

Expert Session Event Report

held on the “Recent Advances in Infrastructure Projects”

Event Details:

- **Organized by:** School of Engineering and Technology, GTU (GTU-SET).
- **Coordinated by:** Department of Civil (Structural Engineering)
- **Program Coordinator:** Dr. J. A. Amin, Professor & Head, SET, GTU
- **Invitee:** Dr. K. M. Gondaliya, OSD - Assistant Professor, SET, GTU
- **Experts/Speakers:** Dr. Atul K. Desai, Professor (HAG), SVNIT, Surat
- **Date & Time:** 13th Feb, 2026 at 02:00 AM - 3:50 PM
- **Venue:** Online.
- **Register students:** 20

Highlights of Event:

The Department of Civil (Structural Engineering), GTU-SET, organized an expert talk on **“Recent Advance in Infrastructure Projects”** on 13 February 2026. The session commenced with a formal welcome and introduction of the distinguished speaker, Dr. Atul K. Desai, Professor (HAG) at SVNIT Surat, who brings over four decades of academic, research, and professional expertise in structural engineering and infrastructure consultancy. Dr. Desai initiated the session by outlining the evolving landscape of infrastructure development in India and globally. He emphasized how modern infrastructure projects are no longer limited to structural adequacy alone, but must integrate sustainability, resilience, lifecycle performance, constructability, and advanced materials. His address provided a comprehensive overview of emerging trends in infrastructure planning, design validation, proof-checking practices, and large-scale execution strategies. A significant portion of the session focused on:

- The transformation of infrastructure projects through advanced structural systems and innovative reinforcement technologies.
- The role of structural proof-checking in ensuring safety, serviceability, and compliance in mega infrastructure projects.
- Case-based insights from major national projects including railway systems, metro corridors, airport structures, bridges, industrial installations, and smart-city infrastructure.

Drawing from his extensive consultancy portfolio involving Bullet Train projects, Western Railway systems, NHAI works, Airports Authority of India, and high-rise infrastructure developments, Dr. Desai presented real-world challenges encountered during execution and how engineering judgment, code compliance, and analytical rigor play decisive roles in resolving complex structural issues. He also elaborated on the responsibilities of structural engineers in large infrastructure projects, particularly highlighting the necessity of interdisciplinary coordination, ethical practice, and detailed technical documentation. His insights into high-rise buildings, long-span bridges, stadium structures, and transportation infrastructure provided students with a clear understanding of the scale and complexity of modern engineering systems.

The expert talk concluded with an emphasis on the future of infrastructure development in India, stressing the need for innovation, research-driven design, and sustainable engineering solutions. The session proved to be intellectually enriching and professionally motivating, bridging the gap between classroom learning and high-level infrastructure consultancy practice.

Glimpse of Expert Session

