



ANANT  
NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY  
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India's First  
**DesignX**  
University

# Diversity and Inclusion

Report 2023-24





We thank our donors and supporters for their invaluable support that has been instrumental in building the diverse Anant community.



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# Diversity and Inclusion Report 2023 - 24



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ॐ सहनाववतु ।  
सह नौ भुनक्तु ।  
सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।  
तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ।  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

*Krishna Yajurveda Taittiriya Upanishad (2.2.2)*

Om, May we all be protected.

May we all be nourished.

May we work together with great energy.

May our intellect be sharpened, let there be no animosity amongst us.

Om Shantih Shantih Shantih.



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# Anant National University

Anant National University, India's first DesignX university, is dedicated to training students to devise solutions for global problems through creative thinking.

Our DesignX way is unique in helping young designers develop a better understanding of the context we live in through community immersion, innovation and collaboration. The core of our pedagogy is sustainable design multiplied by a host of knowledge disciplines and technology to make problem solving impactful. Our multidisciplinary undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programmes in design, architecture, climate action and visual arts harness the knowledge from various disciplines and traditional practices to integrate it with cutting-edge technology to address diverse challenges.

We train our designers to become *solutionaries*\*.

**\*/sə'lu':(ə)nəri/ noun**  
**Revolutionary thinkers with solution-oriented mindset**

**23cr**  
 Financial Aid Awarded

**78**  
 Acres Campus

**04**  
 Schools

**09**  
 Centres

**1120**  
 Alumni

**10**  
 Programmes

**257**  
 Faculty

**1456**  
 Students

# Letter from the President

Anant has come a long way in the last six years since its founding. We have dedicated ourselves to creating young solutionaries capable of solving problems that the world faces in a creative, innovative, inclusive and impactful manner. Our vision and mission of becoming a top design university in the country and creating solutionaries has required us to invest greatly in ensuring we have a tapestry of unique individuals; individuals drawn from and contributing to the rich cultural, ethnic and intellectual fabric that is Bharat. It is within this diverse environment that ideas are born, perspectives are broadened and innovation flourishes.

## Ajay Piramal

President,  
Anant National University

Industrialist and Philanthropist

Anant has adopted a comprehensive approach to achieving diversity and inclusivity on campus. These principles are not mere buzzwords; they are the foundation upon which our University stands as they shape the transformative educational experience we aspire to provide. Our commitment to embracing diversity goes beyond numbers and statistics; it is about creating an inclusive community where every member feels valued, heard and respected.

It is my pleasure to share with you Anant's inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Report looking at progress we have made. We are proud to share journeys from Anant that exemplify how diversity has spurred us forward in grooming solutionaries for a better and happier world.



# प्रज्वालितो ज्ञानमयः प्रदीपः



# Inclusive Excellence

At Anant, we recognise that diversity is not merely a goal but an inherent strength that enriches our collective experience. Since inception, Anant has made active efforts to create a culture that welcomes different perspectives, experiences and ideas that form a solution-oriented mindset.

At Anant, we recognise our common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet and are determined to work towards building a sustainable world by being knowledgeable, compassionate and proactive. **Anant is more than just a university.** It is a community, a family and a place to grow, to thrive and to make a difference in the world.

This report serves as a concise yet comprehensive exploration of diversity within our community. As we navigate the intricate landscape of inclusivity, this snapshot highlights key indicators, initiatives and areas for growth, reaffirming our commitment to fostering an environment where every individual feels welcomed, valued and empowered. Join us in this brief yet impactful journey of solutionaries as we assess our progress and set the course for a more inclusive future.

# Empowering Dreams

Anant's solutionaries learn as much from their peers as they do from their curriculum. Our vision towards creating a multidimensional, diverse and inclusive campus reflects in the community we have built - from students to faculty, staff and leadership. Since inception, we have offered **Rs 23 crores** worth of need and merit-based **financial support** to over **552 students**. Students from different socio-economic backgrounds have called the campus home. Anant ensures no one is left behind.

