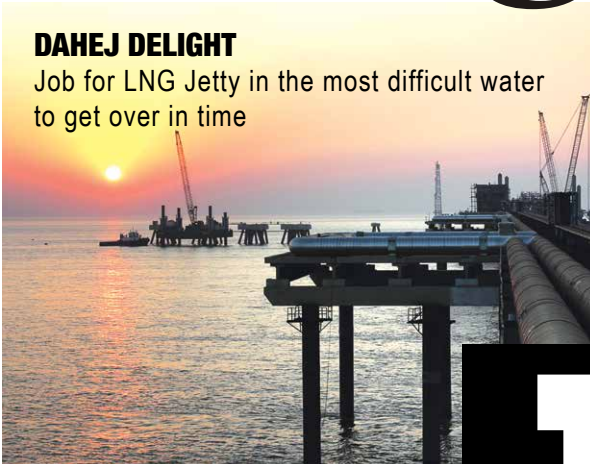


# AFCONS Insight

Volume No.4 | Issue 1 | January 2014

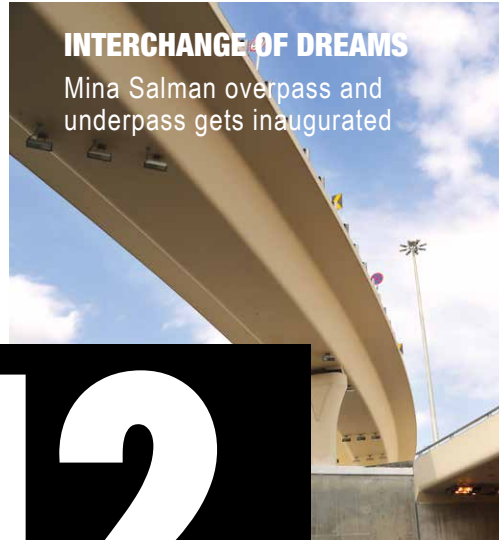
## DAHEJ DELIGHT

Job for LNG Jetty in the most difficult water to get over in time



## INTERCHANGE OF DREAMS

Mina Salman overpass and underpass gets inaugurated



## KUWAIT CALLING

AFCONS makes entry into Kuwait with marine project

## BANGLA BEAT

AFCONS enters Bangladesh for first time with railway project

## TUNNEL STORY

KRCL project nears completion



# 12

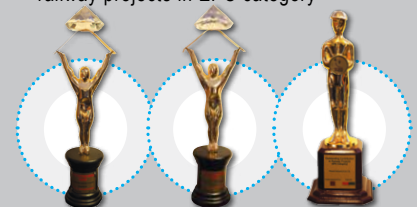
REASONS TO REMEMBER

# 2013

AND WHY IT'S EXCITING TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR

## AND THE AWARDS GO TO...

...AFCONS for being one of the most admired companies in India, being the third fastest growing construction company and for being an outstanding company in railway projects in EPC category



## HIGH POINT

AFCONS erects world's largest cable crane at Chenab site



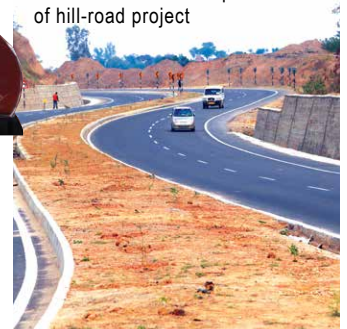
## SAFETY FIRST

Ministry of Labour, Bahrain, awards Trophy of Excellence to AFCONS for outstanding efforts in occupational safety and safety of environment



## HIGHWAY MY WAY!

AFCONS creates national record for fastest completion of hill-road project



## KNOW IT RIGHT

KM unfolds new chapter of converting individual experience into organisational experience

## TOUCH OF HOPE

AFCONS takes part in Ashramshala Project for better education of tribal children

## WHOLE WELLNESS MODEL

AFCONS spreads awareness about healthy lifestyle among employees at sites

# AFCONS

## FROM VC & MD'S DESK



**K Subrahmanian**

If there was ever any indication that we were turning the sharpest of corners especially when time was at its premium, it was there for all to see at the Jammu-Udhampur Highway Project (JUHP).

It gives me great delight and satisfaction to see AFCONS achieving the COD well ahead of schedule. Anybody who has visited the project will understand the magnitude of the task. Even NHAI project director, Mr RP Singh, has acknowledged it. Needless to say, such achievement is only possible when there is total involvement and commitment from key personnel handling the project. The exemplary

leadership provided by Mr R Giridhar, ably assisted by Mr Ananta Kumar and Mr AK Mishra has made this impossible task possible.

