## Incubation centre for law grads at GNLU

It will promote legal entrepreneurship among the grads, besides providing seed-fund and assistance to potential biz ideas from nascent stage



GNLU students will get access to library and legal documents available with varsity

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anagement, design and communication graduates of premier institutes in city may get plenty of opportunities to hone their entrepreneurial skills at incubation centres before they start their own ventures. But law graduates aiming to start own law firm or business, were bereft of any such centre that could hand-hold potential business ideas from nascent stage, provide seedfund and mentorship to turn it into an established business.

Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) has decided to mentor law graduates aiming to be legal entrepreneurs. In a bid to instill business skills to start a legal venture, GNLU has set the ball rolling for an incubation centre. In what seems to be a first of its kind centre by a law school in India – GNLU Legal Incubation Centre–will give an opportunity to two GNLU graduates to become initial incubates as it aims to create jobs, train entrepreneurs, have innovative start-ups, legal firms and companies.

Director of the law university Dr Bimal Patel said, "It is an effort to incubate the seeds of big results for the GNLU graduates. To be launched by the end of first semester in November, the incubation centre will be started with Rs 10 lakh to create physical infrastructure such as office space, provide seed funds apart from others to promote entrepreneurship in the knowledge-driven profession."

In charge of the GNLU Legal Incubation Centre, Nidhi Buch said, "Two GNLU graduates will be incubatees, while current students will get an opportunity to be part of the research team apart from senior faculty as mentors and advisors as they explore nonacademic projects for clients."

"The idea is to promote legal entrepreneurship. If graduates do not wish to take up job, they do not have opportunities immediately to start firm of their own. To make them independent, GNLU is creating a platform to groom their skills not only to start a law firm but also take up consultancy work, pursue research, provide legal opinion and drafting for companies – national and international, "Buch told *Mirror*.

During the six months to two-year period of incubation, students will get space, logistics and access to library, digitised documents and legal documents available with the varsity apart from support from senior faculty. Two students have evinced interest even before the varsity has invited those interested. One of GNLU's past students has proposed to create awareness about bio-ethics through a project in fields like medicine, pharmaceuticals and technology.

"The idea struck me when I was working on a paper. In India, there is not much awareness about bio-ethics and so I thought of starting something on the lines. As there is no such help available to legal students, this centre is going to nurture many talent and dreams," said Kelly Dhru, alumnus who wants to start a campaign in bioethics with GNLU's help.