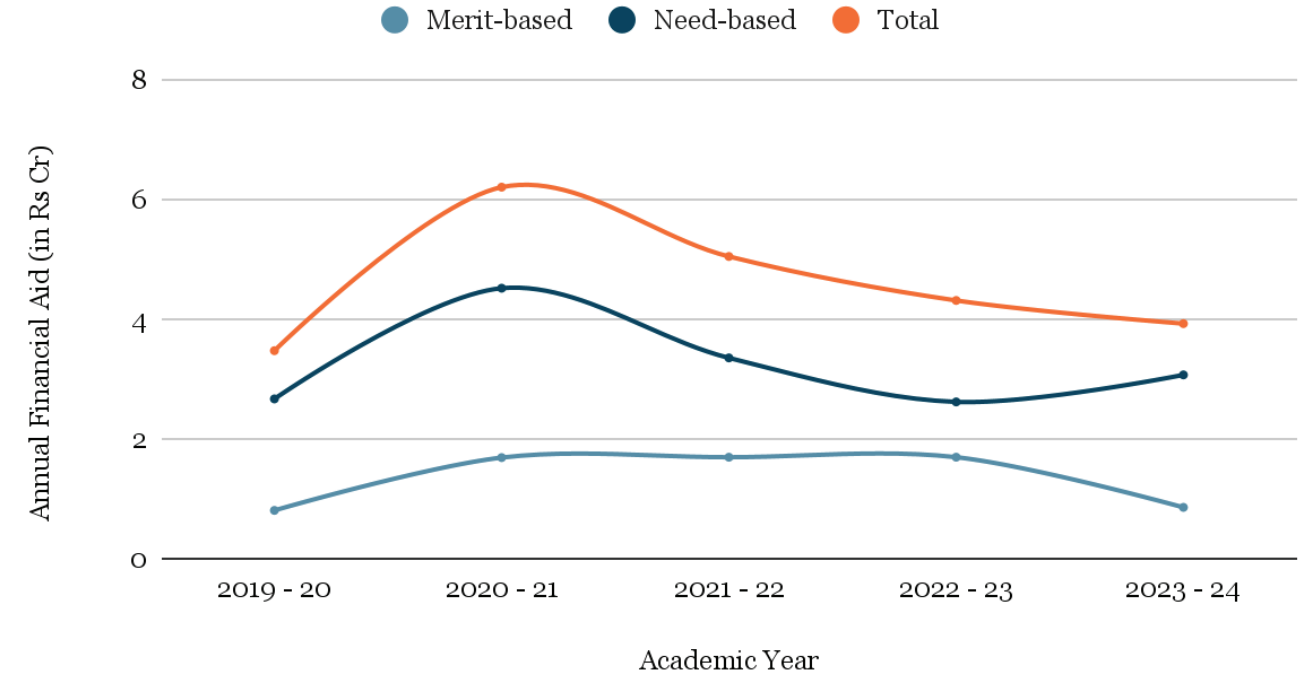
**Since inception:** Financial aid awarded: **Rs 23 cr**    Merit-based: **Rs 7 cr**  
 Students receiving aid: **552**    Need-based: **Rs 16 cr**

**AY 2023-24:** Financial aid awarded: **Rs 4 cr**

Average need-based financial aid for **Undergraduate: Rs 1.6 lakh**  
**Graduate: Rs 1.4 lakh**  
**Fellowship: Rs 4.3 lakh**

**50%** fellows with family incomes under Rs 5 lakh per annum

Annual Financial Aid (in Rs Cr)



'At Anant, we believe that education should be a transformative and empowering experience. By prioritising diversity, we are working towards creating an environment where every student can thrive. Recognising the importance of accessibility to quality education, we are dedicated to providing financial aid opportunities to deserving students based on their financial need and merit'.

