

'Stand up and be the dissenters'

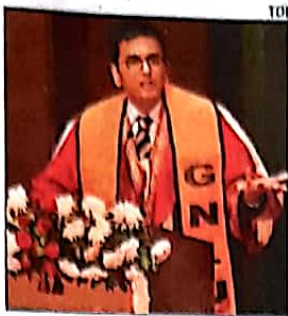
Standing Up To Govt Not Sole Form Of Courage: SC Judge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Justice D Y Chandrachud, judge of the Supreme Court (SC) on Saturday advised students to have an optimistic outlook towards life, becoming part of the solution and standing up for the voiceless.

The SC judge was the chief guest at the 10th convocation of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), where he is also the Visitor. The event was attended by Justice M R Shah, SC judge, Justice Vikram Nath, chief justice of Gujarat High Court, and Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, state law minister.

In his convocation speech, Justice Chandrachud said that courage is the hallmark of a lawyer. "By courage I don't merely mean courage of standing up to government... That's not the only courage I am referring to - people who stand up against the state may make headlines in the news."



Justice D Y Chandrachud

pers, but we want citizens to have courage to stand up at other milestones in the history of the nation," he said. "Standing up for someone who cannot stand up for themselves requires courage." He also asked the students to question. "Grow up in life, stand up and be the dissenters because it is only through your power of ex-

pressing views and courage of stating contrary position that

you will make others to stop and think," said the SC judge. A total of 218 students were conferred degrees at the convocation including 158 from the five-year integrated UG programme, 50 of PG programmes, nine of MBA programme and one doctoral student.

Golden girl of the event

A total of 16 students bagged 26 gold medals - four boys bagged one medal each - but it was Sanskrilli Sanghi, a UG student, who bagged eight gold medals, that led the tally. A native of Rajasthan and daughter of an Indian Army doctor and a fashion designer, Sanskrilli has joined Cambridge University for his masters course in law with specialisation in international law. "I intend to do pro-bono work... I believe that law is to be wielded as a tool for justice especially for the most vulnerable sections of the society," she said.



Need pluralism in action, not merely in thoughts: Dave

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Earlier, during his talk on the 'Hues that make India' organized by the Justice P D Desai Memorial Lecture Committee, Justice Chandrachud called on the audience to include communities that are pushed to the fringe of the mainstream for being minorities - based on their language, faith, culture or gender - and asserted that this was aimed for by the Constitution.

Speaking after Justice Chandrachud, SC senior advocate Dushyant Dave reminded the audience and judges present about the Karnataka police investi-

gating schoolchildren for performing a play opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the "unfortunate incident" at a Bhuj hostel where girls were being kept in a basement because they were menstruating.

"We have these situations which are completely antithetical to constitutional beliefs and values. Why is it happening? Why is the judiciary sitting (quietly) watching them? I would request the judges to ponder upon them. These are something on which you can definitely speak. What we need is pluralism in action, not merely in thoughts," he said.

Centre of Excellence for legal history

To coincide with All-India Legal History Congress at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), the varsity officials announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence dedicated to legal history, philosophy and tradition. Dr S Shanthakumar, director of GNLU, said that the centre will focus on in-depth research into ancient texts with a focus on legal jurisprudence, Dharma and Dharmashashtra. The Centre will also endeavour to document and digitize customary legal traditions of Gujarat.