



ANANT  
NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY  
॥ प्रज्वालितो ज्ञानमयः प्रदीपः ॥

India's First  
**DesignX**  
University

# Diversity and Inclusion

Report 2024-25





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



India's First  
**DesignX**  
University

# Diversity and Inclusion Report 2024 - 25



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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. The X in DesignX is the symbol drawn from mathematics, representing enhancement. This new learning approach multiplies traditional design pedagogy with liberal arts disciplines, emerging technologies and knowledge drawn from hands-on community experiences to help us understand our world better and devise impactful solutions. Our multidisciplinary undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in design, architecture, climate action and visual arts harness 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.**

**1826**  
Students

**257**  
Faculty

**04**  
Schools

**28 Cr**  
Financial Aid Awarded

**1412**  
Alumni

**143**  
Staff

**12**  
Centres

**78**  
Acres Campus



# Letter from the President

As Anant National University continues to evolve, we remain deeply committed to establishing Diversity and Inclusion as foundational values in our mission to develop young solutionaries. Since our inception, we have focused on nurturing individuals from diverse geographies across India from 26 States and 254 Cities, 7 Union Territories and students from all over the world representing 40 countries. **In a pioneering move towards greater accessibility, we have become India's first design institution to conduct our design entrance test, the Anant Design Entrance and Proficiency Test (ADEPT), in five languages, including Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and Tamil, alongside English.** This initiative reflects our belief that language should never be a barrier to pursuing design education.

## Ajay Piramal

President,  
Anant National University

Industrialist and Philanthropist

Our vision of becoming a leading design University in India relies on cultivating a vibrant community that reflects the rich cultural, ethnic and intellectual diversity of our nation. Each individual brings unique perspectives that contribute to innovative solutions for global challenges. We foster an inclusive environment that not only amplifies underrepresented voices but also cultivates a culture of empathy and understanding.

As we move forward, our strategic goals emphasise strengthening inclusive practices, ensuring that Anant remains a space where all individuals can contribute their unique insights toward crafting solutions for a better world.



# Letter from the Provost

As we reflect on our journey and look forward to the future, I am confident about the role Anant plays in shaping the next generation of innovators. Our commitment to nurturing solutionaries is at the heart of our mission.

We continue to take significant strides in enhancing our curriculum, integrating interdisciplinary approaches that combine design with liberal arts and emerging technologies. Our strategic hiring across faculty and staff roles, coupled with refined admissions practices, has created our most talented and diverse academic community to date.

The vibrant community at Anant comes alive through diversity and collaboration. Through student-led initiatives and partnerships with local and international organisations, we've built an environment where ideas thrive. **Our commitment to inclusivity extends to making education accessible - we've provided over ₹28 crores in need and merit-based financial aid, ensuring promising students can pursue their dreams regardless of financial constraints.** At our Aarambh Incubation Centre, students transform innovative ideas into reality, contributing to a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship.

As we move forward, we continue to embrace our role as catalysts for change, preparing and empowering solutionaries with the skills and determination to create a better future, while keeping design thinking, innovative problem solving and community impact at the heart of our curriculum.

## Anunaya Chaubey

Provost,  
Anant National University  
Artist, Educator and Linguist





# Inclusive Curricula through DesignX

DesignX pedagogy fosters diversity and inclusion by integrating liberal arts and indigenous knowledge. **The X in DesignX is the symbol drawn from mathematics, representing enhancement.** By adopting DesignX, Anant prepares students to address complex challenges with empathy, creativity and critical thinking, enriching the learning process and fostering a sense of belonging. DesignX enhances traditional design education with liberal arts disciplines and emerging technology. In our commitment to this pedagogical approach, we continue to update our curriculum by adding minors and electives from diverse fields such as artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, analytics, biomimicry, sociology, economics, behavioural science and public policy. This enables our students to understand the world critically and become solutionaries.



'Our DesignX pedagogy is about breaking down walls between disciplines. We are teaching students to see the world not in silos but as an interconnected landscape where solutions emerge when one looks beyond conventional boundaries. At Anant, we prepare young minds to think differently and connect dots that others might miss.'

**Pramath Raj Sinha**

Founding Provost, Board Member

# A Father's Vision, A Daughter's Victory

## Amit Mehta

CEO, Maa Foundation, Bilakhia Group  
Anant Parent

Valsad, Gujarat

As a key member of Anant National University's founding team and CEO of Maa Foundation, the non-profit arm of Bilakhia Group, Amit Mehta brings valuable perspective on education and social impact to Anant's development.

