

INSIGHT

AFCONS

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Shapoorji Pallonji

ZAMBIA'S CAPITAL LUSAKA DAZZLES WITH AN INFRASTRUCTURE MAKEOVER **CITYLIGHTS**

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from **EVC'Sdesk**

A positive vibe before festive season

Dear Afconians,

Industries and governments, globally, are evolving since the Covid-19 outbreak. Likewise, in India, we are still in the process of assessing what needs to change, what will stay, and what will be left behind in the post pandemic economy. The implications are huge and sometimes complicated. But, in all this, one thing is constant: how we respond to these evolving scenarios.

As starters, I am glad that, at Afcons, we have achieved almost hundred per cent double vaccination of our staff, their family, and workforce at all our work locations. That's a positive. We have been able to expand ourselves into newer geographies — in Africa and in the Indian Ocean region — with projects in Rwanda and Maldives. The latter, of course, is a project of international significance. So, that's another positive. We have completed daylighting of the state's longest and India's widest road tunnels in a swift timeframe of two years. Talking of speed, we are also the first to successfully complete PQC of an entire 58.41 km expressway stretch in the state. That's yet another positive. We have also completed and handed over a unique city decongestion project in Zambia six months ahead of schedule. That's a big positive as well.

So, you can see, there's a positive trend within the organisation which is defining our ability to bag new jobs, enter new countries, execute complex projects with speed and precision, and complete international projects before time with total client satisfaction. Nothing is more encouraging than to see the entire organisation regaining its momentum and performing with razor-like sharpness.

We are happy to start this festive season early by celebrating with our colleagues. I thank and congratulate each of our long-serving employees who have been loyal, supportive, and have withstood the vicissitudes of time as a true family member would. I hope this passion and dedication percolates into every Afconian so that we can have such celebrations more frequently and grow as one happy Afcons family.



K SUBRAMANIAN

Finally, I would like to congratulate our employees and project teams who have brought distinction and honour to the organisation. I am proud of these achievers and look forward to seeing more Afconians shining in future.

Enjoy the festive season with your families.

Take care and stay safe.

making **HEADLINES**

Afcons bags Maldives' largest-ever infra job

Afcons signed a contract for the largest-ever infrastructure initiative, in Maldives, on August 26, 2021, as a symbol of the country's robust relationship with India.



The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) involves construction of a 6.7km bridge and causeway network connecting Male with Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi islands in the Indian Ocean. The contract was signed between the Maldives government and Afcons in the presence of ministers from Maldives government and the Indian High Commissioner, Sunjay Sudhir.

Afcons made its entry into the island nation in the Indian Ocean with a design and build project for the construction of Roads and Drainage system in Addu City. The project was awarded by the Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Towards Samruddhi

Afcons completes daylighting of India's longest and widest road tunnels of Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg Package-14, on September 14, 2021, at Igatpuri. Seamless connectivity achieved in both tunnels. Tunnelling activities had begun in September 2019.



Meanwhile, at Package-2 of the same project, Pavement Quality Concrete work (PQC) of 58.41 kms of the main carriageway was achieved in just 18 months. Afcons became the first out of 16 packages to achieve this milestone.

EDITORIAL

**Bhakti Prasad, C Krishnakumari,
Bivabasu Kumar, Chandrika Sen**

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Afcons completes Zambia's first city decongestion project six months ahead of schedule; Makes daily commute safer and easy, writes Bivabasu Kumar

LUSAKA ROADS GET A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Executing an infrastructure project overseas takes more than just a Herculean effort; It is also about adapting to new work culture, understanding local as well as foreign markets and opportunities, managing manpower, aligning with client's expectations, learning to live in harmony, engaging with local communities, giving back to the society, and winning mind games.

And, on that front, Afcons has performed well in Zambia under some of the most challenging and extraordinary circumstances. It is the only conclusion one can draw from the admiration and praise expressed by the country's former president Honourable Edgar Chagwa Lungu, ministers, local sub-contractors, the media, and Zambians after an early delivery of the Lusaka City Decongestion Project.

It is remarkable for an Indian organisation, which prides itself on engineering excellence, to enter a new African country with no previous affiliations and deliver a unique infrastructure project so emphatically that it becomes a new benchmark in the country.

"A lot of us didn't think that the Lusaka City Decongestion Project could be done within a period of three years. But to our happiness, the project was done remarkably within time. What has happened now is that roads in Lusaka have been widened. Instead of one, we now have three lanes going to the east and in the opposite direction. We have four beautiful flyovers which are helping us to ensure that the traffic is not interrupted at any point and allowing other road users easy access out of the main way wherever they're going. I think, as far as decongesting

Lusaka is concerned, a beautiful job has been done,” says Minister of Local Government, Charles Banda.

