

# Lawyers should be caring, helpful: Ansari

## Gandhinagar on Saturday

"The legal profession should be a helping and caring one, and not a selfish and exploitative one", said Dr. Hamid Ansari, India's Vice-President who inaugurated the new campus of the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) at Kudasani in Gandhinagar on Saturday.

Dr. Ansari, who is on a two-day visit to the state, said, "The grooming of young students here is the guiding light for their careers as lawyers and judges. It is here that one should be made to realise that the legal profession should be a helping and caring one and not a selfish or exploitative one."

Dr. Ansari spoke about the issue of delay in justice delivery system in the country and ethics in the lawyer fraternity. He also put forward a few questions about the changing role of lawyers in reference to "Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers," adopted by the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders at Havana in September, 1990.

"Can we speak of a justice delivery system when the process takes two or three decades to reach finality?" Dr. Ansari asked while addressing the audience

**AHMEDABAD** State ministers, high court judges, legal luminaries and law students.

"Reasons for delays in justice delivery system are well known. Excessive adjournments are the primary cause, other reasons being shortage of resources and capacity, long winded arguments by counsels, inadequate judge strength, delay in filling up vacancies and disproportionate concentration of work among some members of the bar," he said.

Quoting a report of Law Commission of India, he said, "Report No.230 of August, 2009 has presently noted that 'the ethics of lawyers has also

become questionable. Though there is a bar council that has to look after ethics of lawyers, it has rarely taken action against tainted lawyers."

Meanwhile, CM Narendra Modi mooted an idea that law students can serve the society like doctors who have compulsory internship in government hospital or rural areas. "Law students should serve society by not entering into corporate practice after their degrees," Modi said.

By saying that lawyers have played a vital role in the independence struggle and building of the country, the CM said, "Lawyers should come forward to serve society



Vice-president Dr Hamid Ansari, governor Dr Kamla and chief minister Narendra Modi at GNLU on Saturday. -Parag, Deekha/DNA

**Lawyers should come forward to serve society and reignite the pre-independence era when most of the top freedom fighters were barristers**  
—Narendra Modi, Chief Minister, Gujarat

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GNLU has been shifted from Sector-26 to a sprawling campus at Kudasani village near Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University. The new campus is named Atalika Avenue, the Sanskrit word meaning nest of knowledge light.

The land was gifted by the state government and the campus is spread over 50 acres in which students across the nation will get education in various wings of the law. GNLU's director Dr. Bimal Patel delivered the welcome address while Dr. Shrimati Kamla, the governor of Gujarat, also remained present on the occasion.

## India's prosperity'

Says Dr Ansari at the launch of Prof Makarand Mehta's book on Saturday

DNA Correspondent

Vice-President M Hamid Ansari on Saturday recalled India's glorious maritime trade history dating back to at least 2,300 BC in the Harappan civilisation period, as established by excavation of what is believed to be the world's oldest tidal dock at Lothal on the Gujarat coast.

Speaking at a function to mark the release of Prof Makarand Mehta's book titled, 'Gujarat and the Sea' here, he said that India also prospered politically and socially because of its seafaring trade with West Asia, South-east Asia and Europe. The details are mentioned in the scholarly book, he said.

Governor Dr Shrimati Kamla said that Gujarat has benefited throughout history from its strategic location on the Arabian Sea, served by a rich hinterland, as documented in the maritime history dating back to 4,500 years.

Chief Minister Narendra

Modi said the book should add to existing knowledge about the subject. If Gujarat has contributed to history, it can create history too. He expressed his dreams to make Ahmedabad a maritime city. The grand plan was to dig a canal from the trading centre in Ahmedabad up to Kambhat on the coast as envisioned by textile magnate Ranchhodlal in 1894.

He said that humans have settled along the sea coast since time immemorial. He recalled that Lord Krishna had also shifted from Mathura to Gujarat, which established the advantages of sea coast. The British made many attempts to spread their colonial wings via the Gujarat coast but their efforts were thwarted and they finally settled on the Bengal coast. Cambay was once an important seaport, like Tharad in Banaskantha district, in the interiors of Gujarat. India had a sea connection with Indonesia, Austrakhan and other countries.