



# Ninth convocation of GNLU held

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**Ahmedabad:** Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri, who was the chief guest at the ninth convocation of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) at Gandhinagar on Sunday, mentioned in his speech that the legal fraternity is facing a number of challenges and upholding democratic values is one among them.

“Today we are undergoing transformation of a different kind. Even the values of democracy which Greeks gave 2,500 years ago are at stake. There is bad sliding of democratic values,” said Justice Sikri while talking to students about what role the judiciary has to play in constitutional scheme in countries like India.

During his convocational address, Justice Sikri added that while the human in law is important, humane in law is indispensable. Justice Sikri was part of high-level panel that decided fate of CBI chief recently.

Justice D Y Chandrachud, a Supreme Court judge and Visitor at GNLU, called upon the students to reduce inequalities in the society. “Every time a child is denied basic education because of her parent’s financial status, a Muslim is de-



nied housing because of her religion, a person engaged in manual scavenging is denied basic human rights, every single time a woman is denied access to public places because of her menstrual status, a Dalit is subjected to indignity—each of these instances is a glaring example of the society’s inability to grant her citizens an equal and humane existence. And this inequality is what you have to strive to decimate,” he said.

Justice Chandrachud, who was part of historic Sabrimala verdict, also called upon the society to wake up to the challenge of insensitivity to women’s rights and issues.

“Women have to deal with shocking gender wage gaps,



forms of violence and harassments, forced adherence to feminine, impossible standards of beauty, compounded by what I think might be the worst of all— insensitivity to women’s rights and issues,” he said, adding that men also have to play a key role in demanding and supporting equal role for women in societal sphere.

A total of 924 students including five year integrated UG programme in law, LLM, MBA and PhD programmes for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 were part of the convocation. GNLU director Prof Bimal Patel announced two new specialized courses for masters in maritime law and sports law from the new academic year.

## Girls win medals, hearts

The girl power was on full display at the convocation as girls bagged 32 out of 51 gold medals at the ceremony, earning praises from the guests. Akarshita Dhawan won nine gold medals whereas Gayatri Devi won five. Dhawan, daughter of an army officer, is the first lawyer from her family. Likewise, Gayatri Devi, daughter of banker parents, is also the first. “I will now pursue higher studies in civil law and human rights,” she said, adding that it was her childhood dream to be part of the profession. **TNN**