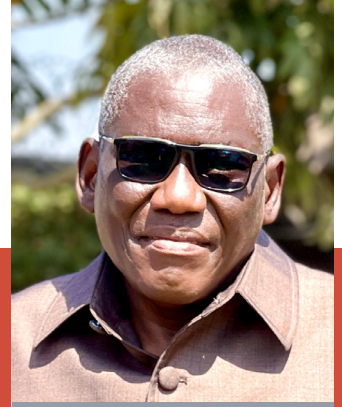
The Lusaka City Decongestion Project was equally necessary and critical because the Zambian capital city had transformed into one of Southern Africa's busiest economic hubs. Being a land-locked country, it played a vital role in connecting and enhancing business across borders. The project involved construction of outer ring roads, flyovers, signalised junctions, widening of existing roads, and bi-directional dedicated bus lanes to enable faster commute within the city and ensuring lesser traffic inside city limits. The construction activities were carried out without hampering traffic movement, with minimal land acquisition, and with least construction-related disturbance to localities.

Today, the project has transformed daily commute and the concept of flyovers, which is new in Zambia, has captured the country's imagination. “Afcons introduced a completely new infrastructure in the form of flyovers which had never been attempted before in Zambia. Since there was no previous knowledge, capacity building and empowering of local sub-contractors and workforce was crucial. We honoured a policy of subcontracting 20% of contract value through local sub-contractors and had engaged over 60 sub-contractors and employed over 2,000 locals,” says Afcons' project manager Subrata Bandopadhyay.

Being the first road project in Zambia of such scale and special technical requirements, it was important to impart technical knowledge to the locals. “At the initial phase of the project, management



One thing that I discovered about Afcons which I appreciate and thank them for is their willingness to impart knowledge to the locals. The gesture is different from some contractors that have come from some other countries who only want to work on their own and with the people from their own countries. With Afcons we never had such a problem. They were willing all the time, and they practically did it.



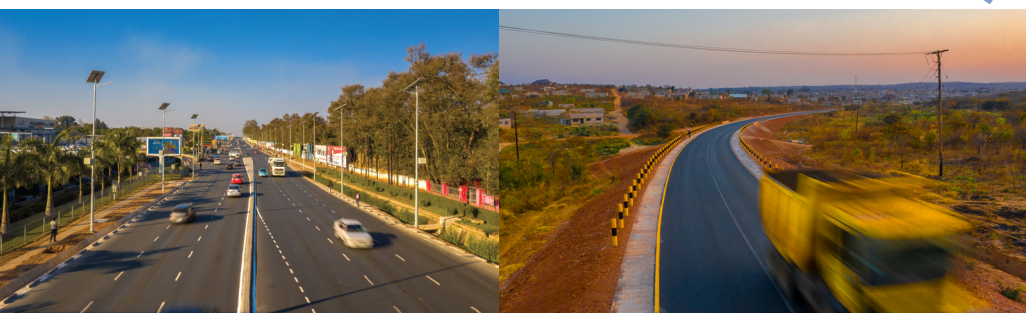
CHARLES BANDA
Minister of Local Government

of local sub-contractors and manpower was an issue. But we were able to train them so well that they quickly transformed into skilled workers and now have the skill and knowledge of all activities related to flyover construction like construction of RE walls, friction slabs, deck slabs, piers etc,” recalls Bandopadhyay.

“They have also gained significant knowledge about road activities like laying of DBM and WBM. Afcons has shared this knowledge with Zambians so that they can sustain themselves and the country can benefit through them in future,” he adds.

Applauding Afcons for its desire to educate the local workforce, Banda said, “One thing that I discovered about Afcons which I appreciate and thank them for is their willingness to impart knowledge to the locals. The gesture is different from some contractors that have come from some other countries who only want to work on their own and with the people from their own countries. With Afcons we never had such a problem. They were willing all the time, and they practically did it. It was them and our people working together. Afcons showed that they had the humility to leave something behind whereby Zambians would be able to remember who you were, what you did, and what they got from you. That is the difference I have seen between Afcons and some other contractors that we have worked with.”

The Lusaka City Decongestion Project is a blueprint for other land-locked countries in Africa. It has not only saved substantial travel time on roads but also made commuting safer, economical and environment friendly. Lot of industries and real estate have already started sprouting around the new road networks and that is an indication of a developing nation that puts infrastructure development at its forefront. Afcons is proud and privileged to be a part of Zambia's growth story.