## Yuvarajsinh Zala

Member, Financial Aid Committee  
 Chief Finance and Accounts Officer  
 Head, HR and Administration



# 'Anant is the best thing to happen to me'.

## **Chandraneel Sen**

Bachelor of Design, 2024

Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Chandraneel hails from a lower-middle-class family. His father, once an idol sculptor, is now an auto-rickshaw driver and his mother is a housewife. In 2020, he joined Anant on full need-based financial aid. Chandraneel harbours a deep interest in fine arts and Anant has played a pivotal role in helping him enhance his major in Product Design.

He expresses gratitude, saying, 'I have received immense support from accomplished and renowned faculty and mentors at Anant who have always been there for me. The vibrant student life has helped me blend in with people from all across the nation and the world. Anant is the best thing to happen to me'.

Additionally, Chandraneel serves as an intern with Anant's incubation centre, Aarambh. This experience has not only allowed him to delve into entrepreneurship but has also expanded his professional network. He acknowledges, 'The Career Services Office and Aarambh at Anant have prepared me for the transition from academia to industry through industry connect sessions and workshops'.



# Breaking Barriers

Anant is dedicated to supporting first-generation learners on their higher education journey. From financial aid to academic assistance, we strive to make the learning experience seamless.

The Office of Student Services along with the Writing and Communications Studio collaborate across the University to empower students and ensure their success at every step. Anant is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all students, including first-generation learners, can thrive.



# 'Anant's BTech programme will help me bring change and ease my family's burden'.

## **Pallavi Chad**

**Bachelor of Technology in  
Climate Change, 2027**

**Bhuj, Gujarat**

Pallavi, a first-generation college-goer, hails from a farming household in Kutch. She opted to pursue a BTech in Climate Change with the goal of assisting her village in adapting to climate change and mitigating its adverse effects on her family's income. Currently a first-year student, she is on full need-based financial aid.

'I come from a village where agriculture is the primary source of income. My family of 19 is engaged in the production of cotton and dates. Changing weather patterns and crop cycles have significantly impacted agricultural yields in my village. Anant's BTech programme will help me bring change and ease my family's burden', she explains.

Driven and ambitious, Pallavi shares her aspirations to reduce the impact of intensive agricultural practices on the environment, highlighting how Anant is instrumental in helping her achieve these goals.

'Both faculty and fellow students have been a constant source of support, aiding me with settling-in and acquiring a range of skills. Be it through presentations or group projects, I have started to feel more confident in my interpersonal skills. Anant has enabled me to recognise my potential by exposing me to lessons and experiences from various subjects and places around the world', she adds.



# From many, One

From two schools and two undergraduate programmes in 2016 to four schools, nine centres, ten programmes, 257 faculty, 1456 students and 1120 alumni, Anant has grown exponentially. Offering a range of innovative undergraduate, graduate, doctoral programmes and fellowships help students follow their passion, expand their horizons and make a difference in the world.

**AY 2023-24:** Total of 1456 students representing 22 states, 100 cities in India and 4 countries

<b>Undergraduate Programme</b>	1410 students 68.86% women 5.39% on financial aid	<b>Graduate Programme</b>	46 students 63% Women 39% on financial aid
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<b>1120 Alumni</b>	<b>18 countries:</b> India   Jamaica   Brazil   Bangladesh   Morocco   Kenya   Nigeria   Canada   United Kingdom   Egypt   Sri Lanka   Iran   Afghanistan   Ghana   Malawi   Ethiopia   Rwanda   Sierra Leone	<b>Top 10 cities:</b> Ahmedabad   Pune   Mumbai   Surat   Nashik   Hyderabad   New Delhi   Akola   Gurugram   Bengaluru   Kolkata
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Student Inclusivity

‘In the midst of uncertainties, the decision to join the Fellowship was wrapped in questions and curiosity. As I embarked on this journey, the programme and its people extended a reassuring warmth, transforming Anant into a home away from home. The ability to reach out and find solutions to challenges has been a constant. From aiding in class participation to guiding me through assignments, the Fellows have been my greatest pillars of support. The discovery of my own interests through the modules and witnessing incremental personal growth stand as significant accomplishments, for which I extend my gratitude to Anant’.

