



Dr Rajendra Singh Joins Anant National University as Professor of Practice – To Inspire a Generation of Changemakers

Ahmedabad, 28 November 2024: Anant National University welcomes Dr Rajendra Singh, the 'Waterman of India,' as the first Professor of Practice in Community Leadership in Environmental Design.

A visionary changemaker, Design Thinker, environmentalist and water conservationist, Dr Singh will mentor Anant students, guiding them through real-world, on-ground projects that foster community engagement and problem-solving skills. He will lead live-action projects, ensuring that learning extends beyond textbooks. His extensive experience will help Anant enhance the pedagogy through insightful critiques, creating an impactful learning environment.

Dr Singh's transformative work in water conservation and promoting indigenous knowledge systems has positively impacted countless lives. His grassroots efforts and innovative solutions align with Anant's mission to cultivate impact-driven designers. His appointment will further strengthen the university's focus on community immersion and help prepare students to address critical environmental issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant National University, announced the launch of the Anant Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices, which will be chaired by Dr Singh. This centre will take a scientific and organised approach to mapping India's diverse indigenous knowledge systems, including both current practices and those at risk of extinction, from Bhavan Nirman and agriculture practices to water conservation.

"Reviving Indigenous knowledge systems is crucial for addressing social challenges, and this is what we wish to do with the Anant Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices," shared Dr Chaubey, adding, "Dr Singh is a true solutionary and visionary leader. He has turned theoretical concepts into actionable solutions by integrating traditional knowledge with innovative practices. His work is a testament to the power of community-led initiatives, transforming localised efforts into mass movements. He is an inspiration for the future, illustrating how indigenous wisdom can address contemporary challenges."

Highlighting the global relevance of indigenous knowledge, Dr Singh said, "Indigenous knowledge holds global relevance. India was a 'Vishwa Guru' because of its rich local wisdom. From sustainable construction to water conservation, these systems offer solutions that can transform the world."

About Anant National University

Anant National University, India's first DesignX university, is dedicated to training young designers to devise solutions to problems through creative thinking, fusing contemporary technologies and indigenous practices.

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, postgraduate 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 - revolutionary thinkers with a solution-oriented mindset.