The project demonstrated the very theme of Operational Excellence that AFCONS has developed as a key differentiator vis-a-vis its competitors. While many road projects in the country have been delayed, this project comes as a whiff of fresh air and as a new business model not only for AFCONS, but also for the nation as a whole. I believe that such an achievement will motivate others to emulate. Every facet of road-building has been taken care of in this project. Be it resource mobilisation, planning, value-engineering, change in design of alignment – AFCONS has done it promptly.

2013 had been exciting in terms of acquiring and execution of projects. The New Year brings with itself a fresh wave of challenges. Let's work hard, stay fit and make 2014 a year to remember.

*K Subrahmanian*

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES



Mr BK Arora receiving the EPC World Award 2013 for Outstanding Company in Railway Projects in EPC category



Mr S Paramasivan, AFCONS' (DMD), receives the Most Admired Companies 2013 award from Dharmendra, Joint Secy, Ministry of Urban Development

## MAKING HEADLINES

**1** ArcelorMittal has issued an appreciation letter for company's participation in External Construction Review and HSSE Audit on November 5, 2013

**2** Buchanan City Corporation has issued an appreciation certificate for company's contribution in CSR activities for the year 2013

**3** University of Bahrain has issued an appreciation certificate & letter for company's commitment and participation in their internship programme



## EDITORIAL BOARD

S Paramasivan  
Sandeep Desai  
Bhakti Prasad  
Krishnakumari C  
Bivabasu Kumar



## SPECIAL STORY

# Now, Jammu to Udhampur in just 45 mins!

AFCONS PLAYS KEY ROLE IN WIDENING NH1-A TO 4 LANES; CREATES RECORD FOR FASTEST COMPLETION OF HILL-ROAD PROJECT, WRITES **BIVABASU KUMAR**

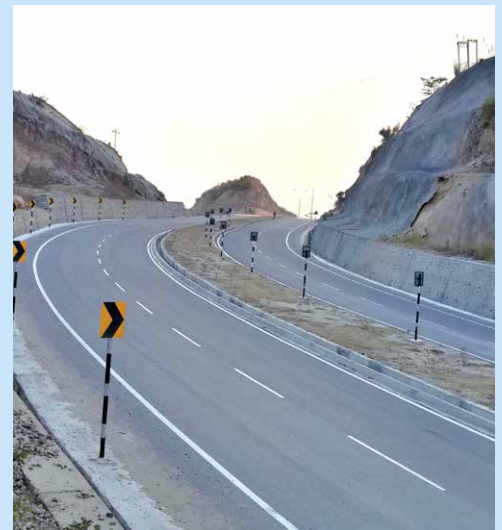
**G**one are the days when you would have to drive through the rolling terrains of Jammu to reach Udhampur after a two-and-a-half hour drive. The four-laning of the section between Jammu bypass and Udhampur has reduced the travelling time to just 45 minutes. AFCONS, working on the corridor, has completed the project in a record time. In the National Highway Authority of India's (NHAI) history, this is the fastest hill road project ever done by an infrastructure firm in India.

Complimenting AFCONS' efficiency in the project, NHAI Project Director, RP Singh, said, "The scheduled period to complete the project was 36 months. We were anticipating slight delay due to topography and other problems. But, fortunately, we have got a very good contractor (AFCONS)

and a good concessionaire (Shapoorji Pallonji). This will be the fastest project in the hilly area of the country where we are able to complete the project well ahead of schedule. In that way, it's a landmark project."