**'It was very clear that this isn't going to be an ordinary institution,'** Mehta reflects, noting Anant's commitment to excellence - from its master plan by world-renowned planners to its focus on faculty quality. He values how students learn not just from faculty, but from peers across programmes, enriched by the diverse perspectives of Anant Fellows.

This environment proved ideal for his daughter Shreya, who chose Anant over international opportunities, graduating as valedictorian in 2022. Now, she applies her DesignX education at Bilakhia Group, designing their Corporate Experience Centre and developing initiatives for workplace culture. As a solutionary leader, Mehta remains committed to Anant's growth, particularly in emerging fields like climate action.





# Putting the X in DesignX

**James Hegarty**  
SCoPE Scholar | Faculty  
United Kingdom

James Hegarty is a professor at Cardiff University, an Anant partner. **As a SCoPE scholar and visiting faculty at Anant, he collaborated on research and engaged in scholarly activities to address the disconnect between ancient wisdom and modern problem-solving through storytelling.**

Taking a solutionary approach to education, he has created the Katha Bija programme, which transforms the timeless narratives of the Ramayana and Mahabharata into tools for contemporary design thinking. These epics, rich with themes of love, loss and human experience, provide 'story seeds' for students to cultivate into their own creative solutions.

Dr Hegarty champions the idea that 'it's traditional to innovate', highlighting how these ancient stories have been reimagined over centuries. Through the Katha Bija exercise, students develop their narratives by integrating research, creativity and collaboration, creating solutions that bridge cultural understanding with modern challenges. His work demonstrates how storytelling can transform complex religious ideas into practical solutions, engaging communities through storytelling festivals.



# Inclusive Excellence

Anant is democratising access to world-class design education. Our innovative multilingual admissions process ensures equal opportunity for talented students nationwide, fostering a diverse community of creative thinkers on campus. We're breaking traditional language barriers through the Anant Design Entrance and Proficiency Test (ADEPT), India's first and only multilingual design aptitude test in English, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and Tamil. Combined with comprehensive need-based financial aid covering up to 100% of tuition fees, this pioneering initiative makes quality design education accessible to talented students across linguistic and economic spectrums.

**The Diversity and Inclusion Report, 2024-25 celebrates the diverse solutionaries at Anant, harnessing their unique viewpoints to address global challenges. By leveraging their varied experiences, we empower our community to develop innovative solutions that align with our mission of positively impacting the world.**

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





# ADEPT

The Anant Design Entrance and Proficiency Test (ADEPT) is a groundbreaking initiative that democratises access to design education in India. By offering the exam in five languages – English, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and Tamil – and with plans to expand this to include more Indian languages, we aim to ensure that linguistic ability does not act as a barrier, enabling talented individuals from different language backgrounds to access equal opportunities. This inclusive approach empowers students from diverse backgrounds to showcase their abilities and potential. ADEPT evaluates candidates' creative aptitude, logical reasoning and problem-solving skills, providing a fair assessment irrespective of their primary language.

Through this attempt, Anant seeks to cultivate a new generation of innovators equipped to address global challenges through design thinking. By breaking down language barriers, Anant positions itself as a leader in design education, making it accessible to a wider pool of talented individuals.

**In the 2024-25 admission cycle, 43 applicants opted for ADEPT in various Indian languages**

**17 of these students have joined the Anant BDes Class of 2028.**





# Breaking Barriers

At Anant, we provide comprehensive support to first-generation learners pursuing higher education. Our commitment extends beyond financial assistance, encompassing a holistic academic support system.

Through seamless collaboration between the Office of Student Services and the Writing and Communications Studio, we actively work to enhance the university experience for our students. Our coordinated efforts across departments create a nurturing environment where first-generation learners receive dedicated guidance at each stage of their academic journey, ensuring they have every opportunity to excel in their studies.





# Anant's Rising Toy Designer

## Muhammad Hussain

Bachelor of Design, 2028

Patna, Bihar

Muhammad Hussain, a foundation year Bachelor of Design student at Anant emerges as a solutionary through his innovative approach to toy-making. This first-generation college student transforms simple materials into wondrous toys that spark joy in children's hearts.

**His exceptional talent earned him the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar in 2024 - India's highest recognition for young achievers.** Among 1.9 million applicants, he stood out as one of just 19 winners. His craftsmanship also won him the Gold Prize at the 2022 National Art Festival, competing with 800 others and recognition from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who accepted his handcrafted musical toy.

Now at Anant supported by full financial aid, this young solutionary explores ways to merge artificial intelligence with traditional toy making, reimagining how children learn and play.





