



Volume 6, Book 2, April 2020



DFI of INDIA *News*

- 2 DFI of India Executive Committee 2020-21
- 3 My Journey with DFI Family - Mr. Mohan Ramanathan
- 6 Expanding DFI of India Community - DFII Director of Operations Message
- 8 How Foundation Exploration effects Project Planning, Construction, and Life of Super Structure - Mr. Vivek P. Kapadia
- 13 DFI of India News
- 14 Upcoming DFI Events
- 16 DFI India members - 2020
- 18 What can DFI do for you?

Quarterly e-Newsletter from
Deep Foundations Institute of India
www.dfi-india.org

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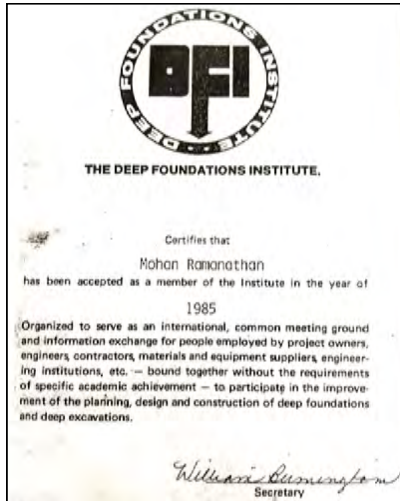
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My journey with DFI Family

-Mr. Mohan Ramanathan

Based on my experience of over 45 years as a foundation consultant (in addition to my academic responsibilities at IIT Madras and IIT Delhi), I would like to share my views about improvements needed in most of the current practices in the area of Geotechnical and Foundation Engineering in India. There is much scope for improvement with regard to Geotechnical Investigations which forms the basis for the design of foundations, earth retaining structures, underground metro stations, etc.



Mr. Mohan Ramanathan's DFI membership certificate from 1985

It is nice to recall my innings with DFI family and share this with DFI of India fraternity. I first became a member in the 80s when I returned to India and started a Driven Piling Business in my father's construction business. I had just graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, and returned to India to join the family business. When I started a business in Piling, I found that DFI was a good platform to learn many things connected with geotechnical engineering and construction. I became an Individual member in 1985 and been a member since then until now. I soon realised that this is the only platform in the world that brings all the stakeholders under one roof, i.e. the Owners, Contractors, Consultants, Manufacturers of equipment, Materials suppliers and Academia.

DFI conferences are very educative and it's like continuing education for practicing engineers. I have attended several of these annual conferences in the US and India and many of the smaller workshops in specified fields. DFI has almost 20 subcommittees with each one of them working for advancements in different specialized areas of geo foundation industry. It's like having individual classes if you attend any of these workshops by the subcommittees. I had the opportunity to sit in some of these Sub Committee meetings and found the deliberations to be world-class and educative. I also attend a recent 2 day DFI event in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA on Helical Screw Piles, just to learn more about



Mr. Mohan Ramanathan
-Managing Director,
Advanced Construction
Technologies (P) Ltd,
Chennai

Contd.

As engineers, we are going to be in a position to change the world - not just study it - Henry Petroski

this new piling technology. By attending this event, I have gained enormous knowledge and networked with giants in the business. I also met Dr. Howard Perko, the Father of Helical Piles who even gifted a copy of his book, autographed. Such contacts can happen only in DFI conferences.

I also have a secret passion for personally meeting stalwarts in the Geotechnical field, just to shake hands and photographed with them. DFI conferences are a great platform for fulfilling this passion. I have met several greats like Prof. Bengt Fellenius, Dr. Bengt Broms to name a few.

When the idea of starting DFI India chapter under the leadership of Dr. K. S. Ramakrishnan and other veterans of the Indian deep foundation industry came up, I felt elated to get associated with this team by remaining part of its Executive Committee. I have a big hope that DFII can replicate the success of the US body in advancing Indian deep foundation industry with good work practices, new technologies, skill programs. After close to 10 years stint, I am happy to see the steady progress of DFI India chapter by taking up multiple activities. Its conference/workshop/seminar programs earned a name for their rich content, deliverables by global experts on technology strides and case studies at the international level that provide food for thought for Indian professionals. Therefore, DFII is able to garner support and a good response from all stakeholders in India.