## THE NEED

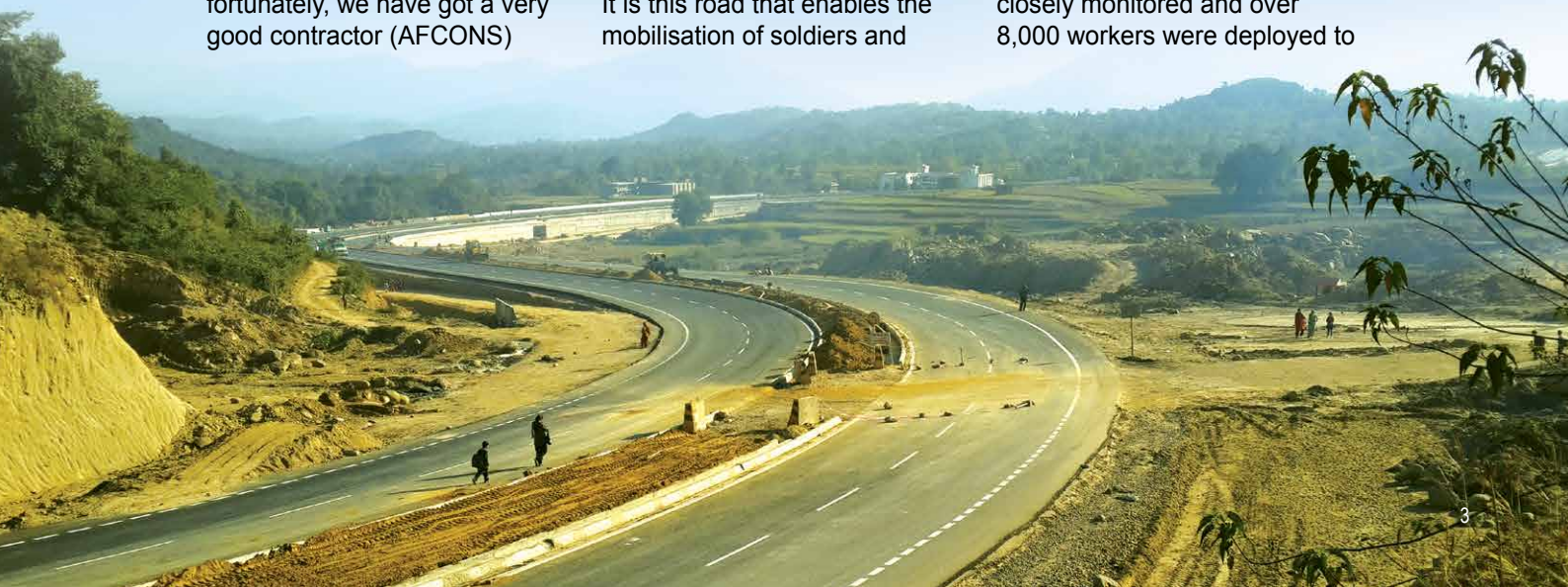
Expansion and development of efficient road network is one of the pre-requisites for a country's economic progress. Roads are a preferred mode of transport in India and statistics suggest that highways carry 60 per cent of freight and 80 percent of passenger traffic. The traffic on national highways is estimated to grow by eight to ten per cent per annum in the coming years. For several decades, NH1-A has served as the vital link between the nation's frontiers and its coasts. It is this road that enables the mobilisation of soldiers and



weaponry to forward positions during conflicts. Its renovation and re-alignment is part of the Phase –II National Highways Development Programme (NHDP), entrusted to the NHAI by the Government of India.

## THE BEGINNING

Interestingly, the project started in 2011 with just 35 per cent of land available. The 65-kilometer stretch had to be closely monitored and over 8,000 workers were deployed to





finish the job before time. Moreover, to ensure the project didn't get delayed, it was divided into two sections – Jammu and Udhampur. Separate crack teams were created under Arun Kumar Mishra, who led the Jammu section and Ananta Kumar, who headed Udhampur. Special incentives were given to workers for completing certain jobs on time. Together, the teams worked round the clock to pull off a national record.

## PROJECT IMPORTANCE

The NH1-A has an economic, cultural and strategic importance. Every year, it carries thousands of devotees and tourists to the shrines of Amarnath and Vaishno Devi, as well as to Srinagar and Leh. The military movement is also high due to Jammu and Udhampur being the army's nodal points.

"This route is very important due to the movement of the armed forces to the national border. The valley is cut off during winters, so the movement of daily commodities through this corridor is of significant importance," Singh said.

"At present, around 15,000 vehicles ply daily on this route. Out of that 3,000 vehicles are of the defence alone. There's to-and-fro military movement throughout the year," he added.

Any road-development activity on this corridor demands a smooth traffic diversion plan. AFCONS made sure the existing traffic was not disturbed at any stage of the

project. "AFCONS has managed the traffic beautifully. During the entire duration of the contract, there was no disturbance to the traffic. We were able to make available, at least, two lanes for vehicles during construction work," he said.

## DIFFICULT TERRAIN

The existing road is strewn with blind curves making driving extremely dangerous. Any minor to fatal accident, at present, stalls traffic for hours. The new alignment has less curves and wider bends that allow an average speed limit of 60kph (earlier the average speed was 25-30 kph). Passenger safety is taken care of at all points and a smoother navigation significantly cuts down chances of accidents.

