



Ahmedabad  
University

## Profiles of Winter Immersion 2025

### Keynote Speaker



**Name:** Professor Pankaj Chandra

**Position:** Vice Chancellor of Ahmedabad University

**Bio:** Professor Pankaj Chandra is the Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the Board at Ahmedabad University, with a distinguished career in academia and leadership. Previously, he was Director of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB), and has taught at leading institutions worldwide, including McGill University, The Wharton School, and IIM Ahmedabad. His notable roles include Chairperson of the Doctoral Program at IIM

Ahmedabad, Associate Dean (Academic) at ISB Hyderabad, and founding Chairperson of the Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM Ahmedabad.

Beyond his academic achievements, Professor Chandra has significantly influenced higher education policy through his work on several government committees in India, including those on the development of the informal sector and the rejuvenation of higher education. His research interests encompass manufacturing management, supply chain coordination, and technological capabilities, and he has a strong record of publications and editorial work. In addition to his scholarly pursuits, he is actively involved in startups and consulting, showcasing his broad expertise and commitment to fostering innovation.

### Winter Immersion Team



**Name:** Molly Kaushal

**Position:** Professor and Head

**Bio:** Molly Kaushal, former Professor and Head of the Janapada Sampada Division at IGNCA, is a folklorist with a PhD in Russian and Indian Folklore from Moscow State University. She served as Mission Director for the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, Ministry of Culture, India. With over 30 years of experience, she has led numerous research initiatives, notably on the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and worked extensively with the Gaddi community. She revitalised the



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Ramman ritual theatre and initiated India's first web-based national inventory for intangible cultural heritage. She has curated exhibitions festivals, and directed ethnographic films, collaborating with UNESCO on various projects.



**Name:** Anubhooti Arora

**Position:** Director, International Affairs

**Bio:** With over 11 years of international education and public diplomacy experience, Anubhooti holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India and graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. As the All-India Higher Education Policy Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, she played a pivotal role in shaping the U.S.-India higher education bilateral relationship through flagship projects, earning her Embassy's Mission Honour Awards. Anubhooti led the launch of Coursera's inaugural online Indian degrees for global audiences. At Ahmedabad University, she works with the Vice Chancellor's office to forge meaningful partnerships with Global Universities, foreign missions in India and international organisations. She works closely with students to build a culture of internationalisation on campus and through global immersion programmes.

## Eminent Speakers



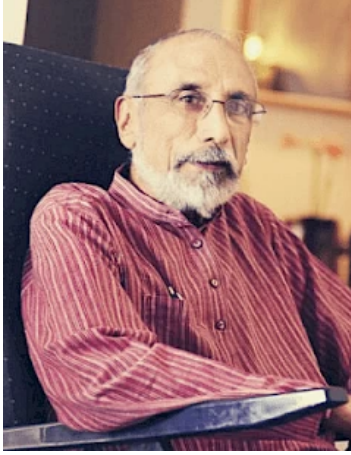
**Name:** Parag Patel

**Position:** Senior Associate Dean & Associate Professor

**Bio:** Professor Parag Patel, with 25 years of experience in teaching, research, consulting, and academic administration, is the Senior Associate Dean of Amrut Mody School of Management at Ahmedabad University. He has served in key roles such as Associate Dean and Director at various institutions and holds influential positions in organizations like AACSB International and FICCI. With an M.Phil., PhD, and a program from the University of Cambridge, he advises HDFC Education and serves on several boards. Renowned for his expertise in capital markets, he has been featured on national TV. Recognized by the World Education Congress, he has significantly impacted educational transformation.



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**Name:** Ashoke Chatterjee

**Position: Advisor:** Centre for Heritage Management

**Bio:** Professor Ashoke Chatterjee, educated at Woodstock School, St Stephen's College, and Miami University (Ohio), has a varied background in engineering, international civil service, and the India Tourism Development Corporation. He spent 25 years at the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad, serving in key roles. He has contributed to sectors such as drinking water, sanitation, disability, livelihoods, education, and artisan support. As Honorary President of the Crafts Council of India for over 20 years, he continues his involvement. An accomplished

author, he remains active in design education in India and Pakistan. He lives in Ahmedabad with his family.



**Name:** Mona Mehta

**Position:** Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Arts

**Bio:** Professor Mona G. Mehta is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Arts at Ahmedabad University's School of Arts and Sciences. A political scientist, she focuses on urban transformations, democracy, and middle-class politics in Gujarat and India. Her current book project examines the cultural politics of urban transformations post-liberalisation, particularly among pastoralists (maldharis) adapting to urban spaces. She values qualitative and ethnographic research

methods. Previously, she taught at Scripps College and IIT Gandhinagar. Her scholarly work is published in journals such as Economic and Political Weekly and Contributions to Indian Sociology. She has authored several articles and book chapters on her research interests.



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**Name:** Shishir Saxena

**Position:** Assistant Professor

**Bio:** Professor Shishir Saxena, a scholar of Indian Philosophy and Sanskrit, specializes in epistemological debates in Indian philosophical traditions and Mīmāṃsā hermeneutic reasoning. His research also includes the Sanskrit epics Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata. He teaches Indian Philosophy and Sanskrit courses at Ahmedabad University and serves as Assistant Editor of the Journal of Indian Philosophy. Prior to joining Ahmedabad University, he conducted post-doctoral research at the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia in Vienna. He holds a PhD and MPhil from the University of Cambridge and an MA from Banaras Hindu

University. His background includes a Bachelor's in Physics, an MBA in Finance, and five years in consulting.

## External Speakers



**Name:** Tridip Suhrud

**Position:** Provost, CEPT University

**Bio:** Dr. Tridip Suhrud, appointed as Professor and Director of CEPT Archives since October 1, 2017, is a renowned scholar in political science and cultural history, specializing in Mahatma Gandhi's life and modern Gujarat's social history. Previously, he served as Director & Chief Editor of Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, establishing the Gandhi Archives. His academic roles include positions at the National Institute of Design, DAICT, and the Indian Institute of Advanced Study. As Chairman of MICA's Governing

Council, he has translated significant texts between Gujarati and English, earning the Katha Award (1999) and Sahitya Akademi Award (2010). His notable works include translating Manu Gandhi's diaries and the "Letters to Gandhi" project. Dr. Suhrud has contributed to several institutional bodies and will enhance CEPT Archives by expanding facilities, conservation labs, a library, and a museum, aiming to make it a valuable resource for students and scholars.