**Rafsana Yeamin**  
Anant Fellowship in Sustainability  
and Built Environment, 2024  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

‘Anant has made me more passionate about my dream, be more courageous and patient, be it in academics or extracurricular activities’.

**Chorjit Sharma**

Bachelor of Architecture, 2023

Imphal, Manipur

Chorjit, affectionately known as CJ at Anant, hails from Manipur. Chorjit was recently awarded ‘Best Presentation’ at Annual Research on Cities Summit 7.0 by Xaviers Institute of Management Bhubaneswar for his final semester thesis.

Moving out of his city and state for the first time, Chorjit chose Anant considering Ahmedabad to be a safe place and a hub of architecture. ‘My time at Anant, in Ahmedabad and Gujarat was very special. I will cherish it throughout my life. Moving from green spaces to a dry region, adapting to the food and language, I adjusted well. I always felt very loved and adored by fellow students and staff’.

Chorjit found his communication skills to be the biggest challenge before joining Anant. He believes faculty and fellow students not only helped him open up and understand cultural complexities but also were accommodating of his shortcomings.



# 'I felt at home in a place where diversity is celebrated'.

## **Geronimo Tuzo**

Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment, 2020

Kingston, Jamaica

Geronimo, also known as Gerry, is originally from Jamaica and is an alumnus of the Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment. Presently, he serves as a Project Manager in Urban Planning and Design in Japan.

Gerry fondly remembers India as a land of diversity. Reflecting on his time in the country, he expressed, 'Coming to Anant was enlightening; I realised that there is much more to the people of India than simply being classified as Indians. India is a country where languages, food, attire and culture vary significantly across regions'. Gerry now plans to visit India every year for Navratri and celebrate the festive period in different cultures across the country.

He believes that what truly helped him feel at home was the diversity that existed on the Anant campus. 'Being among a mix of students and staff from all across the world and the country helped me fit in right away. I never felt like an outsider. I felt at home in a place where diversity is celebrated'. Gerry also mentions how it was evident that the Fellowship was designed to be collaborative in how he was never made to feel like he was working on anything all by himself.



# Charting Excellence

Under the guidance of stalwarts in education and social impact, Anant is growing to become India's number one university in the fields of design, built environment and sustainability. Leaders from a range of sectors help make Anant's interdisciplinary approach to design a reality.

'At Anant, we celebrate the diverse layers of the 'human-nature-built environment' triad. It facilitates creativity, innovation and unique perspectives that each individual, from various parts of the country, brings to the table. We ensure that every voice is heard and every perspective is considered. Our strength lies in the varied experiences, backgrounds and ideas that collectively shape the fabric of the Anant community. This prepares our students for the dynamic and interconnected global profession that awaits them'.

## **Snehal Nagarsheth**

Member, Governing Body  
Professor and Dean, School of Architecture  
Master of Urban Design,  
CEPT University



# DesignX

We believe that education is about preparing students for the real world, where they will need to think critically, solve problems and communicate effectively. Our mission is to develop solutionaries who design and implement equitable and sustainable solutions for the world. A solutionary is a revolutionary thinker with a solution-oriented mindset.

We train students to become solutionaries by instilling in them a DesignX mindset; a unique approach to design where students have the opportunity to multiply and enhance their learning of design with perspectives drawn from a range of disciplines. X as a mathematical symbol stands for enhancement of design leading to a comprehensive understanding of the context in which designers work.

