

Special Service and Features



## CSIR-SERC Celebrates 61st Foundation Day

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CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC) celebrated its 61st Foundation Day at its Chennai campus. Dr. N. Anandavalli, Director, CSIR - SERC highlighted the institute's six-decade legacy of innovation, asset management, and disaster-resilient infrastructure. Prof. Manoj Choudhary, Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara, attended as the Chief Guest.

Marking a milestone in transport infrastructure, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between CSIR-SERC and GSV. This strategic alliance establishes a collaborative framework for Research & Development and advanced skill development in Railway Structural Engineering, specifically aimed at supporting Indian Railways and the broader transportation sector through testing, technology innovation, and consultancy.



Coinciding with the celebrations, Prof. Choudhary virtually inaugurated the Sustainable Engineered Recycled Concrete (SERC) Demonstration Building at the campus. Developed under the CSIR Mission Mode project 'Waste to Wealth', this 1,953-square-foot office-grade facility showcases eco-friendly solutions for a circular economy. The building incorporates innovative materials developed by CSIR-SERC, including slag-cement-based recycled concrete (utilizing 100% recycled sand and 50% recycled coarse aggregate), unfired recycled aggregate bricks for outer walls, and hollow blocks for inner partitions. By also incorporating one tonne of recycled steel reinforcement, the superstructure achieved a 32% reduction in embodied carbon and a 50% to 55% reduction in material costs compared to conventional construction, exemplifying green and cost-effective civil engineering.



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