DFII took a bold step to set up a full-time office commencing from 2018 for driving implementation of new technologies, skill programs and it is laudable that DFI leadership approved this proposal at first instance, when it was forwarded to them. DFII 4-member team has done a commendable job during the last two-year period by achieving significant progress on DFII's first

technology initiative in India, i.e. CFA trail pile project and in developing first skill program, i.e. 3-month lab technician program. It is heartening to note that we have four committees in place comprising of Indian and global experts as members, and they are offering yeoman services in advancing geo foundation industry practices in India. I feel pride in chairing one committee for the development of hydraulic piling rig operator training program.

I foresee the scope for more committees working on many other new technologies, skills programs in the years ahead for achieving the DFII mission of elevating the Indian geo foundation industry comparable to global best.

I personally have been trying to learn about the Helical Screw Piles and wondered why it never reached India. There are only three countries in the world namely the United States of America, Canada, and Australia, where the helical screw piles are very popular, and they have their practicing codes. There are other countries also who are using helical screw piles occasionally, but in India, there is no code and there is no practice of helical piles. It will be surprising to know that there are helical pile manufacturers in India who fabricate them to designs and quality standards of the USA or Australia and export them 100%.



Mr. Mohan Ramanathan with Dr. Howard Perko in Cincinnati, USA in 2019

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These manufacturers are readily available for us if we are to bring helical screw piles in India. I volunteer my services to set up another committee driving implementation of this technology in India and well-wishers and Indian geo foundation industry professionals will soon hear good news in this direction.

Another important point worth mentioning here is DFI's archives for technical papers can be tapped for learning and there is an online library 'onemine.com' which can be very useful for academia and practicing engineers. I strongly recommend that you all go through this host of collected papers and it's available for free for DFI members. I personally tap this library, whenever the need arises.

I welcome more Indian Geo foundation industry professionals to join the DFI India family, take active part of all its initiatives to grow professionally and in tapping business prospects through networking.



**Unearth More Than 130,000
Technical Papers – for FREE**

*Are you taking advantage of one of
DFI's best membership resources?*



ITS Money Webinar

June 3, 2020

Online

This series of three webinars, brought to you by DFI's Testing & Evaluation Committee, demonstrate how foundation testing conducted during the design phase can provide data that optimizes foundation designs and construction procedures, thereby SAVING MONEY while increasing the quality of the constructed foundation.

The webinars are taking place on the following dates from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST:

June 3

August 5

DFI Members can **attend the webinars for FREE**. Non-Members pay a nominal fee which includes DFI Individual Membership through December 31, 2021. All must register to attend. To receive a PDH certificate, attendees must register independently and login and view the webinar for the duration of the event. Partial hours will be provided dependent on your participation.

For more details visit <http://www.dfi.org/dfieventlp.asp?13413>

DFII Director of Operations - Message

-Mr. G. Venkata Prasad



Mr. G Venkata Prasad

At the onset, I sincerely wish that the world at large come out of coronavirus pandemic issue which has drawn much of global attention over the last three-month time. We know that different businesses will face the brunt in a very serious manner in days to come, however, we have to be optimistic that this pausing moment enables us to have a paradigm shift in our actions in handling climate change and other burning issues.

While coronavirus will impact construction industry in India too in the future ahead, it is also besieged with one problem or another for many years affecting its productivity. We all need to act united in addressing these issues by adopting global best practices.

I had an opportunity to attend DFI winter planning meet (WPM) held at San Diego between 19th to 21st Feb'20.

It is a practice for DFI leadership (Trustees, Committee Chairs, DFI staff, regional chapters representatives) to meet annually once over 3 days period to discuss the current status of DFI affairs and way forward. This is to achieve continuous improvement of their existing systems and offerings.

WPM Feb'20 strategic planning sessions

It was aimed at identifying 2020-2024 strategic plan initiatives that would strengthen and Improve the **DFI Community**. Five target areas have been identified for exploration of means and methods to support the strategic plan. The areas include:

- Technical Committees
- Media
- Events
- Outreach
- Membership

At the Winter Planning meeting, a series of alternating breakout and group summary sessions were organized to:

1. **Define the current situation in detail** – what's going on?
2. **Identify how the current situation will change by 2024** – what should we be doing?
3. **Develop an execution plan** – how are we going to Strengthen and Improve the DFI Community in each of these targeted areas?

