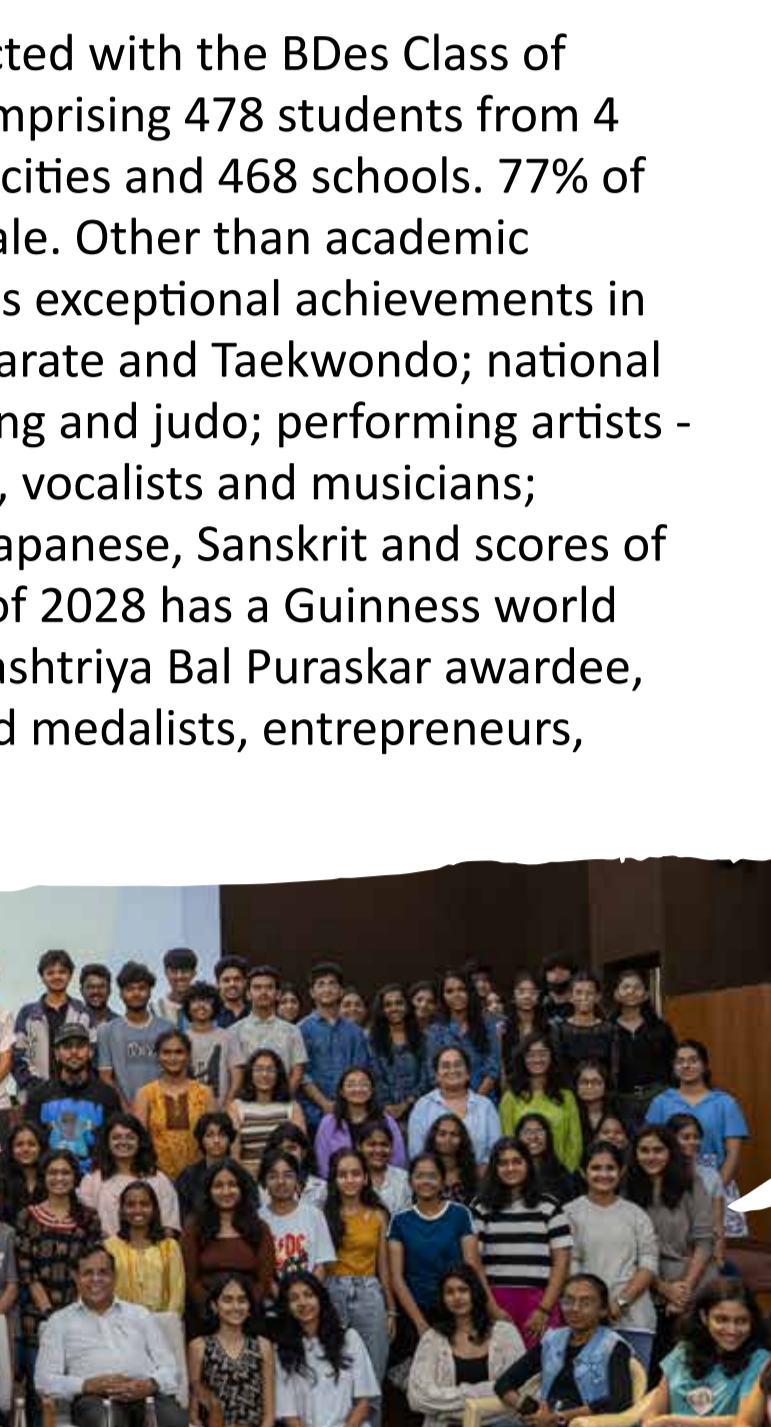
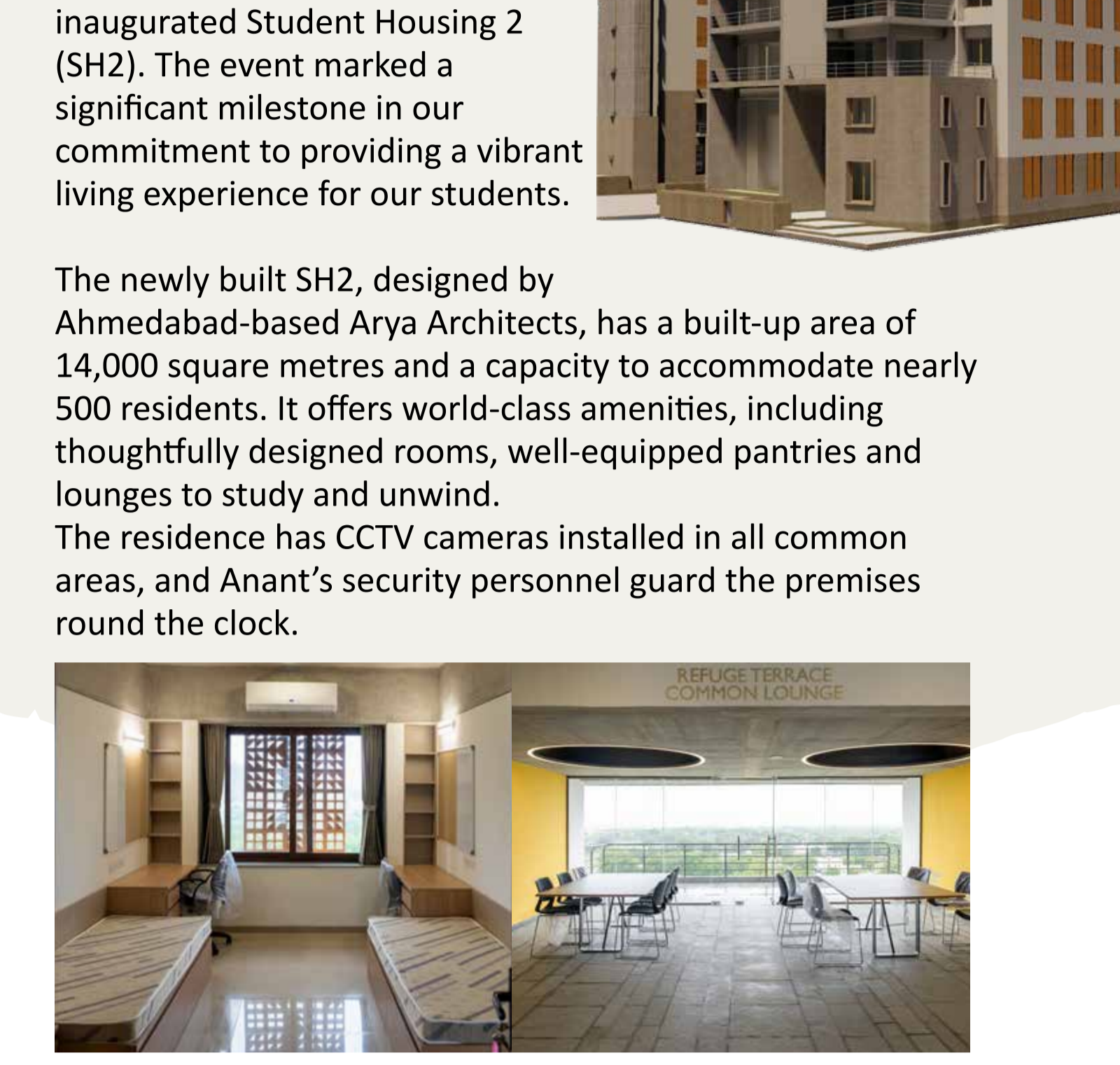


