Bhakti Prasad, Director, HR. During the visit, they interacted with the site team and motivated the team to finish the project in time.

### WALKING FOR A CAUSE

OXFAM, an international NGO involved in philanthropic activities, organises 50-km and 100-km trail walks around Mumbai each year, to raise funds.

It is a team effort and teams of four are required to participate, with around 150 teams participating in the event each year.

Six teams from Afcons participated in 2018 edition of OXFAM Trailwalker held between November 23 and 25, 2018.

Each team comprised four participants and one support crew and successfully completed the 100-km (pic: top) and 50-km events.

As you can imagine, this is an immense feat of physical and mental endurance and stamina, and is no mean achievement!

The team members showed a lot of enthusiasm and self-management. The invaluable experience and knowledge gained through the participation will long be engraved in the hearts and minds of the participants.



### OHS MILESTONE IN AHMEDABAD

Afcons' Ahmedabad Underground Metro Rail project (2291) received two certifications from Quality Austria for implementing and maintaining best Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Management Systems.

The IQ Net (International Certification Network) recognised ISO 14001:2015 and BS OHSAS 18001:2007 certificates were issued to the project in November 2018. Three cheers for the project team!

### MD VISITS JOC SITE

Managing Director S Paramasivan and Executive Director (Technical) R Giridhar visited the Entrances to the Jewel of Creek site on December 22, 2018. They were given a lowdown on the project progress.

The MD congratulated the team on their progress, encouraged the Afconians to keep up the good work.



### SPREADING FESTIVE CHEER

Afcons' Umang Committee of Oil & Gas BU celebrated Christmas with a special Secret Santa event - Be My Santa. The biggest surprise of the day was the arrival of Santa Claus, who wished every member and distributed sweet treats.



### NEW PROJECTS

#### MARINE JOB IN MAURITANIA

Afcons bagged a project to design and construct a Container Terminal in Port Nouakchott, Mauritania for Arise Mauritania SA.

#### EXPRESSWAY PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) awarded Afcons the Package-14 of the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway on EPC basis.

#### OFFSHORE PROCESS PLATFORM PROJECT IN KAKINADA

Afcons bagged an Offshore Process Platform project for the development of KG-DWN-98/2 NELP Block in Kakinada. The project has been awarded by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).



**VIEW POINT** | Akhil Gupta

# 'READY TO BUILD ANY BRIDGE IN THE WORLD'

awe inspiring. We recently constructed one of India's tallest piers standing 103.4m tall, using slip-form technique, for the USBRL project in J&K. Likewise, Mahatma Gandhi Setu over Ganga River in Patna, which entails replacement of the superstructure of existing 5.575-km-long, four-lane bridge, will be another of our landmark projects upon completion.

Internationally, we have successfully executed Bhairabh Bridge in Bangladesh over the mighty River Meghana. We are also building a major bridge across river Volta in deep waters for Ghana's biggest railway project.

Our projects speak for themselves. The bridges we have built withstood the vagaries of time and have shown that we have worked smart and hard to carve a niche for ourselves without compromising with occupational safety: We are the only Infrastructure company in India certified to OHSMS based on the ISO 45001:2018 standards. Given our equipment strength, engineering acumen and determined workforce, we are fully capable of handling any bridge project anywhere in the world and delivering it on time. We challenge ourselves every day and benchmark our own performances, only to improve upon them every single time.

**Akhil Gupta is Executive Director (Operations) and Head BU - Surface Transport**

We pride ourselves for successfully executing challenging infrastructure projects anywhere in India and abroad. The latest ENR survey, ranking Afcons as the 22nd best company globally in bridge construction, is a recognition of our ability to execute truly complex bridge projects anywhere on the globe. Driven by great imagination, cutting-edge technology and ability to visualise the minutest details, we have constructed engineering marvels in some of the most hostile geographies, including valleys, through mountains, at terrifying heights, across flooded rivers, live railway tracks, and, over the sea. Imagine launching of steel truss weighing 1500 tons for a Rail over Bridge (ROB) with a complex 46-degree skew over one of the country's busiest railway routes! The entire scheme for the Agra Lucknow Expressway Project (ALEP) was conceptualised by our highly-skilled team of designers and launchers. We not only completed the project before time, but also gained the recognition of launching the heaviest and longest steel truss bridge across running tracks in India. Value engineering is the bedrock of all our projects, and we are the pioneers in using path-breaking technologies. We leverage technology and use innovations to make all our projects stand out. Our bridge projects in Jammu & Kashmir, including the Chenab Railway Bridge which will be the world's tallest arch bridge when ready, are