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DFI Leadership - WPM 2020

A dedicated page is allotted for a nominal fee of Rs10,000/-per issue for the profile of a reputed company involved in the deep foundation Industry to showcase its capability in the field. Please contact DFI of India at dfiindiaoffice@gmail.com.

This is more than an advertisement since it carries your mission statement.

Modus Operandi

The **DFI trustees and Chairs of various committees** totalling to **around 40** were divided into break out groups (8-member team) and each of them was assigned one of the 5 target areas for exploration and discussions. Each of the breakout events is designed to identify ideas, opportunities, and actions concerning each of the phases identified above:

- What is the current situation or status?
- How would things likely change in the next 5 years?
- What can the DFI do to prepare or lead such change?

There is a separate 10-member team comprising of DFI staff/others who go around the respective teams with the objective of moderating the discussions. I was one among this 10-member team. The final objective for the breakout sessions was to identify the 2 or 3 best ideas (relevant, executable, beneficial) within each target area for the DFI or Committees to pursue within the Strategic Plan to strengthen and improve the DFI community.

The discussions over **two-day period (19th and 20th)** were aimed at developing an executable plan within each of the target areas (tasks/ activities, timeline, responsible parties) to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan.

- Timetable for plan document development
- Metrics for monitoring and evaluating progress annually
- Sections in plan for annual changes/assessment
- Deployment of plan/announcement to membership

BOT meeting

3rd day was allocated for Board of Trustees meeting, wherein

- Presidential address was made at the beginning
- 3 regional chapters reports were presented by representatives from DFI Europe, DFI Middle East, and DFI India chapters.
- Presentations by Executive Director, Technical Director, Director of Programs were made.
- Treasurer report, report on Governance, and educational trust update also have been presented.

On behalf of DFI India, I made a presentation on DFII initiatives, financials, and our efforts were well appreciated by BOT and other esteemed DFI members and they reaffirmed their continuing support for the success of DFII.

DFII is putting formidable efforts to expand the **DFII community** in India region, and it is thankful to 18 member EC committee, different committees' members, other well-wishers for their support to grow this popular institute to serve Indian geo foundation industry interests. It is also entering alliances with organisations like Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), National Academy of Construction (NAC) Infrastructure Equipment Skill Council (IESC) for making use of their organisational strengths in implementing multiple programs that will benefit Indian Geo Foundation Industry at large.

How Foundation Exploration Effects Project Planning, Construction and Life of Superstructure

—Mr. Vivek P. Kapadia, Narmada, water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpasar Department

A Very Complicated Project Executed Exemplarily Well - The Sardar Sarovar Dam Project

Overview of the Project

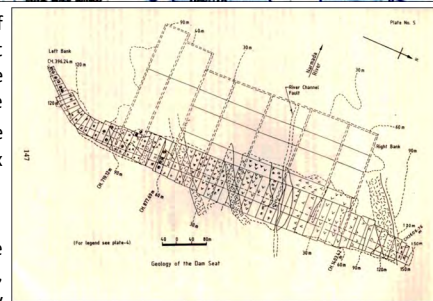
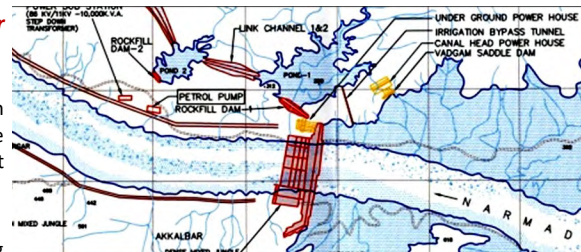
The Sardar Sarovar Project - multipurpose river valley project across River Narmada in Gujarat State located near village Navagam in Bharuch district. It has Culturable command area of 1.8 million hectare and a Gross storage capacity of 7.70 Million Acre Feet at full reservoir level at EL 138.68 m

Overview of Project Planning

The dam is a 1210 m long, 128 m high (average) mass concrete gravity structure involving placement of about 6.82 million m³ of pre-cooled concrete. It has a mild curvature in plan having radius of 7600 m. The mild curvature results into a difference of 0.2 to 0.4 m at foundation between length at extrados and at intrados of all monoliths of the non-overflow dam, power dam and spillway. It has Service spillway with 23 gates in the river bed and an auxiliary spillway with 7 gates on left flank adjoining the service spillway. Radial crest gates are provided for the spillway for regulating floods. For the service spillway, size of gate is 18.30 m (w) X 16.76 m (h) and for auxiliary spillway size of gate is 18.30 m (w) X 18.30 m (h) to facilitate independent operation of the service spillway first.