# SEPTEMBER 2024



The months of August and September were all about exciting new beginnings at Anant. We welcomed the Class of 2028, the largest in Anant's history, as they embarked on their academic journey. Adding to the excitement, Mr Ajay Piramal, President, Anant National University, inaugurated Student Housing 2, representing a significant enhancement of our infrastructure.

## Student Housing 2 Unveiled



On 29 August 2024, Mr Ajay Piramal, President, Anant National University, alongside key members of the University leadership, inaugurated Student Housing 2 (SH2). The event marked a significant milestone in our commitment to providing a vibrant living experience for our students.

The newly built SH2, designed by Ahmedabad-based Arya Architects, has a built-up area of 14,000 square metres and a capacity to accommodate nearly 500 residents. It offers world-class amenities, including thoughtfully designed rooms, well-equipped pantries and lounges to study and unwind. The residence has CCTV cameras installed in all common areas, and Anant's security personnel guard the premises round the clock.



During the visit, Mr Piramal interacted with the BDes Class of 2028, the largest in our history, comprising 478 students from 4 nationalities, 30 Indian states, 283 cities and 468 schools. 77% of the Class of 2028 identifies as female. Other than academic excellence, this batch demonstrates exceptional achievements in sports - triathletes, black belts in Karate and Taekwondo; national level athletes in swimming, wrestling and judo; performing artists - Odissi and Bharatanatyam dancers, vocalists and musicians; polyglots - languages like French, Japanese, Sanskrit and scores of other Indian languages. The Class of 2028 has a Guinness world record holder, a Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee, international English Olympiad gold medalists, entrepreneurs, artists and film producers.