# Empowering Dreams

Anant National University's financial aid programme has provided over ₹28 crores in need and merit-based support to 1142 students, ensuring financial constraints do not hinder access to high-quality education. This commitment to inclusivity reflects our vision of creating a diverse community where students learn from each other and the curriculum, developing their full potential regardless of socio-economic background.

## Since Inception

Financial Aid Awarded: ₹ 28 Cr | Students Receiving Aid: 1142

### For AY 2024-25

Total Financial Aid Awarded: ₹ 6 Cr

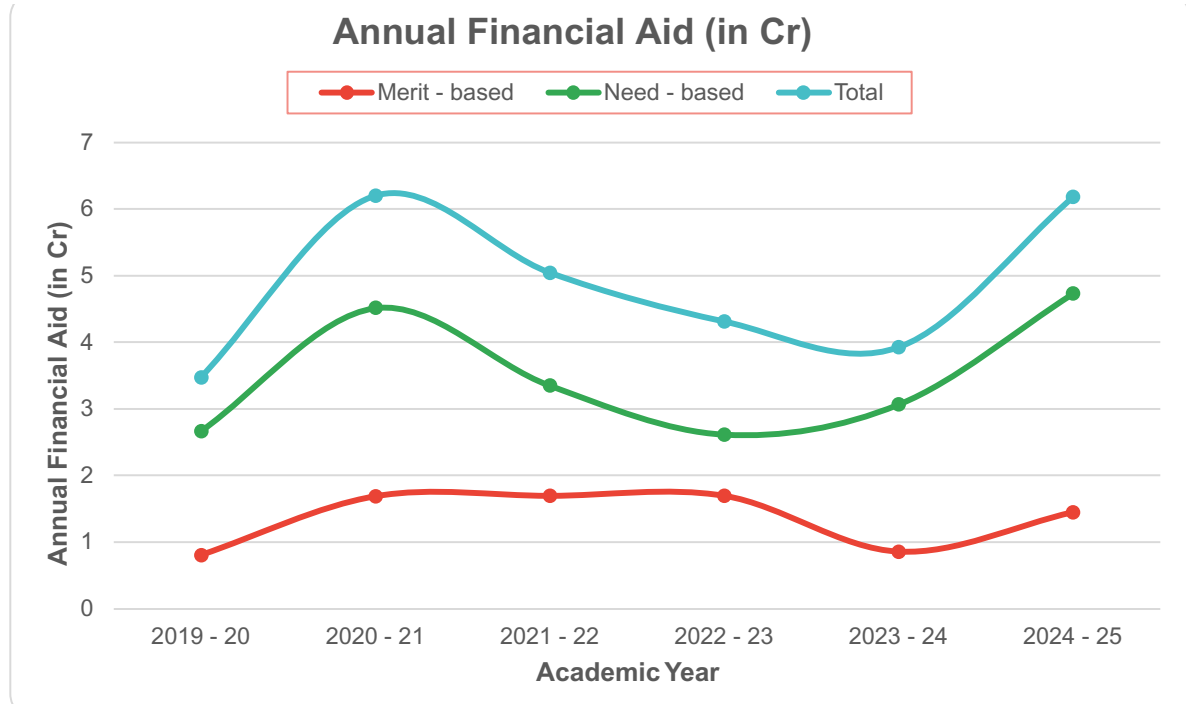
### Average Need Based Financial Aid

Undergraduate: ₹ 2.3 Lakhs/Student

Graduate: ₹ 1.44 Lakhs/Student

Fellowship: ₹ 4 Lakhs/Student

**46% of fellows come from families with annual income under ₹ 5 Lakhs per annum**



*'At Anant, we look beyond financial barriers. Our commitment is to transform potential into possibility, ensuring talented students can pursue their passion and be a solutionary. We break down economic obstacles through our need-based and merit-based financial aid, empowering students to shape their future without compromise'*

## Yuvarajsinh Zala

Chief Finance & Accounts Officer &  
Head of HR & Administration

Anant National University

# Building Myanmar's Future

## Van Hlei Thang

Anant Fellowship for Sustainability  
and Built Environment, 2024

Chin State, Myanmar

Growing up on a church campus in Myanmar's Chin State, one of South Asia's lesser developed regions, Van witnessed how economic disparities created invisible barriers, even in sacred spaces. These experiences shaped his vision as an architect committed to social impact.

**The military coup in Myanmar disrupted his plans to develop affordable housing in Chin State. Still, Van redirected his efforts to helping displaced communities rebuild shelters, collaborating with informal groups in rural areas.**

Now part of our flagship programme, the Anant Fellowship on 90% financial aid, Van is expanding his expertise beyond traditional architecture. He values the fellowship's multidisciplinary approach as vital for Myanmar's future reconstruction. "We have to build our nation from the ashes again," he reflects.