Tunnelling into record books

Igatpuri's mega tunnels, which are also Maharashtra's longest and India's widest road tunnels (8-km-long and 17.6m wide) at the Mumbai-Nagpur Super Communication Expressway project, have become a source of fascination. Built to negotiate the altitude difference of the Kasara Ghats, these tunnels will enthrall motorists with a drive through hills, and on a viaduct that is hoisted 60m above ground level. The daylighting of the 8-km-long twin tunnels, in September, was a landmark moment in this mega expressway project.

"The breakthroughs are a major step in speedy completion of the entire project. Our package is ahead of schedule and we hope to continue with the same tenacity and speed. We started tunnelling activities in September 2019 and completed both tunnels in September 2021. The balance work inside tunnels include final lining, road pavement works, and tunnel mechanical, electrical and plumbing works. The tunnels will be in final shape of handover by June 2021," says Package-14 Project Manager, Sekhar Das.

"Breakthroughs are special in any tunnelling project, globally. But achieving four of them ahead of schedule under Covid environment makes it extra special," says Das. The way Das and his team navigated through the pandemic with courage, stamina, and caution is commendable.

"Most of the tunnelling works were executed between March 2020 and May 2021. We strictly followed all Covid prevention and safety protocols. Awareness programmes, and motivational talks promoting personal hygiene were religiously held. Some workers still fell ill. We helped them recover at the health centre established at site. We also tied up with multiple hospitals to vaccinate all our staff, engineers,

their families, and the workers to ensure well-being of everyone. The celebrations now are an



SAMRUDDHI MAHAMARG PKG - 14

amalgamation of all these efforts," he adds.

MSRDC Joint MD and PWD Secretary Shri Anil Kumar Gaikwad praised Das and his team for their efforts, saying, "Never in history such a wide tunnel with 8-km length has been completed in two years. Most importantly, the team has achieved this milestone without any loss time incident."

Sekhar Das is the project manager of Samruddhi Mahamarg PKG 14

TECHknow Inclined to win

An epic struggle to excavate India's widest and Maharashtra's longest road tunnels, at Igatpuri, could be averted with a masterstroke idea. Having executed multiple tunnels across India experienced Afcons' engineers were wary of the challenges of excavating 8-km-long and 17.6m wide twin tunnels through a vertical shaft.

The original scope of the vertical shaft was 160m deep and situated on the top of a hill. Tunnelling from a vertical shaft would have impeded gantry crane hoisting operations. Moreover, it would have terribly slowed down tunnelling speed. "We could have only opened two faces from vertical shaft and may have achieved a maximum of 100m of tunnelling per face at max," explained Director and BU Head, Hydro & Underground Works, Satish Paretkar.



To overcome the challenge, the team rooted for an inclined shaft for ease of excavation. "It would have been impossible to manage the muck coming from four tunnel faces from a single shaft. Considering the complexities, and keeping in mind the project timeline, we went ahead with an inclined shaft (adit tunnel) that eventually helped us in completing two widest tunnels of Maharashtra in two years," recalls Paretkar.

ENGINEER'S Day 2021 Celebrations with a twist



For every engineer at Afcons, commemorating Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya on his birthday on September 15 is a matter of pride. After a muted celebration last year, Engineer's Day was marked across Afcons sites and the Head Office, albeit cautiously. The sites celebrated the day by organising lectures on best engineering practices as well as events such as quiz contests.

Several events, including caricature contest, tagline contest and model making were held virtually in the run-up to Engineer's Day at Afcons House. The much-anticipated quiz contest was held on the day of the event at Afcons House. The event was viewed by Afconians across sites, while the live audience took part in a spot quiz held as part of the competition.

longSERVICEawards



L to R Front Row:
Sachin Shinde,
Ramakrishna
Pulavarthy,
Krishnakumari, Rama
Shetty, Lyvonne
Anthony, Malathi
Bangera, Bhaskara Rao
Mamidi, Sameer Joshi

Back Row:
SL Sawant,
Vinod Bagayatkar,
Mathisekaran,
Ramamurthy V



L to R:
Vikas Paradkar,
Amol Kulkarni, Ravi
Bisht, Tarun Rekhraj,
VJ Pai, Anantakumar
Rayaprolu



L to R:
Parvez Sheikh,
Vikram Nalawade,
Sandeep Mulay,
Minoo Lalvani,
Falguni Dsouza,
Ramesh Jha,
Prasanth Sre
nivasa, Chandan
Dalvi, Jagdish Patil

NEWS

'Excellent work!'