The existing highway is along a hilly terrain winding through wildlife areas. Also, Jammu & Kashmir being a sensitive state, blasting is not allowed during construction. Excavation had to be done by rock breakers and environmental safety norms were strictly followed. The construction of innumerable bridges, viaducts and underpasses posed a major challenge to meet the deadline for the project.

"Though we call it a road project it's actually a project of structures. Rarely do we see a highway with 76 bridges/viaducts and underpasses, 223 culverts, 10 km of retaining wall, 27 km of breast wall, four twin-tube tunnels etc. It is not a conventional road project," said Ananta Kumar.

## FIGURE THIS



**3,84,300 CUM**

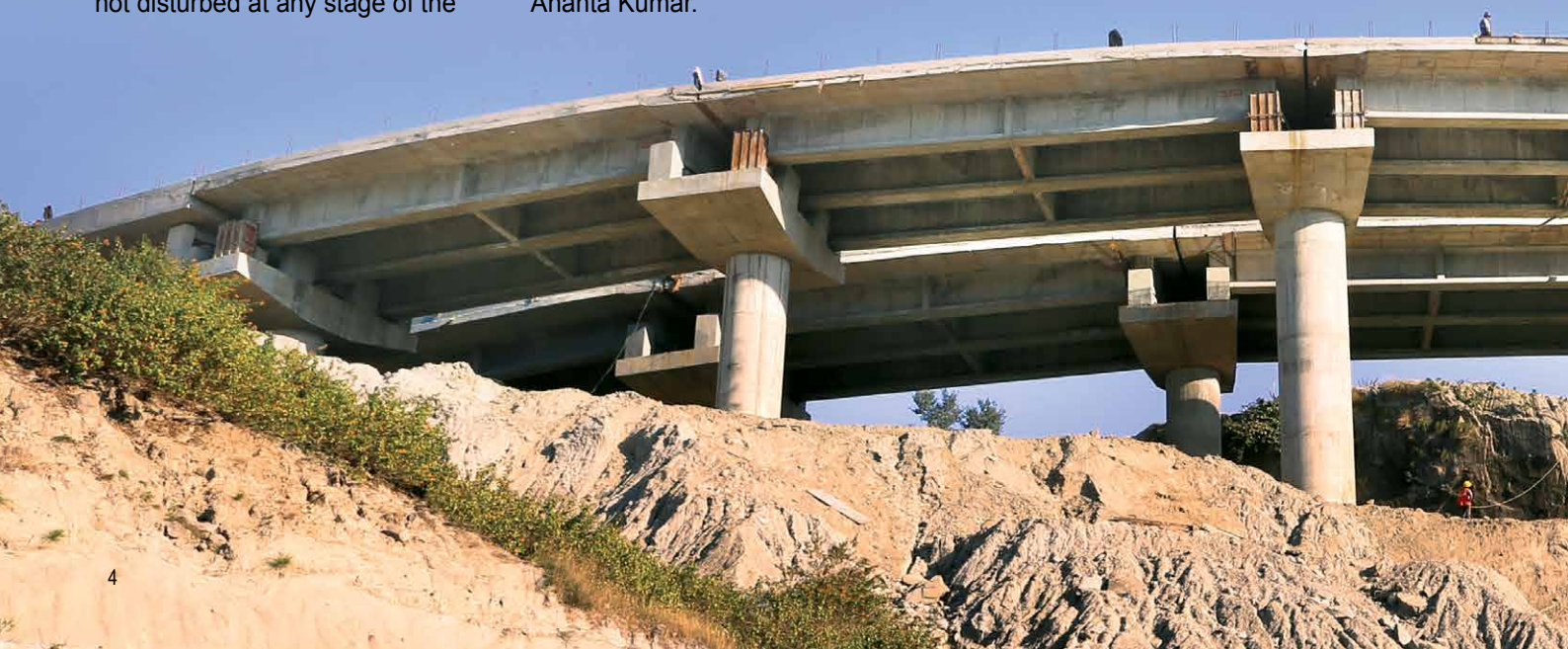
Excavation, including hard rock, completed in a month

**53,300 CUM**

Bituminous works executed in a single month

**67,300 CUM**

WMM produced and paved in a single month





Shapoorji Pallonji, the concessionaire for the project, has shown tremendous support for AFCONS. Col Sanjiv Puri, who was team leader for SP JUHI, explained how flexibility and resource mobilisation became a recipe for success. "The logistics of this project has been managed very well. Every facet of road-building has been dealt with in the project. So, this gives us the confidence and an edge over our competitors. We can perceive much better and execute much better," he said.