A solutionary at heart, Van integrates sustainable design, community engagement and social impact strategies. His work bridges immediate shelter needs and long-term development goals, aiming to empower Myanmar's most vulnerable communities.





# From Many, One

Since its establishment in 2016, Anant has demonstrated remarkable growth and achievement, garnering international recognition. The university comprises 4 schools, 12 centres, 10 programmes, 257 faculty members, 147 staff members and 1,826 students. Through its innovative portfolio of UG, PG, Doctoral and Fellowship programmes, Anant enables students to pursue their passions, broaden their perspectives and make meaningful contributions to society.

**Student diversity at Anant Represents: 40 Countries | 26 Indian States  
254 Cities | 7 Union territories**

**Faculty and Staff from 4 Countries | 20 states and UT across India**

**30% Male | 70% Female**

Anant's commitment to celebrating diversity reflects our understanding that our community comprises people from varied cultural backgrounds. Through thoughtful initiatives, we strive to create an inclusive space where everyone feels welcomed and valued. Our monthly Community Cookout centred around India's culinary heritage brings together students, faculty and staff to share authentic regional dishes, fostering meaningful cultural exchange and cultivating essential tolerance and mutual understanding values.





# Redefining Identity and Empowering Communities

## Kranti Gagdekar Chhara

Bachelor of Visual Art, 2025

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Kranti is creating innovative approaches to visual storytelling. Originally from Chharanagar in Ahmedabad, home to the Chhara community, a Denotified Tribe, she's developing fresh artistic perspectives that merge traditional narratives with contemporary techniques.

**Kranti's distinctive visual style attracted Netflix India, leading to five commissioned artworks for their 'Frames of Love' project.** Her illustrations demonstrate a breakthrough in storytelling methodology, combining cultural authenticity with modern artistic expression. At Anant, this young visionary is experimenting with mixed media techniques, combining traditional illustration with digital tools. Her current project documenting Chhara women's lives blends hand-drawn portraits with digital storytelling elements.

Kranti's vision of designing video games showcases her innovative approach to visual problem-solving, exploring how interactive digital art can create immersive storytelling experiences that resonate across cultural boundaries.





# Academics @ Anant

Since its founding in 2016 with the School of Design (SoD) and School of Architecture (SoA), Anant has experienced remarkable growth driven by its commitment to design solutions. Recognising that today's multifaceted problems require diverse expertise, the University has expanded to include the Anant School for Climate Action (ASCA) and the School of Creative Practices and Entrepreneurship (SCoPE). The institutional transformation has been strategic, purposefully shaping Anant into a multifaceted educational powerhouse. Its commitment to innovation and impact-driven learning is evident in the diverse programme offerings, catering to students at all levels of study.



'Through our DesignX approach, we shape solutionaries who see design as more than just buildings. It's about building connections between people, culture and the environment. The Anant campus brings this vision to life, where every architectural detail sparks learning and discovery. Our open spaces break free from traditional classroom limits, while flexible learning areas and interactive courtyards create spaces where learning flows naturally. Every design choice, from walkways to gathering spots, creates an environment that promotes innovation, sustainability and human-centric solutions'.

## **Rajeev Kathpalia**

Chair Professor, School of Architecture, Anant

Designated Partner, Vastushilpa Sangath LLP (Formerly Vastu Shilpa Consultants)

Architect, Upcoming Academic Block 4, Anant



# Threading the Needle Between Tradition and Tech

## Irena Romendik

Artist | Faculty

Kyiv, Ukraine

Irena Romendik, a multidisciplinary artist from Kyiv, Ukraine, brings three decades of creative experience to Anant. Her remarkable career spans theatrical costume design, children's book illustrations, video game development and experimental art installations - including a performance piece featuring a dress crocheted from chicken bones.

Her journey to Anant began during the pandemic with free online drawing classes. After conducting a portrait session with Anant faculty, she was invited to lead a workshop, which evolved into a comprehensive teaching role. She now leads courses in interaction design, design methods and analytical structural drawing.

As a solutionary bridging cultural heritage with modern technology, Irena is developing new curricula that blend traditional techniques with emerging technologies. At Anant's upcoming media lab, she focuses on virtual reality and non-destructive art restoration, making art conservation more accessible through innovative solutions.





