

Trust judges on CAA, says former CJI Gogoi

'Appointments System Must Be Overhauled'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi (left) at Gujarat National Law University with CM Vijay Rupani

Ahmedabad: Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said on Monday that people must trust judges. He was speaking at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) as part of 'We, The People' lecture series. "The matter [CAA] is pending before the Supreme Court. Trust your judges. They will decide according to the Constitution," he said.

Justice Gogoi said that everyone might have a view on the CAA and have the right to express it. "Protests have been held, viewpoints have been expressed. Enough," he said. "You can't have two parallel forums," he said,

referring to the issue pending at the Supreme Court.

This was Justice Gogoi's first public lecture after he retired from the Supreme Court in November 2019. "I thank Gujarat for giving me freedom — the first smell of freedom of speech," he said. "Judges don't have the freedom of speech."

Justice Gogoi also refer-

red to students in his home state who called off protests after sundown to prevent any violence. He said that this constructive role played by the students helped improve the law and order situation 'overnight'. "Perhaps the most important fundamental duty is to respect the unity and integrity of the country," he said. Assam was

the first state where protests broke out after the CAA was passed by the Parliament in December last year.

In his lecture on 'Rebuilding the Judiciary: Nation Building', Gogoi said that many don't want to become judges today. "Good people are backing out, saying sorry sir, we don't want to get into this," he said. "Look at our appointments system — the day a name is recommended, 100 letters are sent against him, alleging from A to Z. He doesn't get appointed. He doesn't become a judge and his professional and personal lives are shattered." He appealed to the law students to address the problem.

Justice Gogoi also praised the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and said that if Patel had been around for 10 years after India's independence, the country would have been different. He later called for rebuilding the judiciary, 'the way Sardar Patel built the nation.'

GOGOI SPEAK

► Trust your judges. They are good people. Aspire to become judges. It is challenging, rewarding, and satisfying

► Look at our judicial appointments system. The day a name is recommended, 100 letters are sent against him, alleging from A to Z.

► You are not going to create a \$5 trillion economy with the current judicial system. If you don't have the mechanism for resolution of disputes, why would anyone invest here?



► There's a saying — the problems start when you get a decree. Execution is another chapter. When execution starts, everyone from nephew, niece, and grandchildren stake a claim. What does a poor judge do? Another suit, Order 21

► The idea is that at the end of a five-year course, you must have proper placement and a well-secured life. But when the country is not well-secured and the system is not well-secured, can you be well-secured?