

Press Release

Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant National University, Creates Awareness About Design Thinking and Interdisciplinary Learning During Kashmir Visit

Ahmedabad, 11 April 2025: Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost of Anant National University, interacted with the media during his visit to Kashmir from 9-15 April 2025 to create awareness amongst students and educators about design thinking and design as a discipline. Through impactful workshops for both students and teachers and meetings with distinguished leaders, Dr Chaubey showcased Anant National University's pioneering approach to design education, sustainability and innovation.

As part of his itinerary, Dr Chaubey led a series of hands-on workshops at prominent schools, including Birla Open Minds School, NIPS, Chenab Valley School in Pampore, and DPS Budgam. These sessions were aimed at inspiring students to delve into design fundamentals, cultivate innovative thinking and embrace a problem-solving mindset. The sessions also explored how design thinking integrates multiple disciplines to solve problems, highlighting design as a mega discipline that unites the humanities, commerce and science. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students learnt to blend analytical reasoning and strategic thinking to design solutions to problems that the world faces.

These workshops aligned with Anant National University's mission to integrate sustainability, design and innovation into education, as well as the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which advocates inculcating design thinking at an early stage to foster critical thinking and innovation.

During the visit, Dr Chaubey also met some prominent figures from J&K, including Mr Tassaduq Mufti, former Tourism Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, and Mr Mussarat Zia, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom, J&K. Additionally, he visited Islamia College Srinagar and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar sharing insights into the role of design education in driving societal and environmental change. Furthermore, Dr Chaubey engaged with representatives from private schools across Srinagar and North Kashmir to explore collaborative opportunities to incorporate design thinking into school curricula.

One of the key focuses of Dr Chaubey's visit was to highlight Anant National University's unique propositions in design education. The university's interdisciplinary curriculum, practical and multidisciplinary pedagogical methods, strong industry-academia connections,

and focus on community immersion prepare students to become adept problem solvers. By combining theoretical expertise with hands-on engagement, Anant National University ensures that its graduates are equipped to tackle the complex challenges of today's world.

Dr Chaubey's visit to Kashmir left a profound and lasting impression on students and educators, sparking meaningful discussions around design education, critical thinking and sustainable problem-solving. Through his engagements, Dr Chaubey further solidified Anant National University's role as a leader in design education and innovation.

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.