Better road connectivity will boost the economy of Jammu & Kashmir and bring the people of the valley closer to mainland. AFCONS takes pride in bridging the gap and fostering a socio-economic boom in the northernmost state of India.



**PROJECT OF STRUCTURES:** There are 76 bridges/viaducts/underpasses in all

## VALUE ENGINEERING

- ➔ Tender proposal of cast in-situ box girder bridges with various spans has been re-engineered to evolve bridges with standard 20m spans with precast I girders. This has reduced the time of construction and reduced manpower requirement
- ➔ Gabion walls were constructed where the retaining wall is designed upto 6m in height
- ➔ Whenever retaining wall heights was more than 14m, combination of RE wall and retaining wall was adopted
- ➔ Tender proposal of slab culvert was converted to box culvert



**This will be the fastest project in the hilly area of the country where we are able to complete the project well ahead of schedule."**

RP Singh,  
Project Director, NHA



**BIG HURDLE:** The loop at the Bann area is the most challenging part in the project







## THE SPECIALIST

### PROFILE

**ANANTA  
KUMAR**

### PERSONAL AGENDA

**Birthday**  
09/05/1965

**Place of Birth**  
Berhampur, Orissa

**Favourite Music**  
Old Hindi songs

**Favourite colour**  
Green

**Favourite food**  
Any veg food

**Favourite Movie**  
Chak De India

**Favourite actor/  
actress**  
Amitabh Bacchan,  
Kareena Kapoor

**T**hey say records are made to be broken. It has become somewhat habitual for AFCONS to set higher standards for itself and create new benchmarks. One man who has espoused this culture for over two decades now and has almost become a specialist is Ananta Kumar.

He was at the centre of managing the construction of India's longest rail bridge at Kochi. He has yet again been special in heading a treacherous stretch in the Jammu-Udhampur highway which has gone into history books as the fastest hill road project to be completed in India. For both projects, speed and efficiency were major highlights. Ananta Kumar seems to have mastered both factors.

"The four-laning of the Jammu-Udhampur highway has been one of the most

challenging jobs. The wide spectrum of exposure that this gigantic and complex project offers to a construction engineer is a rare opportunity. Successful completion of this project proves that AFCONS is well capable of getting in the league of mega EPC contractors," Ananta Kumar says.

Ananta Kumar has done BE Civil from NIT Suratkal and has been a rank holder in high school and college days. His analytic nature has often been the source of important value engineering ideas that have solved complex and time-consuming jobs. He likes to innovate and feels it drives him to think out of the box.

"In simple terms, innovation makes any process easier, better, cost and time effective than conventional methods," he says.

Some of the projects that he has worked at in AFCONS are the Thane Creek railway bridge, the Mulund-Airoli road bridge, marine berth projects in Chennai Port Trust, Goa cable stayed bridge, the Chenab steel arch bridge, the Vallarpadam Rail bridge at Kochi etc.

Ananta Kumar has worked with organisations like Reliance Industries in the past, but it's the freedom at work in AFCONS that inspires him the most.

Talking about Ananta Kumar, AFCONS VC&MD K Subrahmanian said, "Ananta Kumar has consistently demonstrated that he can rise to the occasion and pull off extremely demanding targets. In the process, his projects have earned considerable customer goodwill for the company."

## SP PRACTICE SHARING FORUM

## Cross-pollination of ideas

**T**he Shapoorji Pallonji Practice Sharing Forum is a platform created for formal sharing and cross-pollination of ideas around four themes spread over four quarters -- Customer Focus, Operational Excellence: Functional expertise & Technology, Finance & IT & HR, Organizational processes.

2013's third Practice Sharing forum was held on November 15 at the SRCC Centre for Child Development, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai. The theme was Human Resources & Organisational

Effectiveness.

AFCONS seized this opportunity to showcase its Knowledge Management (KM) initiative – AFCONS GNOSIS. Sandeep Desai &

Deepak Gaikwad explained the KM concept in detail. **Sandeep Desai** took the audience through inception of KM in

AFCONS while **Deepak Gaikwad** explained the working of AFCONS GNOSIS. The team also gave a glimpse of the upcoming new AFCONS GNOSIS portal.