Major Geological Problem

Geological investigations showed different lava flows of Deccan trap and dolerite dykes had formed the foundation of the dam. Deccan trap flows consisted primarily of tholeiitic basalts ranging from massive, porphyritic, amygdaloidal and vesicular with flows illustrating their individual characteristics influenced by rate of cooling. Left bank comprises eight lava flows of Deccan traps. The right bank comprises five lava flows of Deccan traps underlain by sedimentaries, Lava flows on right bank are not continuous with those outcropping on left bank because of river channel fault.



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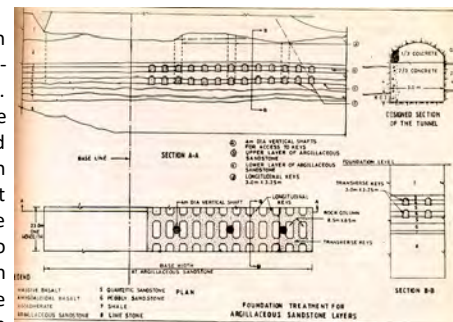
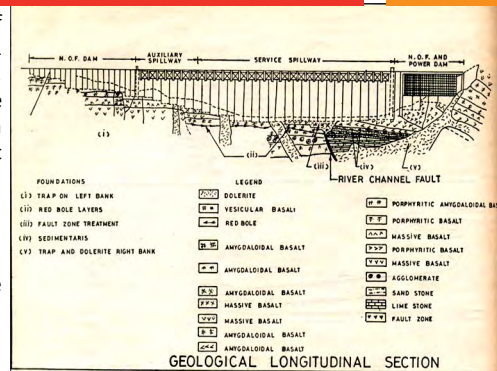
Discontinuity of lava flows and sedimentaries from one bank to the other and occurrence of crushed calcined and weathered trap as revealed by 30 exploratory drill holes, 19 vertical and 11 inclined, aggregating to a total length of 3262 m established a fault along fair weather river channel. A 0.91 m diameter calyx hole was drilled in the year 1966-67 to a depth of 36 m into the fault zone to enable visual inspection. When the fault was exposed in river channel it was found to be 5 to 7 m wide. The fault was of reverse type footwall block forming the left bank. Material obtained in fault zone was consolidated gritty material and resembled to weathered or soft rock.

Probable Effect of Major Geological Problem

- Bharuch earthquake of 23rd March 1970 – 5.4 Richter Scale
- River bed fault was local and limited on either side surrounded by relatively younger faults
- Generally, a seismic event has two aspects, viz. vibration due to shock and physical relative movements along the fault plane
- Design to withstand vibrations was carried out for an earthquake factor of 0.125 g.

Treatment

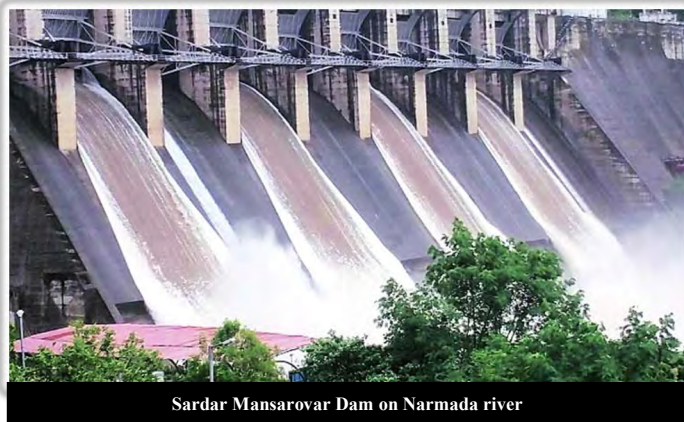
Treatment of the fault zone consisted excavation of trench to remove fault zone material, sheared rock adjoining fault zone and some rock on the hanging wall side to required depth and backfilling it with mass concrete of suitable strength. Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) carried out photo-elastic studies for determining depth of plug required to be provided for treatment of the fault zone. Excavation was carried out up to EL (-)16.5 m at upstream end and EL (-)6.5 m at downstream end. The trench was extended by 10 m beyond the heel and 20 m beyond the toe. Concrete plug was provided below five monoliths as the fault traverses in a skew direction from upstream to downstream. An inspection cum drainage gallery of size 1.5 m X 2.3 m at EL +4.0 m was provided in concrete plug for fault with its alignment parallel to strike direction of fault zone. This gallery location was to facilitate instrumentation, drainage of foundation and inspection. Hammock reinforcement consisting of two layers of 36 mm dia high yield strength deformed steel bars @ 250 mm c/c parallel to dam axis in one direction and parallel to strike of fault in other direction has been provided in order to provide safeguard against settlement/displacement either due to local weak pocket or heavy stress concentration or unequal settlement which may result in tension in plug.