## Civil Training Programme Equipment Management for Civil Engineers

A training programme on equipment management for civil engineers was conducted at Hingna workshop on October 3-4, 2018, with the objective of helping the participants build mechanical acumen in advance technology of equipment.

## Mechanical & Electrical Training Programme PLC and Controls, SCADA

A two-day training programme on PLC and controls, SCADA was organised at Butibori (Hingna Workshop) on December 7-8, 2018. The programme was aimed at helping the participants understand the basic concept and programming of SCADA and also programming of PLC.

## Oil & Gas Training Programme Submarine Pipeline Design

A training programme on Submarine Pipeline Design was conducted at Oil & Gas conference hall on December 18, 2018. The objective was to make participants aware about various aspects of subsea pipeline design and their importance.

## Management Development Programme Middle Management Development Programme - 2018 (Phase 1)

A Middle Management Development Programme (Phase I) was organised at HO from December 10-14, 2018. It was a blend of technical and soft skills modules.

## General Management Programme Finance & Accounts officers Development Programme

A training programme for accounts personnel was organised at HO from October 3-5, 2018. The objective of the training was to provide participants an understanding of the finance and accounts function, P&L, budget function, etc.

**NEW JOINEES**

- **T Ravi Patnaik**  
General Manager (Operation) - BU Surface Transport
- **Anil Kumar**  
Joint General Manager (Projects) - Nagpur - Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway Package 2
- **Partha Banerjee**  
Deputy General Manager (O & G Engineering) - ONGC KG DWN 98/2 project
- **Indu Bhushan Khajuria**  
Deputy General Manager (Projects) - PakalDul Hydro Power project
- **Rajendra Dhongadi**  
Deputy General Manager (QA/QC - Mechanical) - Head Office - Oil & Gas
- **Rajnish Kumar Mishra**  
Deputy General Manager (Projects) - Rail Bridge Over Ganga - Mokama Project

## ALEP all the way!

Agra Lucknow Expressway Project has won the Infrastructure Project Award at the Dun & Bradstreet Awards 2018 at a ceremony in New Delhi on October 31, 2018. The award was collected by S Krishnamurthy, Project Manager, Agra Lucknow Expressway Package IV, and BK Arora, General Manager – Business Development. Afcons was recognised as one of India’s Leading Infrastructure Companies at the awards last year for an outstanding effort in building the Ganga Bridge in record time.



## For the trophy cabinet

**JNPT joy:** Afcons won the Best Infrastructure Company of the Year for the Wharf and Approach Trestle for Fourth Container Terminal, JNPT, at the National Infrastructure & Construction Awards 2018

**Chennai hat-trick:** Transtonnelstroy Afcons JV (CMRL 4384) has notched up a hat-trick of the Rolling Trophy for being a Safety Conscious Contractor in Chennai Metro project for three consecutive months from August-October 2018.

**Vizhinjam double:** The Vizhinjam Project in Kerala has won two awards at the CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards 2018 for Excellence in HSE practices.

# Leading the Way



Volunteers from the Shapoorji Pallonji Group volunteer at the first-ever Chotte Scientist programme



Madhuri Jadhav and Pratik Kolekar with their mentees at the mentorship programme



Ashramshala children set up a stall of snacks they made as part of the Afcons-supported IBT programme



### ALERTS

Afcons now has a dedicated Youtube channel. Scan the code to visit the channel and stay tuned with the latest videos