We achieve our comprehensive approach to design through our one-of-a-kind pedagogy. Rooted in community, our methods are impact-driven. At Anant, we ensure our students immerse themselves in communities, understand problems with a futuristic and global outlook and solve these problems through a multidisciplinary approach. Anant also offers a broad range of minors giving the opportunity to specialise in two different disciplines and the freedom to explore.





‘Life here is about creating and being a part of a community with a strong cultural and disciplinary blend’.

### Zuhaib Shah

PhD, Climate Change and Built Environment

Srinagar, Kashmir

Zuhaib, holding an MSc in Wood Science and Technology and a BSc in Forest Sciences, currently pursues a PhD in Climate Change and Built Environment at Anant. Having lost his father to COVID-19, he relies on the support of his two sisters in his academic and professional endeavours.

Hailing from Kashmir, Zuhaib expresses a sense of belonging at Anant. He views Anant not just as an academic institution but also as a place where life revolves around creating and being part of a community with a robust cultural and disciplinary blend. He enthuses, ‘I am thrilled to be part of a community that celebrates diversity, treating everyone as equals, irrespective of their background. At Anant, there is no distinction between faculty, students or staff’.

Zuhaib identifies Anant as a unique intersection of multiple disciplines that facilitates his research. He elaborates, ‘Anant’s broad range of disciplines allows me to integrate climate science and architecture, promoting carbon sequestration through the built environment. With its strong industry connections and interdisciplinary approach, Anant has proven to be the perfect place for me to pursue my goals’.



# 'One word for Anant: one'

## Pawan Raj

Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment, 2024

Patna, Bihar

Hailing from Patna, Bihar, Pawan is an Anant fellow on a 95% need-based financial aid. Pawan's father works as a store manager for a pharmaceutical company, while his mother is a homemaker. He completed his schooling in Patna and has been actively crafting impactful stories and poems from a young age. Some of his works have gained recognition and been published.

Pawan believes Anant, with its unique pedagogy prioritising community immersion and experiential learning, has helped him understand problems better, enabling him to design relevant solutions. He also speaks about how diversity and inclusion on campus have enhanced his learning experience.

'I really appreciate the University's open-door policy and the ease with which one can interact on campus, extending not only to the teaching staff but also to the non-teaching staff. Everyone is open to ideas and suggestions. This culture is something I found to be very unique about Anant'.

Pawan is presently enjoying learning multiple languages from peers, such as Marathi, Ladakhi and Gujarati. Additionally, he is teaching his native tongue, Magahi, to fellow students. He considers Anant to be his family where there's always something to learn and everybody cares for one another.



# ‘Make students think and ask questions’.

## **Urvashi Butalia**

**Visiting Faculty, Anant Fellowship for Sustainability and Built Environment**

**Padma Shri**

**Writer and Publisher, Master of South Asian Studies, University of London**

Urvashi Butalia is an Indian feminist activist, researcher, publisher and writer. Known for her insightful commentary on issues related to gender, identity and history, Urvashi conducts a course on the history of the women’s movement. What brought her to Anant was the challenge of looking at women’s stories through the prism of space and built environment. Urvashi shared her thoughts on the need for open dialogues on diversity in educational institutions. ‘It is important to make students think and ask questions’.

She lauds Anant’s efforts to document disappearing practices and knowledge of indigenous people. ‘It speaks to an educational institution taking steps to be inclusive and diverse in recording the histories of people on the margins of society. Women farmers and weavers from Ladakh have been invited to Anant to not only document their culture and tradition but also talk about their work for people to learn from. This helps bring focus to histories that are often hidden in writing which is mainly about men. To my heart as a feminist publisher and activist, this is really wonderful’.