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Comprehensive scheme of instrumentation for concrete plug has been evolved in consultation with CWPRS which consists of embedding instruments ranging from stress meters, strain meters, joint meters, uplift pressure cells, inverted pendulum and extensometers in different locations to obtain data for monitoring performance of fault zone concrete plug. One red bole layer and two layers of argillaceous Sandstone were identified that required treatment to ensure adequate shear resistant through foundation. Weak layers of argillaceous sandstone were encountered below foundation rock on right bank side and one red bole layer was encountered on left bank side of deep river channel. Stability calculations had shown that the dam was not satisfying criteria as laid down in Indian Standard Code for design of solid gravity dams in connection with factor of safety against sliding. To achieve the desired factor of safety against sliding it was necessary to provide suitable system of concrete shear keys both for treatment of argillaceous sandstone layers on right bank and red bole layer on left bank. Treatment carried out was on similar lines provided on the Itaipu Project in Brazil. The treatment covered the area by providing a grid of concrete shear keys parallel and perpendicular to the axis of dam along the argillaceous sandstone layers and red bole layer. Each shear key, longitudinal as well as transverse were 3m wide. The treatment consisted of a grid of minimum 10 shear keys or more parallel and two shear keys perpendicular to the axis of the dam as per the design requirements. Average thickness of argillaceous sandstone was about 2.5 m for both the layers. The shear key was 4.5 m (2.5 m + 2 m) in height. Complete treatment was provided by using concrete in 2/3 height of the keys and concrete in the remaining 1/3 height in the crown. With this method, satisfactory concrete-rock contact was achieved. For the two argillaceous layers at different levels, one of the issues was to decide

regarding the location of the upper layer grid with respect to the layer of the lower level grid, i.e. whether to have the upper grid located exactly vertically above the lower layer or alternatively to stagger the upper and the lower grids. Foundation treatment was carried out in consultation with Dam Design Review Panel (DDRP) Members, CW&PRS, Pune, CWC and Geological Survey of India. Functioning of River Bed Hydro Power was ensured to be flawless by the said foundation treatment along with the safety of the dam.



Sardar Mansarovar Dam on Narmada river

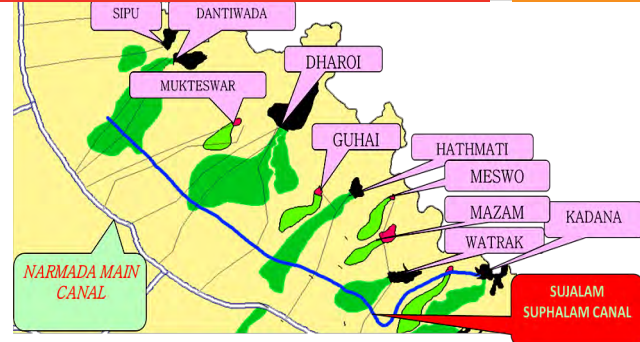
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A Very Simple Project Executed Simplistically - Sujalam Sufalam Canal

Introduction

- Length – 337 Km
- Estimated Cost – Rs. 458.5 Crore
- Estimated Duration – 2 years (From 2004)
- Spreading channel – simplest work, mostly excavation
- No. of Structures – 373
- Geological reports, a few trial pits, etc.