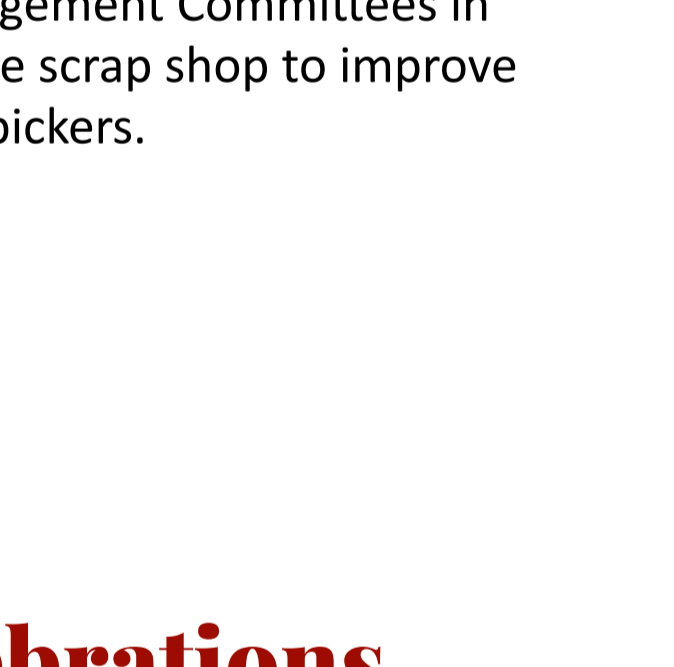
In addition, Mr Piramal engaged with the Anant faculty in an interactive session, sharing his vision and roadmap for the University.



As the concluding part of the visit, the Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design students and faculty presented a monogrammed shirt made of Kora Khadi to the President. Another product innovation presented to Mr Piramal was an open ear, wireless audio device with bone conduction technology. WeHear OX, a start-up incubated at Anant's Aarambh Incubation Centre, had alumna Palak Patel from the Class of 2020, MDes in Integrated Product Design, in the initial design team. This patented technology, 100% made in India, has helped 65 million people to make day-to-day hearing habits more ear-health-friendly.