# Where Art Meets Education: A Father's Perspective

## Bose Krishnamachari

Co-founder of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale  
Anant Parent

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Renowned artist and curator Bose Krishnamachari brings insights on creative education to Anant, where his daughter Kannaki is studying Visual Arts. **He sees Anant as 'working for the future' through its innovative integration of technology, art and design.** Having curated major art initiatives globally, Bose values Anant's emphasis on creating spaces for open dialogue, comparing it to historical models like Shantiniketan. He notes that the University's central cafeteria acts as a vital hub for intellectual exchange between students and faculty.

'A teacher should always be a friend to a student,' Bose observes, endorsing Anant's approach of bringing diverse external voices to campus. As a solutionary in art education, he envisions Anant's potential to create borderless learning experiences where technology, art and aesthetics converge, shaping future leaders who can think critically and innovate.





# Animating Progressive Education

## Pradipta Ray

Film Maker | Faculty

Kolkata, West Bengal

Pradipta Ray is a filmmaker and animation artist from Kolkata. Known for her award-winning short films and her work at institutions across India and Germany, Pradipta joined Anant in 2023 to teach animation in the communication design programme.

What stands out for her is the University's progressive environment and inclusive ethos. 'I felt so at home from day one,' she says, praising the institution's commitment to fostering creativity and addressing contemporary challenges. **She admires the students' awareness of pressing global issues and their design approach to problem-solving.**

For Pradipta, Anant is more than an institution—it's 'a movement,' equipping students to tackle modern challenges through its DesignX pedagogy. Currently working on two feature films and an animation project, she remains eager to contribute to Anant's transformative vision for design education.





# Empowering Solutionaries

'Being a solutionary, I think, is fundamentally about design problem-solving, but in an emotional way. It means being the bridge between different perspectives, learning to understand all sides of the story and finding the right path to resolution. Just like in design, it's about knowing what to communicate, how to communicate it and having the voice to drive meaningful change.'

## **Samriddhi Shetty**

Bachelor of Design, 2026

Major: Product Design | Minor: Interaction Design

Residence Assistant

Udupi, Karnataka





# Weaving Tradition and Innovation

**Amit Prabhakar**  
Weaver | Lab Technician  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

At Anant's Textile Lab, Amit is a solutionary weaver who bridges generational craft wisdom with contemporary innovation. He carries four generations of weaving heritage, specialising in traditional bedsheets and towels. At age 12, he learned to create intricate 'pasedi' fabrics under his father and grandfather's guidance.

Amit addresses the disconnect between traditional craftsmanship and modern design needs as a solutionary in Anant's Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design labs. He transforms ancestral techniques through experimentation with new materials and technology, creating carpets and stoles that honour tradition while meeting contemporary demands.

Working alongside professors and industry experts, Amit has evolved into an artisan and a teacher. His work, recently featured in Anant's Diwali gift boxes, demonstrates how traditional weaving can adapt to modern markets while preserving its essential character.





# Embracing Diversity, Inspiring Change

## Keshika Tank

Bachelor of Design, 2027

Major: Interaction Design | Minor: Design  
Entrepreneurship

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Keshika embodies the transformative power of diverse educational environments. From Ahmedabad's culturally homogeneous background, her perspective has evolved significantly through exposure to Anant's diverse community.

**Her commitment to inclusion is evident in 'Tic-Tac-Show', an innovative card game she developed to address gender discrimination in the workplace.** Based on extensive research into gender inequalities, she wants this educational tool to be implemented in institutions and organisations to foster more inclusive workplaces. Building on this momentum, Keshika now aims to tackle another crucial aspect of gender awareness: menstrual education for adolescent boys. She wants to normalise these essential conversations by developing interactive educational tools and bridging the information gap.

Supported by Anant's nurturing environment of faculty and peers, Keshika continues to challenge societal norms through creative solutions. Her journey shows how diversity in education catalyses innovation and drives positive social change.





# Breaking Boundaries through Healthcare, Product Design, Architecture and Technology

## Ali-Asgar Chunawala

Alumni (MDes) | Teaching Assistant

Dahod, Gujarat

Ali comes from Dahod, a unique town at the intersection of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. With a foundation in architecture, he discovered his passion for creating designs that directly impact people's lives, exploring how architectural spaces could aid mental healing.

During his Master of Design in Integrated Product Design at Anant, where he later joined as a teaching assistant, he tackled challenges across multiple disciplines. His projects ranged from advanced military robotics to autonomous camera systems. **One of his notable achievements at Anant was designing a patented compression jacket for arthritis patients, supported by a ₹9,000 SSIP grant.**

From healing spaces to military robotics and medical product design, Ali continues to bridge architecture, technology and healthcare as faculty at KMCT School of Design at Mukkam, creating solutions that improve people's lives.