# 'Anant fosters a strong sense of unity and resilience'.

## **Jasmine Gohil**

**Member, Governing Body**

**Professor and Associate Dean,  
Academic Affairs**

**Master of Urban Planning,  
Bhaikaka Center for Human  
Settlement, APIED**

Hailing from a community where education for women was not well supported or well received, Jasmine is in multiple leadership roles at Anant. An architect by training, Jasmine realised her true calling in education and has been teaching for the past thirteen years. She believes at Anant, she is seen for her work and ability and is not treated differently for being a woman. 'Anant fosters a strong sense of unity and resilience. During my time at Anant and as a part of the leadership, I have never been made to feel less important or excluded in any key decision making processes', she says.

She talks about how Anant's values are behind a diverse and inclusive campus. 'Anant's values are reflected in the culture it has set on campus and beyond. Students, faculty and staff are rooted in tradition while having a global mindset. Anant has grown over the years attracting people from a range of disciplines and ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. People at Anant believe in being empathetic and aim to understand culture and community to tackle problems from multiple lenses', she adds.



# 'It is at Anant that students are pushed to spend time with communities...'

## **Subhalaxmi Mohapatra**

Associate Professor and Co-Director, Centre for Urbanism and Cultural Economics (CuCE)

PhD in Health Economics,  
Utkal University, Orissa

Subhalaxmi is an Associate Professor with CuCE at Anant, where she conducts courses on entrepreneurship and economics. She also guides students and faculty members on their research endeavours.

Subhalaxmi has diversified her research from health economics to women entrepreneurship. She has secured multiple funded research projects, including one from the National Commission of Women on challenges faced by women entrepreneurs when scaling their business.

Speaking about her decision to join Anant, Subhalaxmi explains how design education prioritises practical and experiential learning over theory. 'With my focus shifting towards entrepreneurship, I wished to go beyond my comfort zone in theory to take on its practical application. Theoretical concepts need to be applied to solve real-world problems or create tangible outcomes. It is at Anant that students are pushed to spend time with communities to understand problems and then integrate theory to solve these problems through practical application'.



# Where Ideas Converge

Anant has established nine centres of excellence concentrating on research, curriculum development, practice and teaching in diverse domains. Centres at Anant provide students with a mix of disciplinary perspectives and diverse knowledge to stay connected with their interests and delve into their passions.

## **Aarambh Incubation Centre**

Aarambh promotes entrepreneurial spirit using design thinking to devise innovative solutions for problems across domains.

## **Indian Designs and Innovative Crafts (INDIC)**

INDIC aims to contemporise the ancient crafts industry to adapt to the needs of a changing marketplace.

## **Centre for Public Policy at Anant (CPPA)**

CPPA strives to instil thought leadership and create a generation of new-age professionals through public policy education.

## **International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership (ICICL)**

A global action think tank which works towards inclusivity, inspirational leadership and all forms of sustainable heritage development, grounded in SDGs, UN 2030 Agenda and HABITAT III.

'In a rapidly changing world shaped by technology and determined by policies, it is imperative for learners of today to be aware of multiple domains and diverse perspectives. The Centre for Public Policy at Anant is an attempt to bring knowledge diversity to the campus by training future designers, architects and climate activists in public policy. We apply design thinking principles to find policy solutions to the challenges concerning us and nurture future policy professionals'.

## **Pratyush Prabhakar**

Co-Director, CPPA

Master of Business Administration, IIM Calcutta



**Centre for Urbanism and Cultural Economics (CuCE)**

CuCE encourages research to understand the economic and cultural value in the context of human settlements.

**Centre for Visual Arts**

The Centre focuses on the role of visuality within creative education through practice and research.

**Centre for Behavioural Science and Design**

The Centre integrates behavioural science with knowledge and experience in domains such as urban architecture, spatial design, product design, fashion design and many more, with the overarching goal of providing solutions that prioritise people's needs while also being sustainable.

**Anant Centre for Sustainability**

A think-do-teach tank that focuses on affordable housing, indigenous models of circular economy and building sustainable education campuses in India.

**Writing and Communication Studio**

The Centre provides the space for writing enthusiasts through workshops, writing retreats, thesis and research writing and live-action project reports to hone their craft of expression. The Centre also offers modules to help students communicate effectively in personal and professional contexts.