The Kanpur Metro team has completed the 9-km viaduct of the Priority Corridor between IIT and Moti Jheel on October 3, 2021. The team has received high praises from the client for their commitment and efficiency. "Last twin-U girder on the Priority Corridor of Kanpur Metro project has been erected. Excellent work by UPMRC, GC and contractor Afcons. When we look back, this has been a herculean task, which has been completed in just 22-and-a-half months since commencement," said Kumar Keshav, MD, UPMRC.

Bend it like Afcons

Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited has lauded Afcons team for efficiently erecting the second and third steel box girders at Leela Mahal Junction. This critical activity was part of the second-level flyover at a height of 71.5m from ground level for Garuda Varadhi Project. Each box girder, with radius curvature of 50m, weighs 85MT.

photoCONTEST | HandPiCed!

Congratulations to all photographers for participating and making HandPiCed hugely successful in its second year. The competition was tough. Below are our winners for the 2nd edition.



1. PRITAM BISWAS
Samruddhi Mahamarg Pkg14



2. ANKIT AGGARWAL
Pandoh Takoli Bypass



3. AMITEJ SINGH
Lusaka City Decongestion Project, Zambia



3. VINEETH KUMAR S B
Samruddhi Mahamarg Pkg14



3. VIRENDER SINGH JARYAL
Lusaka City Decongestion Project, Zambia



Kanpur Metro



Zanzibar site



T-49B site

Colours of Freedom

Afconians marked India's 75th Independence Day with colourful celebrations across sites. At Kanpur, the Metro project team bathed the site in tricolour to celebrate the day. Motivating speeches on nation building, followed by a day spent with local children, made I-Day memorable for the T-49B tunnel project team. In Zanzibar, the water project team visited the Consulate General's office to celebrate the spirit of freedom in their home away from home.

A Poetic Tribute



Afcons' Board of Director Mr ND Khurody, dedicates a poem to Afconians. The poem celebrates the legacy that has been set over the years with remarkable engineering achievements, one among them being the 'Entrances to the Jewel of the Creek' project in Dubai. The poem - Ground/Underground - emanates from the theme and title of a Coffee Table Book created on the JOC project.

Ground/Underground

I hear the sound
That make you
What you are today
These sounds
Pound
The ears of
Those who
Chose To Be
Part of you.

Over and under
With that
Special Thunder
That reverberates
Forever and Forever

Prayers for the Divine Architect



Vishwakarma Puja being held at Gabon Road Project site

Like every year, Afconians celebrated Vishwakarma Puja at Afcons House and sites on September 17. The day was marked with prayers to seek blessings from the Divine Architect on his birthday.

HRcorner

General Management Trainings

Behaviour Based Safety Training

was conducted for Zanzibar, Bangladesh Rail, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Zambia, Nagpur Metro Reach-2, Samruddhi Mahamarg Pkg 2, Malana Sagar, Chenab, Pandoh, KRCL, Bangladesh Road projects virtually.

Soft Skills Training Programmes

Personal Effectiveness Training

was held at Ivory Coast site in September with the aim to enhance the participants' interpersonal competence.

new JOINEES

Manoj Kumar Gupta, Joint General Manager (Design), has joined the Afcons family from September 7, 2021, for Underground & Hydro Projects.

Anil Kumar Patel, General Manager (Projects), became part of the railway project in Ghana on September 7, 2021.

Ganesan Kaliappan, Joint General Manager (Projects), joined the Liberia Project under Marine & Industrial BU on August 9, 2021.

Alok Chandra Tiwari, General Manager (Projects), joined the Meerut NCRTC Underground Pkg 8 project on August 5, 2021

Hirendra Nath, Joint General Manager, (Projects), has joined the Rail Bridge Over Ganga-Mokama project from August 3, 2021

Tarun Kumar Singha Roy, Vice President (Projects), became part of Ahmedabad Metro elevated project on July 15, 2021.

Awards WINNER ALL THE WAY

Maharashtra State Best Employer Brand Award

Afcons bagged Maharashtra State Best Employer Brand Award for managing health at work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The award was presented by World HRD Congress.



PMA Award for Atal Tunnel

Atal Tunnel won the National Project Excellence Award at Project Management Associates (PMA) Awards 2021



Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) Awards 2021



Chanakya Award for national and international achievers

Bivabasu Kumar receives a Jury special award for most promising personalities in PR excellence.



1. Platinum Award in Corporate Film category
2. Diamond Award in Digital Newsletter category
3. Gold Award in House Journal/ Newsletter (English) category
4. Silver Award in Communication in Covid-19 category



ALERTS

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