

SC judge, Modi offer tips to GNLU law grads

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THE Gujarat National Law University's convocation on Saturday saw Supreme Court's Justice Anil Dave and Chief Minister Narendra Modi, both guests at the event, offering their interesting takes on what law graduates should do next.

While delivering the convocation address, Justice Dave quoted a Sanskrit couplet which he translated as "kings and scholars are not comparable".

He said while a king commanded respect only within his kingdom, a scholar was respected and recognised the world over by the virtue of his knowledge.

Justice Dave said study never stopped in the legal profession and a lawyer always remained a student.

"You will excel in the legal profession as long as you continue to be a student. But your downfall will start from the day you consider you know all and have become an expert in law," Justice Dave said.

Later, Modi, who was the chief guest, began his speech by saying that the concept of convocation had been borrowed by the world from the Upanishads.

While urging the passouts to take tips from our freedom fighters who also practised as lawyers, Modi said they did not argue to win the cases but to defeat the British judges.

Giving an example of humour and wit that they were capable of, Modi gave an anecdote from the life of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who practised in Mumbai court. Modi said once Tilak was late in attending a case hearing be-

fore a British judge and sent his junior in his stead.

During the hearing, the British judge told Tilak's junior he was arguing like "child-in-law" and wished his senior would have come. At the same moment, Tilak entered the courtroom and said, "Yes, I know. You are the father-in-law".

GNLU director Bimal N Patel, in his speech, claimed his students who passed out in 2009 and 2010 had got 100 per cent placement. He requested Modi and state Law Minister Pradipsinh Jadeja to appoint a law officer in every department of the state government where legal matters play a crucial role.

A total of 126 passouts were given degrees, including 19, who received gold medals for their best performance in different disciplines.