

## **First-ever Legal History Congress in India inaugurated at GNLU**

### **GNLU launches a new centre of excellence for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition**

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**Gandhinagar, February 14, 2020:** All India Legal History Congress was inaugurated at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), today, in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) V. S. Elizabeth, Renowned Legal Historian of India and Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu National Law University, Trichy as a Chief Guest and Prof. Kota Fukui, Osaka University, Japan as a Guest of Honour and GNLU Director, Dr S. Shanthakumar.

Dr Elizabeth congratulated GNLU for organizing the first-ever Legal History Congress in the country and hoped that this will continue in the years to come. Stressing upon the need for the study of history for a law student, she said, “No law has ever been enacted in a simple vacuum. Every law that has been enacted, whether in the colonial past or since independence, has been enacted in response to social changes... to the changing needs of the society..... Traditions change, and so does the law..... As judges, lawyers and citizens of this great country, we need to know our past so that we don’t repeat the little or terrible mistakes of the past.”

Dr Kota FUKUI stressed upon the importance of historical point of view even while researching on contemporary issues and said that “sociological studies, which focus on contemporary issues, and historical studies complement each other.”

On this occasion, Dr Shanthakumar announced the setting up of a new centre of excellence titled “**GNLU Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition.**” The centre will focus on legal history research and conduct 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 Tradition of the State of Gujarat.**

Dr Shanthakumar said, “Inter-disciplinary research has always been at the core of GNLU research agenda. As a result, GNLU has as many as 17 centres of excellence focusing on the intersection of law with diverse fields. I am particularly happy with the establishment of the Centre for Legal History, Philosophy and Tradition as it will enable focused research in our rich cultural and legal heritage.”

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