# A Sustainable Vision for Fashion's Future

## Dinie Van Den Heuvel

PhD in Design Excellence | Faculty  
Eindhoven, Netherlands

Dinie is a sustainable fashion designer from the Netherlands. With 26 years of experience in sustainable fashion design, she is now pursuing her PhD at Anant, where she transforms her philosophy into groundbreaking professional ventures. Dinie brings her industry expertise to the classroom while focusing her doctoral research on bridging the knowledge-implementation gap in sustainable design education.

**As a solutionary in the fashion industry, she confronts the disconnect between theoretical sustainability knowledge and practical design implementation.** Her solution combines hands-on design innovation with educational transformation, creating frameworks that help designers translate sustainability principles into actionable practices. Her connection with India spans decades, driven by her appreciation for the country's rich textile heritage and inherent sustainable practices.



# Crafting Sustainable Solutions

## Tsetan Dolma

Bachelor of Design, 2027

Major: Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design | Minor: Interaction Design

Changthang, Ladakh

From the vibrant region of Changthang, Ladakh, Tsetan Dolma is reimagining sustainable fashion by blending traditional craftsmanship with modern solutions. At Anant, she combines her cultural heritage with innovative approaches to tackle environmental challenges in fashion.

Tsetan's solutionary mindset is evident in her projects, such as transforming discarded t-shirts into fashionable pieces using crochet techniques. By repurposing waste into wearable art, she demonstrates how traditional skills like crocheting and embroidery can address modern sustainability issues. Her work bridges the gap between preserving cultural traditions and meeting contemporary design needs.

Tsetan plans to explore sustainable fashion strategies, focusing on practical, impactful solutions. Her journey reflects the essence of being a solutionary—embracing diverse perspectives and traditional practices to create meaningful change in the fashion industry.





# Innovating Solutions

'At Anant School for Climate Action, we believe diversity powers our climate solutions. Our students, from first-generation learners to seasoned professionals, bring perspectives from every corner of India and beyond. The youngest fellow in the Anant Fellowship for Climate Action cohort of 2025 is 17 years old, while the oldest is 48, coming from 9 different countries. In our Bachelor of Technology in Climate Change, the gender representation is balanced, with 45% male students and 55% female students. Through this programme, we are pioneering India's first undergraduate climate-focused programme, preparing students to tackle climate-related challenges with both technological expertise and diverse perspectives. The research centre Anant Centre for Sustainability and the Anant Climate Lab, both of which are part of the Anant School for Climate Action, strengthen this vision through comprehensive climate research and practical solutions.'

## Miniya Chatterji

Founding Director, Anant School for Climate Action

Chief Executive Officer, Sustain Labs Paris





# Engineering Nature's Solutions

## Riya Gupta

BTech in Climate Change

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Riya Gupta is channelling her passion for sustainability into creating practical solutions for pressing environmental challenges. This young solutionary from Varanasi leads multiple innovative climate action projects.

Her flagship project, backed by a ₹ 2.5 lakh i-HUB grant, addresses a critical paradox in air purification. While traditional air purifiers clean our air, they eventually end up in landfills. **Riya's solution is a completely biodegradable moss filter air purifier that tackles air pollution without creating waste.** With support from MIT Solve, a partner of Anant School for Climate Action, her second project develops an algae-based carbon capture system that doubles as a biofuel producer. Her third innovation transforms discarded pomegranate peels into copper oxide nanoparticles for industrial wastewater treatment.

Outside the lab, Riya is an accomplished dancer who is now exploring aerial dance, bringing a creative perspective to her scientific work.





# Leading Creative Initiatives at Anant

## Ravice Rashid

Artist In Residence

Wathora, Kashmir

Ravice Rashid is an artist from Kashmir who uses theatre to bring attention to environmental crises in his homeland. On stage, he tells diverse stories from Dudh Ganga's (Milk River) pollution to Kashmir's vanishing forests, creating performances that stir communities into action.

**Born into a family of musicians and theatre artists and the first in his family to graduate from University, Ravice carries forward his artistic legacy while fighting for Kashmir's environment.** In times of turmoil, his theatre became a sanctuary where Kashmir's stories could still be told.

As an Artist in Residence at Anant, he has conducted a workshop on 'Role of Design in Theatre' and directed a cross-cultural production of the Ramayana for Diwali. Through his upcoming 'Art for All' programme, he aims to create platforms where the entire University community can come together to share their creativity, bridging cultural divides through artistic expression.



# Centres @ Anant

Anant National University's 12 centres of excellence empower students to become solutionaries by blending diverse disciplinary perspectives with hands-on research and curriculum development. These centres ignite passions, foster innovation and equip future leaders with the knowledge and skills to tackle real-world challenges effectively.

