

*For Immediate Release*

## **A 17-Year-Old Student Designs Hassle-Free Scrubs for Frontline COVID Warriors**

**Ahmedabad, 26 November 2020:** The youth of this country is engaged in seeking solutions to the bigger problems in our society. And this is true for a young student of design who ideated a smarter version of medical scrubs for frontline COVID-19 warriors. Aditi Bhalekar, a first-year student at Anant National University has created an inventive yet functional product that can be used by nurses, doctors, and volunteers. The scrubs are the latest offering of the University to relieve the pandemic.

Aditi was encouraged to create this design as part of an in-house contest for the students of AnantU to make user-friendly scrubs for the health workers of COVID-19 recovery centres. The design is embedded in the need for comfort, cost-effectiveness, and durability of scrubs for COVID-19 healthcare workers.

Unlike the existing pant & suit scrubs which are cumbersome to wear under bulky PPE kits, these overalls in good quality cotton, breathable fabric, are more user-friendly. The USP of this product is its easy-to-wear and easy-to-remove feature. Multiple pockets allow the user to keep valuables such as phones, cash, and wallets with them.

Committed to building and implementing contemporary and sustainable design solutions, Anant National University provides students with the opportunity to engage with the design discourse at a foundation level. According to Dr. Anunaya Chaubey - Provost, Anant National University, "We encourage our students to stay connected with the community and to use design to solve problems that confront it. Their participation in the COVID-19 initiatives by the University is at once heartening and a thing of pride for us."

Used by the medical staff at Anant COVID-19 recovery facility in Najam Baug, Mumbai, the scrubs have received a positive response from over 50 nurses and doctors. AnantU is now planning to provide these scrubs in existing as well as upcoming COVID-19 Recovery centres. "I am glad the design found acceptance by its end users," said Aditi. "This whole process has been a huge learning curve for me."

Since the beginning of the pandemic in India, AnantU has provided design solutions such as recovery centres, visors, mobile testing and oxygen facilities. The University has partnered with government and non-government organisations, such as Parliamentarians with Innovators for India, Habitat for Humanity, Godrej Consumer Products Limited, The Murli Deora Foundation, Cisco, Population Fund of India, Airtel, Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation Limited (GIICL) and more. Along with their partners, the University has set up more than 10 recovery centres across 5 states and has steadily expanded the scope of its service.

### **About Anant National University:**

Anant National University (AnantU), India's first Design University, is located in a lush green campus in the World Heritage City of Ahmedabad. It was established as a private university in 2016 by an Act of Legislature of the State of Gujarat. AnantU aims to bridge the gap between contemporary socio-economic challenges and sustainable solutions through design thinking. Its widely acclaimed, international, and national faculty facilitate a holistic design education with a liberal arts perspective. The academic experience at the university focuses on developing the self, while simultaneously building domain expertise and providing industry exposure.

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