



## **Anant National University Organises Interactive Sessions on Design Thinking and Innovation with School Students and Educators in Patna**

**Ahmedabad, 17 January 2025:** Anant National University, led by the Centre of Design Education (CODE), an Anant initiative for schools to create awareness amongst students and teachers about design thinking and design as a discipline, organised interactive sessions on Design Thinking and Innovation at four educational institutions in Patna. These included Manava Bharati International School (MBIS), Kilkari Bal Bhawan, Delhi Public School (DPS) and Notre Dame Academy. The sessions inspired students to explore design fundamentals and innovation, be curious and empathetic, embrace creativity and become adept problem-solvers.

Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant National University and Prof Amitabh Pandey, Professor and Lead, Communication Design, School of Design, led the sessions. They highlighted the relevance of ancient knowledge in addressing contemporary problems and encouraged students to think beyond textbooks and engage with real-world issues. The students were also encouraged to hone their entrepreneurial skills without limiting their aspirations to traditional career paths and become job creators rather than job seekers.

The sessions explored how design thinking integrates multiple disciplines to solve problems, highlighting design as a mega discipline that unites humanities, commerce and science. Through this interdisciplinary approach, students learned to blend analytical reasoning and strategic thinking to design solutions to problems that the world faces.

Dr Rajendra Singh, the 'Waterman of India,' and his groundbreaking work in the Chambal region served as a powerful example of design thinking in action. Dr Singh's use of traditional water conservation techniques, like building johads (earthen dams) to restore groundwater and rejuvenate rivers, showed how ancient methods can effectively address modern problems, reviving ecosystems and sustaining livelihoods.

Talking on the occasion, Dr Chaubey said, "Every problem carries the seed of a solution within it. What we need is curiosity, empathy and boldness to challenge conventions. Introducing Design Thinking in school education gives young minds the courage to redefine how they see the world and fosters empathy, creativity and structured problem-solving. This approach prepares them to tackle real-world challenges meaningfully and equips them with the tools to create sustainable, innovative solutions."

Prof Pandey added, "The ability to think creatively and critically will define the leaders of tomorrow. By nurturing these skills early, we are not just solving today's problems; we're building a generation equipped to handle the challenges of the future."

Apart from the students, these sessions also drew renowned educators, academicians and advisors. This included Dr Rajeshwar Mishra, a well-known academician, Kilkari Bal Bhawan's director, Jyoti Parihar and members of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

The sessions aligned with Anant National University's mission to integrate sustainability, design and innovation into education. Anant partners with schools through CODE (Centre of Design Education) to build students' critical thinking and problem-solving capacity at an early age, nurturing future leaders ready to make meaningful impacts. CODE, in line with National Education Policy 2020, works towards creating awareness amongst students and teachers about design thinking and design as a discipline. Through the specially created courses and workshops for schools across the country, the centre helps them implement NEP's recommendation to integrate design thinking into their curriculum.

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### **About 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 Design X 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 understand our world better and to 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.

Anant National University has been awarded the prestigious '5-Star Rating' in the category of Architecture and a '4-Star Rating' in the University category in Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) 2023-24. This recognition reinforces our commitment to creating a world-class institution of great eminence and excellence.