'Urbanism is not simply produced by design or by plans. It is the outcome of the unintended and unplanned ramifications of the design. This insight is central to research and teaching at the Centre for Urbanism and Cultural Economics (CuCE). A corollary follows: understanding our urban world requires engagement across positionalities and disciplines ranging from design, architecture to economics and culture. Diversity is a key value of the CuCE. It makes designers, architects and climate technologists more efficient in analysing and applying data from even the seemingly most insignificant sources. It makes learning - and practice- fun!'

**Dr Ashima Sood**

Associate Professor and Co-Director, CuCE  
PhD in Economics, Cornell University



# Beyond the Classroom

At Anant, students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of extracurricular activities, from athletics to student clubs. Students get a chance to explore diverse interests, develop new skills and make enduring bonds.

## Student Clubs:

- E-Sports Club
- Change Makers Club: Social Impact and Community Service
- Comedy Cartel
- Dance Club
- Fashion and Lifestyle Club
- Music Club
- Sports Club
- Debate and Public Policy Club
- Photography Club
- Chitrapat: Film Club
- Do Art: Visual Arts Club
- Drama Club
- Anuwaad: Writing Club
- Heads for Tails: Animal Care Club
- Cooking Club
- Kaayakala Club: Body Art
- Mavens Community: Design Club





'Anant has been like a dream for me. Coming from a strong heritage and training in music and art, I have not only been given a home away from home but have also been helped hone my musical talent. I haven't been able to pursue singing professionally due to responsibilities at home but Anant has recognised me for my talent and celebrates it with love. I deeply admire the recognition Anant has given to not just me but to the many other visiting artists from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and skills'.

### **Subhra Roy**

Assistant Manager, Mechanical, Administration

Barrackpore, West Bengal

Singer and Radio Artist

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# Centre for **Wellbeing**

Recognising the significance of mental health in our student's overall wellbeing is at the heart of our approach. Hence, we have established 'Bloom', our Centre for Wellbeing, designed to foster an empathetic environment. It focuses on psychological, physical and emotional wellbeing, aiming to instil positivity. Partnering with medical experts and offering 24/7 online support services, the Centre ensures that students have the assistance they need.



‘Anant has successfully created a safe space for people to speak up and it is clear that wellbeing is always a priority’.

**Kanan Arora**

Bachelor of Design, 2026

Surat, Gujarat

Born in Ludhiana and raised in Surat, Kanan possesses a deep passion for fine arts and majors in Product Design.

‘Anant is a place where people care about design, which inspired me to be here. Design at Anant prepares you for the real world. As a product designer, I never thought I’d be learning so much about other subjects like engineering or biology’, she expresses.

Kanan acknowledges the immense support she has received from both students and faculty in her mental health journey. She has also benefited from counselling services offered by Bloom Centre for Wellbeing at Anant.

‘Given Anant’s serious approach to design, it is not surprising that empathy is what drives everyone here. Both faculty and fellow students have been understanding and accommodating of struggles I have faced with my mental health, helping me through thick and thin. Trained professionals from Bloom have been there for me in times of distress, providing a contact point free from judgement. Anant has successfully created a safe space for people to speak up and it is evident that wellbeing is always a priority’, she adds.



# ‘At Anant, I was never stared at or looked at differently’.

## **Shimoli Bhargava**

Bachelor of Design, 2024

Rewari, Haryana

Shimoli sought a space where she could continue to pursue her passion for sketching while being around nature. It was equally important for her to be part of a community where she wouldn't be looked at or treated differently based on her appearance. At Anant, she believes she has found it all.

‘Sketching has always brought me peace and is my go-to activity whenever the pressure gets too much. Fortunately, majoring in Space Design at Anant helped me practise my sketching while exploring elements of architecture. Also, the campus is well-designed and in sync with nature, providing ample options for green spaces. At Anant, I never felt I couldn't talk to people. I was hesitant initially to turn on my camera for classes during the pandemic but was always encouraged and pushed to not think of myself as anyone different’.