## New Academic Beginnings

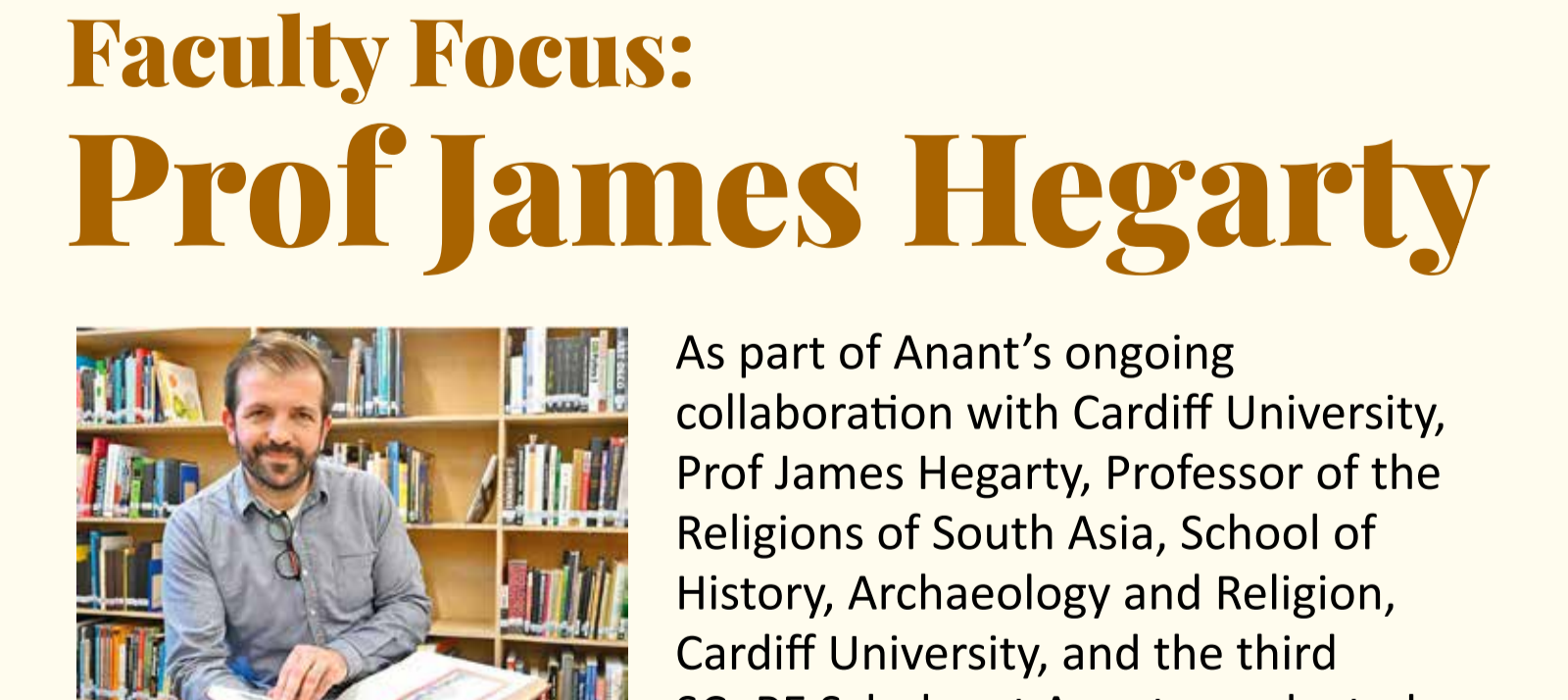


The beginning of the academic year 2024-25 brought a lot of excitement to the campus. While Anant welcomed its largest BDes class so far, new PhD scholars and Bachelor of Technology in Climate Change, Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Visual Arts students also began their academic journeys at Anant as their orientation programmes began. More than 500 new Anant members, pursuing a wide range of courses Anant offers, have had the campus buzzing with enthusiasm.



## Fellowship Concludes with LAPs

Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment, Anant's flagship programme that prepares and empowers solutionaries to design, build and preserve an equitable built environment, concluded with Live Action Project reviews. The cohort was a vibrant mix of Fellows coming from diverse backgrounds. From a hypnotherapist and farmer from Valsad, a psychologist from Dibrugarh, a Social Science graduate from Leh, a graduate in Economics from Thiruvananthapuram to even an established architect from Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Fellows truly represented Anant's diverse culture.



The LAPs, the hands-on learning component of the curriculum, provided solutions to key societal challenges. These included improving education outcomes in rural areas through creative teaching, using the 'Kit of Parts' design for adaptable urban spaces, enhancing living conditions in the Bombay Hotel slum via community-led waste management, highlighting the role of parental involvement and School Management Committees in education and introducing a cooperative scrap shop to improve the livelihoods of Ahmedabad's waste pickers.

## A Dash of Kashmir at Teacher's Day Celebrations

At Anant, we embrace diversity and celebrate traditions that bring us together as a community. This Teacher's Day, we added a special Kashmiri touch by serving traditional dishes like Kahwa, Nadru Monje (Lotus Stem Fritters), Nadru Yakhni (Lotus Stem Curry) and Phirni.



The celebration wasn't just about food. Ravice Rashid, an artist from Kashmir working to conserve Kashmiri art forms and currently a visiting faculty at Anant, led the celebrations through captivating musical and dance performances, offering a glimpse of Kashmiri traditions.

Sadam Ashraf Parry, a Fellow in the current cohort of Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment, anchored the evening. A civil engineer and an entrepreneur from Anantnag, J&K, Sadam is also an alumnus of The Naropa Fellowship who aspires to establish a sustainable construction company in Kashmir.



## Faculty Focus: Prof James Hegarty



As part of Anant's ongoing collaboration with Cardiff University, Prof James Hegarty, Professor of the Religions of South Asia, School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, and the third SCoPE Scholar at Anant, conducted a masterclass for Foundation Year students. The partnership explores opportunities for collaborative research projects, seminars, conferences and workshops, as well as the exchange of teaching and research staff and undergraduate, postgraduate and research students.

At the workshop, Prof Hegarty provided excerpts from the Sanskrit texts of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, referring to them as 'Kathabija' or 'story seeds'. The students were asked to form their own creative relationships with these extraordinary poems and develop a spirit of deep commitment to shared and timeless values unique to India.

Talking about his experience at Anant, Prof Hegarty says, "As a SCoPE scholar, I see it as my role to help put the X in DesignX. By this, I mean that Anant National University is built on a vision of the dynamic interrelationship of design with everything. During my classes, I give students a piece of the original Sanskrit text of the Mahabharata and Ramayana and ask them to engage creatively with these texts. This fusion of the old and the new, of design, creativity and heritage, is precisely an example of putting the X in DesignX. This outward-looking, interdisciplinary mentality is something I have encountered every day at Anant. It is one of the things that makes Anant such a special place to work and study."

## Student Focus: Kranti Gagdekar Chhara

Kranti Gagdekar Chhara, a Bachelor of Visual Arts (BVA) student from the Class of 2027, was chosen by Netflix India to create five custom artworks for its recent project, 'Frames of Love.'

Her digital art caught the eye of the streaming platform, leading to her involvement in their promotional campaigns.

Kranti has always been interested in learning the traditional techniques of creating different art while mastering contemporary, technology-driven methods. Anant's BVA programme provided her with this mix. She shares that the programme has helped her strengthen her basics and explore new ways of creating art. She also credits the programme for inspiring her to push her creative boundaries and discover her unique artistic identity.



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