Increase In Quantity And Cost Of Structure

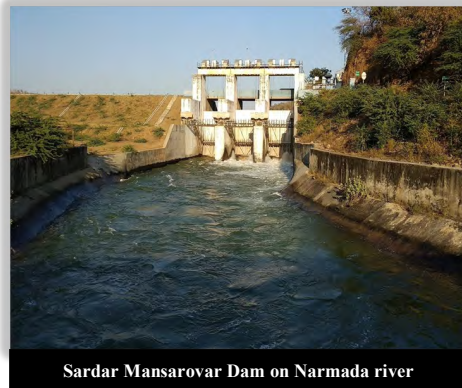


Chainage	AA		RAA		Enhancement in Requirement
	Nos	Amount Rs. in Crore	Nos	Amount Rs. in Crore	
0.00 to 27.00 K.M.	34	27.29	66	85.85	Dsy - 2 increased to 31 Escape - 3
27.00 to 74.00 K.M.	69	26.74	93	81.58	Dsy - 5 increased to 31 Escape - 4
74.00 to 119.00 K.M.	53	27.04	93	71.92	DSY-2 increased 23 Escape-5 VRB/MDRB-25 increased to 30 Inlet - 3 increased to 16
119.00 to 158.00 K.M.	53	31.11	69	67.24	DSY-1 increased to 8 Escape-5
158.00 to 228.00 K.M.	79	52.1	127	102.53	DSY-8 increased to 10 VRB/MDRB-7 increased to 10 Escape-6
228.00 to 274.00 K.M.	31	37.16	105	59.13	
274.00 to 337.00 K.M.	47	18.94	65	54.09	VRB/MDRB- NHRB-Inlet
Railway Crossing	7	4.4	7	23.55	
Total	373	224.78	625	545.89	

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Increase in Overall Cost

Details	Amount of Original AA in Crore	Amount of Revised AA in Crore	Difference
A- Preliminary	1.11	2.18	1.07
B- Land	17.8	35.49	17.69
C- Works -Earth Work	161.78	278.66	116.88
Structures Including lining and Railway Crossing	225.58	545.63	320.05
K- Building	0.27	1.28	1.01
M-Plantation	0.25	0.25	0
O-Miscellaneous	0.24	0.25	0.01
P-Maintenances	0.33	2.71	2.38
Q-Special Tools and Plants	0.66	0.91	0.25
R- Communication	0.5	0.5	0
Distribution	49.98	43.33	-6.65
Total	458.5	911.19	452.69



Sardar Mansarovar Dam on Narmada river

Lessons

- Spending money and time on investigation assures the functional performance and long life .
- Not spending money and time on investigation – foundation, hydrology and hydraulics - costs manifold to the project
- Same organization in both the projects – attitudes different and the outcome as well
- Every engineering activity is important and should be done in right spirit – investigation, design, material selection, construction, quality control, etc.

DFII Committee for Geotechnical Characterisation of Foundation (DCGCF) - Progress Update

- DFII is working with National Academy of Construction, Hyderabad to introduce 3-months course on Soil Investigation Laboratory Technician.
- Course curriculum is finalized by 10 member committee and draft course material is prepared.
- DFII and NAC approached National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) & Construction Skill Development Council (CSDC) to include this as NSDC approved job role to have a pan India Implementation.
- CSDC wants to ascertain employability of such trained technicians, and asked for Validations from Industry. DFII is giving appropriate replies.
- NAC has identified lab equipment to be procured, and in talks with equipment manufacturers to procure it.
- DFII is developing a plan for Geotechnical Field Supervisors training program. A sub-committee has been formed.
- DFII is also working on implementing good work practices, standardising tender process. DFII is in contact with major govt. and private owner companies to give due importance to good practices.

DFII CFA Pile Technology Implementation - Progress Update

- DFII CFA trial Piles testing was completed during Nov'2019.
- All tests revealed that ultimate capacities are 15% to 20% higher than the estimated capacities.
- While this is a very positive outcome of our trials, an upward revision of design input parameters may be recommended only after more pile load tests in the future.