Shimoli has Alopecia, an autoimmune disease due to which she has been subject to social stigma from a very young age. She has received immense support from students and faculty at Anant to become more confident about her identity. ‘People stare or keep asking questions. At Anant, this was never the case’.

A message from Shimoli to future Anant students: ‘Relax, everything will be alright’.



# Community Partnership

# Anant X Prabhat

**Community Project: 2023 - Ongoing**

Sanjeev Chatterjee | Vijay Sekhon | Akash Gaur

Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment in collaboration with Prabhat is working on designing for impact. Prabhat Education Foundation's programmes encompass a range of activities and services targeted to assist and support children with special needs, their families and the communities they belong to.

The project aims to develop more awareness about the special needs of differently abled children, find gaps in impact to create communication strategies for them and research the needs and behaviour of students to design spaces or products for affordable special education.

The first phase of the project developed an impact strategy based on the primary and secondary research on differently-abled students at the intersection of socio-economic marginalisation. It produced a documentary following which the project was extended for further designing for impact and community immersion for Anant's students.

Currently, students across the University are engaging with students from Prabhat to understand the need for universal design and the real-life gaps in access and design. The project also entails Prabhat's students engaging in design education and exploring possibilities of training at Anant.



'Anant's unwavering commitment to fostering creativity and innovation in design education stood out, making it the perfect choice for my son Rushaan. The vibrant campus culture and emphasis on holistic development align with our vision for his educational journey.

Anant's infrastructure is a testament to its dedication to providing an exceptional learning environment. The state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge design studios and well-equipped workshops create a space where creativity flourishes. The campus seamlessly blends modern architecture with green spaces, fostering an inspiring atmosphere that enhances the overall educational experience for both students and faculty.

Anant excels in promoting inclusivity and diversity across its student body, staff and faculty. The inclusive atmosphere encourages a rich exchange of ideas, perspectives and experiences, fostering a truly global and open-minded learning environment. The institution's commitment to diversity ensures that every individual feels valued and contributes to a thriving educational community'.

## **Sudhir Kuduchkar**

Anant Parent

Visiting Faculty

Chief Mentor and Founder, Three Dot Designs



# Afterword

Anant through the last few years has pioneered a new typology in design education – DesignX. Central to our success in this endeavour has been our commitment to ensuring diversity among students, faculty and staff. Anant has brought together individuals with unique perspectives, experiences and talents, creating an equitable and dynamic learning environment that prepares our students for a globalised world. We not only continue to update our curriculum by adding minors and electives from diverse disciplines but also offer learning and financial support on campus to bring together and provide opportunities for students from different socio-cultural and economic backgrounds.

## Anunaya Chaubey

Provost,  
Anant National University

Artist, Educator and Linguist

At Anant, we want our students to cultivate a critical understanding of the world – not confined to traditional classrooms but through real-life experiences, working in real-time with a diverse peer group that enriches the understanding of the world and community. Our mission is to prepare and empower solutionaries keeping design thinking and community impact at the heart of our pedagogical interventions.

Our efforts to make this campus both affordable and accessible have been central to the larger vision for the University. We recognise progress, but more work is needed. As the university expands, we will remain open to feedback and adapt, striving for a truly inclusive campus where every individual is treated as an equal and with respect. Our tagline **॥ प्रज्वालितो ज्ञानमयः प्रदीपः ॥** meaning ‘light the lamp of knowledge’ signifies the University’s promise to spread knowledge, a promise we strive to uphold every day.



To know more about Anant

Scan Now







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NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY  
॥ प्रजासिद्धे ज्ञानमयः प्रदीपः ॥

India's First  
**DesignX**  
University

## Anant National University

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