## **Aarambh Incubation Centre**

The incubation centre supports entrepreneurship and innovation at Anant National University. It provides mentorship and investor connections for new ventures. The Centre operates a Tinkering Lab to develop innovative solutions.

## **Anant Centre for Documentation and Design of Crafts (ACDC)**

The Centre preserves and revitalises traditional Indian crafts through research and the Mind to Market approach. It documents artisanal techniques, facilitates designer partnerships and creates contemporary applications.

## **Anant Centre for Sustainability (ACfS)**

This Centre operates as a 'think-do-teach' tank for sustainable development. It focuses on affordable housing and circular economy models. The Centre develops sustainable education campuses across India.

## **Anant Centre for Visual Arts (ACVA)**

This dynamic hub promotes creative expression and critical thinking. It emphasises interdisciplinary learning in visual arts. The Centre provides platforms for artistic exploration and development.

## **Bloom: Centre for Wellbeing (Bloom)**

The Centre focuses on holistic development within the university community. It maintains a nurturing environment for personal growth. The Centre offers workshops and programmes for psychological support.

'Aarambh is an incubation centre where design thinking drives innovation. We stand alongside rising entrepreneurs, helping secure their intellectual property, with 126 IPRs filed and connecting them with industry mentors who understand their vision. As Anant's hub for entrepreneurship, we empower the Anant community to experiment with transformative ideas. With ₹2 Cr in funds raised, our integrated approach combines practical business development with innovative learning, helping turn bold visions into sustainable enterprises that create lasting impact.'

## **Dhara Thakore**

Head, Aarambh Incubation Centre, Office of Career Services  
and Handmade@Anant



**Centre for Behavioural Science and Design (CBSD)**

The Centre integrates behavioural science with design principles. It develops human-centred solutions for various challenges. The Centre prioritises sustainable and environmentally conscious approaches.

**Centre for Moving Image (CMI)**

This hub specialises in visual storytelling and cinematic arts. It provides practical experience in film production. The Centre combines design thinking with filmmaking practices.

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

The Centre advances public policy education through innovative programmes, where policy is seen as a product of design. It partners with Communeeti to develop policy expertise and strategic solutions. By shaping future leadership in public policy, the Centre fosters an understanding of policy as a design-driven process.

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

The Centre researches economic and cultural values in human settlements. It examines the dynamics of urban development. The Centre analyses the relationships between urbanism and economics.

**Centre of Design Education (CODE)**

The Centre promotes design thinking across educational institutions. It develops specialised courses for students, parents, educators and school administration. The Centre supports the integration of design into school curricula.

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

This global think tank promotes inclusive leadership practices. It aligns initiatives with UN sustainable development goals. The Centre advances sustainable heritage development.

**Writing and Communication Studio**

The studio enhances writing skills through structured workshops. It delivers modules for professional communication development. The Centre provides comprehensive support for academic writing.

**‘The journey of a solutionary is rarely a straight path. At Bloom, we understand that challenges are part of growth. We’re here to equip students with the emotional resilience, mental strength and support they require to navigate obstacles, transform struggles into learning and emerge stronger.’**

**Jasmine Gohil**

Head, Office of Student Services | Bloom Centre for Wellbeing  
Professor and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

# Blending Tradition with Innovation

## Rameshbhai Kotwaliya

Artisan in Residence

Narmada, Gujarat

Rameshbhai, a bamboo artisan from Gujarat's Dabka village, transformed his ancestral craft through innovative solutions. Having learned bamboo crafting from his father to make traditional items like toplas and toplis, his journey took a new direction through Anant's Anushilp 'Artisan in Residence Programme', in collaboration with US-India Foundation, an Anant partner.

**As a solutionary craftsman, Rameshbhai tackled the declining demand for traditional bamboo items that threatened his community's livelihoods and generational craft heritage.** Through Anushilp, he gained access to modern tools and expert mentorship, enabling him to blend traditional techniques with contemporary design. This adaptation doubled his income and led to prestigious projects like creating bamboo gift boxes for the G20 summit.

He developed solutions for efficient production, sustainable sourcing and modern aesthetics while maintaining authenticity. Beyond personal success, Rameshbhai shares his knowledge with fellow artisans, showing how traditional crafts can evolve thoughtfully to meet contemporary needs.





# Life @ Anant

Life at Anant is a heady mixture of aesthetic experiences, youthful verve and community living. The campus is vibrant with cultural activities throughout the academic year. The campus hosts various events across seasons, from sports tournaments and talent showcases to community celebrations and traditional festivities. Students participate in competitions, artistic performances, food festivals and cultural exhibitions, contributing to a rich community life. Notable events like Khoj, ANUratri and Food Fiesta offer students opportunities to showcase their talents and build connections.