## ERP TO E<sup>2</sup>RP A CASE STUDY APPROACH

The book, co-authored by **Sandeep**



**Desai**, highlights the details of operational and supporting processes related to industry verticals, namely, manufacturing, healthcare and construction. Part I of the book focuses on

ERP, including the concepts, evolution, various business processes in different verticals, general implementation methodologies and specific implementation methodologies as prescribed by Oracle and SAP. The book contains few sample business processes that are mapped with the help of ERP product screens. Part II explicates the concept of E<sup>2</sup>RP. Topics related to new emerging technologies (i.e. open source ERP and cloud ERP) and Knowledge Management are also covered here.

## LIFE AT AFCONS



**FESTIVE SEASON:**  
AFCONS VC&MD K Subrahmanian, DMD S Paramasivan along with PK Johri and AN Jangle kickstart the Dussehra celebrations at HO; Guru Nanak Jayanti being celebrated at CMRL site; K Subrahmanian starts Dussehra festivities at HO

## HR CORNER



Training on contract management & dispute resolution at Delhi site

### STRESS MANAGEMENT

A one-day workshop on stress management was conducted at the head office on December 4. It was aimed at helping the participants understand key triggers of stress and how to manage anxiety. Valuable tips were shared on healthy diet, anger-management techniques, understanding food habits & stress relation etc. The training was conducted by Ms Kavita Alva.

### EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATION SKILLS

A training programme on effective negotiation skills was organised at the head office from November 28-29. Mr Vincent D'silva, who conducted the training, shared concepts of skilful negotiation, the challenges involved

& the ways to solve tricky situations. Topics like negotiation strategies and effective communication skills for negotiation were also covered in the programme.

### CONTRACT MANAGEMENT & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A one-day training programme on contract management & dispute resolution was conducted at Delhi site on October 28. The training covered aspects like basics of contract formulation and management, examining practices and issues relating to execution of contract and alternate means of dispute resolution. It also provided knowledge on tackling legal issues in contracts. The training was conducted by Mr T Nandi.

### BUSINESS WRITING SKILLS

A training programme on business writing skills was organised at head office from November 25-26. It helped participants in sharpening their writing skills, understand how to make written communication more persuasive. The training was conducted by Mr Vincent D'silva.

## SNAPSHOTS

**OCT 04, 2013** Works Minister Essam Khalaf inaugurated the Mina Salman Interchange underpass. Ms Huda Fakhroo, AUS, Roads, Mr Raed Al Saleh, Director RPMD & other Ministry & PARSONS representatives were also present for the occasion.

**OCT 20, 2013** An AIDS Awareness Programme for migrant workers of Pkg I & Pkg V was arranged by Transtunnelstroy Afcons-JV and CMRL with the help of Chennai AIDS Prevention and Control Society (CAPACS) at Afcons Labour Camp, Tirvedakadu, Chennai.

**OCT 25, 2013** Asim Kumar Das (Manager Systems), Guranna Revappa (Sr Operator) and Gopal Moti Yadav (Jr Operator) were presented with mementos and certificates, at Kolkata, on completing 15 years at AFCONS.

**NOV 16, 2013** SG Paretkar, EVP (Hydro) received the "Engineer of the Year" award in a seminar held at Navi Mumbai at CBR Construction Award 2013.

**NOV 29, 2013** A training on fire-fighting was conducted. Various issues relating to prevention of fire disaster at DMRC CC15 site (Job No-3561) were discussed with workers.

## CSR ACTIVITIES



**DEC 19, 2013** A market developed by AFCONS was inaugurated in Buchanan City, Liberia. The Tarr Bar Market, situated in the Grand Bassa county, was inaugurated and handed over to locals by Mr Ezhilarasan, who is the project manager at Buchanan.

**DEC 29, 2013** On the occasion of Christmas, AFCONS distributed rice, clothes, shoes, etc to children at various orphanages in Buchanan, Liberia.

## KEY NEW INDUCTION



**Nandakumar Kakade** has joined us as General Manager - Engineering w.e.f. October 28, 2013 at our Head Office, Dept. (Oil & Gas) - 9964.





**CONSTRUCTION WORLD GLOBAL AWARDS 2013:** Mr S Paramasivan (DMD) receiving the award for being the Third Fastest Growing Construction Company (Large Category) from Shri Dharmendra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development as Pratap Padode, Editor-in-Chief & Managing Director, ASAPP Media Information Group (Left) looks on



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