DFI of India News

- DFII's CFA Technology Implementation Committee has prepared a manual about the design and Construction, installation, load testing results of CFA piles.
- CFA pile guidelines document is under preparation. These documents will be soon circulated to all major stakeholders for facilitating adoption of this technology in India.
- For more information about the DFII CFA pile load test, read the January 2020 DFI of India eNewsletter <http://www.dfi.org/update/DFI%20India%20News%20Jan%202020.pdf>

DFII Student Initiative - Progress Update

- DFII is planning to launch Student initiative program which will have several opportunities for students to learn more about the types of careers available in the deep foundations industry, create professional relationships with leaders in your chosen field, and gain exposure to current technologies and practices so you can get your career off to a strong start. Few of the benefits to students are:
 - * Free DFI Student Membership for Geotechnical students
 - * Future Leader Program: Industry interaction, Internship and employment opportunities
 - * Free Onemine.org access for unlimited technical paper and journals
 - * Student Chapters and Paper Competitions

Upcoming DFI Events*

**Conference Overview**

Join us for the DFI of India's (DFII) 10th Anniversary Conference. This conference series on Deep Foundation Technologies for Infrastructure Development in India has been held in various cities across India these last 10 years and this year we are pleased to be returning to the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India on November 19-21, 2020.

Come celebrate our 10 years of progress and the future of the Indian construction industry as we work together to advance our knowledge and implement it into our daily practice.

View Call For Abstract here <http://www.dfi.org/update/FINAL%20CFA%20DFI-India2020%20v3.pdf>

DFII 10th Anniversary Conference - 2020*

Conference Registration Fee

3-day Conference	INR
DFI Member	8,000
IGS and IGSCC Member (includes DFI membership through Dec. 31, 2021)**	9,700
Non-Member (includes DFI membership through Dec. 31, 2021)**	10,200
Student	4,500
Spouses	3,500

Author discount

One author per paper can avail a discount of INR 1000 on all the categories above. Multiple discounts are not allowed.

Add INR 500 to each category of on-site registration
**membership effective after the conference

Delegate registration closes on 14 November 2020.

Consider sponsoring this prestigious conference to gain exposure for your company, product and services; make contacts and build relationships; and understand the trends and technique that are shaping the industry.

Explore the various sponsorship options here <http://www.dfi.org/update/DFIIndia2020Brochure-A4-W.pdf>

Questions?

Contact - Mr. Mohamed Athif, DFI of India, Phone: +91 8870130850

Email: mma@dfi-india.org, Website: www.dfi.org/India2020

The executive committee members of DFI of India represent all the stakeholders in the foundation research, design and construction. The members will express their views about the role of DFI and other similar organizations in the development and transfer of modern technology for infrastructure development of India



DFI 45th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations*

October 13 - 16, 2020

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center National Harbor, Maryland, USA

Join us for DFI's 45th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations (#DFI45) at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. The theme is People. Purpose. Passion. This conference will showcase a profession at the top of its game, highlighting the hard work, passion, connections, technologies and professionalism that drive the deep foundations industry worldwide. For more information please visit www.dfi.org/annual2020

Registration is open.

Phone: (973) 423-4030

*COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update

We at DFI recognize the concern the current coronavirus outbreak is generating. As a result, we are actively monitoring the recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the health authorities of those countries in which we are scheduled to have conferences and other activities. DFI will continue to monitor the situation and will keep you updated on the status of our events.

Event	SuperPile '20	S3: Slopes, Slides and Stabilization	International Symposium for Offshore Geotechnics	45th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations	DFI India 2020 - 10th Anniversary Conference	DFI-PFSF Piling & Ground Improvement Conference
Date	June 18-19, 2020	August 4-6, 2020	August 16-19, 2020	October 13-16, 2020	November 19-21, 2020	March 10-12, 2021
Venue	Virtual Conference	San Francisco, California	Austin, Texas	National Harbor, Maryland	Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India	Sydney, Australia

DFI India members - 2020

Corporate Members**AECOM India Pvt. Ltd. - Class IV**

Kumar Pitchumani	Gouri Krishna
M Jeevan Reddy	Gayathri MS
Deepak Ganesh K	Sandeep Pattnaik
S Parimala	Dillip Panda
S Muthu Ganesh	Ankit Kachhal
Venkata Nagaraju N	Sareem Sandeep
Anjana Kadni	Manish Kumar Agrahari
Buddha Varma N	Himanshu Sharma

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Rajpaul Sharma	K Bhaskaran
Jaiprakash Nandi	Sushil Pandey
Ram Prakash	Sachin Satre
Jayker Mehta	Venkatesh Babu
Abraham Varghese	Vijay Madankar
Mehul Pandya	

Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. - Class IV

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