With the support of over 20 student-led clubs, Anant has organised 260+ events so far, providing numerous opportunities for students to engage with diverse art forms and traditions and fostering lasting community connections.





# Leading with Heart and Solutions at Anant

## Aaditya Dubey

Bachelor of Design, 2025

Major : Interaction Design

Minor: Communication Design

Jaipur, Rajasthan

Aaditya Dubey demonstrates his solutionary spirit through focused projects and leadership roles. As General Secretary of the Student Council, this Jaipur native works on initiatives that connect the student community.

**One of his key projects involves teaching children about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through an innovative board game design.** His systematic approach to improving campus life is evident in his work on dining services, where he collaborated with faculty to develop better nutrition models that could be implemented at other institutions.

From successfully organising a Janmashtami celebration to leading multiple cultural events, Aaditya brings students together through meaningful campus activities. As a young solutionary, he combines his design education with practical implementation, creating tangible improvements in the University experience.





# Beyond Classroom

'As India's first designX institution of higher learning, Anant National University's position as the Indian host of WITH Festival has special significance. The festival, dedicated to building a global community of purposeful storytellers, has a strong alignment with Anant's core goal of preparing "solutionaries" for the contemporary world. WITH Festival counts on values-driven partnerships across borders to ensure the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives from the margins of society.'

## Sanjeev Chatterjee

Convener, WITH Festival

Faculty, Anant Fellowship for Sustainability and Built Environment

Professor, University of Miami | Founder, Media for Change



Scan for more information





# Global Partnerships

Anant National University has significantly expanded its global and national partnerships this academic year, fostering collaborations with leading academic institutions, government and non-government organisations and industry leaders. With over **65 MoUs** signed with premier institutions such as UPenn, the University of Miami, Salzburg Global and Virginia Commonwealth University, we provide a rich environment for students to become solutionaries.

'The Salzburg Global Seminar opened up new perspectives for my academic journey. Through Anant National University, I collaborated with experts from different countries and backgrounds, gaining valuable feedback on my sustainability projects. This demonstrates how Anant helps students become global problem-solvers by connecting us with diverse perspectives and approaches to create positive change.'

## Prerana NT

Valedictorian, Anant Fellowship for Sustainability and Built Environment, 2023

Bangalore, Karnataka





# A Tapestry of Diversity and Solutionary Vision

## Oleena Chaudhari

Anant Fellowship for Sustainability and Built Environment, 2021

Kolkata, West Bengal

Raised in Kolkata, Oleena's interest in human movement and migration was shaped by her grandmother's stories of their family's forced relocation from Bangladesh to India in the 1940s. After completing her bachelor's in political science from St Xavier's College, her passion for policy and human development took her to the Netherlands for a double master's programme - a degree in public policy from Maastricht University and human development from the United Nations University. In the Netherlands, Oleena worked with Dutch diplomats to develop integration policies for refugees from Palestine, Syria and Afghanistan, establishing her as a humanitarian solutionary.

At the Anant Fellowship for Built Environment, cohort 2021, Oleena applied her social science expertise to built environment challenges. During the Fellowship, she received both the Anant Fellow of the Year and the President's Academic Performance awards.

After the Fellowship, Oleena joined UNESCO, working with the Director as a Cultural Heritage Policy Researcher. Today, as a senior consultant at Grant Thornton's Global Research Centre, she advises international businesses on cross-border expansion.





# Charting the Path Forward

As we reflect on the milestones shared in this year's Diversity and Inclusion report, it is clear that diversity and inclusion are not just aspirations at Anant; they are the foundation of our vision. Each member of the Anant community brings unique perspectives that fuel innovation and inspire impactful solutions.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the Anant community for being a part of this transformative journey. Your contributions enrich our collective mission and ensure Anant continues to thrive as a beacon of inclusive excellence.

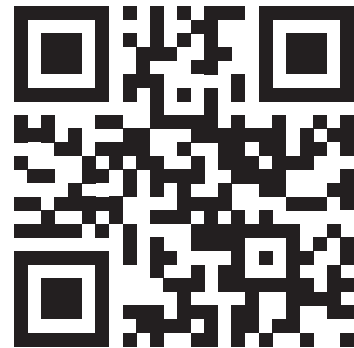
Together, we are creating a future where design thinking, diverse perspectives and shared empathy drive collective action, empowering our solutionaries for a positive and lasting change.





## To know more about Anant

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