

# 'Less Indian students in UK after 750 bogus colleges closed down'

UK Law Minister Shailesh Vara claimed the decision will only improve quality of education in UK colleges and benefit the students in the long run

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**U**nited Kingdom might be considered one of the top destinations for Indian students seeking a foreign degree. But the UK Law Minister Shailesh Vara, who was in the city on Tuesday, was happy to announce that the number of Indian students in the country had gone down. However, he was quick to clarify that his happiness stemmed from the fact that UK government's decision to close down 750 bogus colleges has saved several students from investing in fake degrees.

While interacting with students at Gujarat National Law University, he said, "The number of Indian students in the UK has definitely gone down after several bogus universities were shut down. But we think that is a good sign as this means that many less students were victims of the bogus college racket. There is a decrease in the number of Indian students in Australia and the US. But at least in UK, the decrease is because we closed down bogus colleges. When as many as 750 colleges are shut, the number of students is bound to go down. This will benefit the future students who will get quality education."

In his 45-minute interaction with the students, Vara expressed hope that more Indian students will choose to study in the UK. He said, "There is no cap on the number of



**UK Law Minister Vara (L) and GNLU director Dr Bimal Patel (R) discussed tie-up between UK varsities and GNLU. Patel insisted the playing field should be level**

foreign students who can study in the UK. All that is needed is that they meet the eligibility criteria."

During interaction with director of GNLU Dr Bimal Patel, Vara also explored opportunity for tie-ups with UK-based varsities. Patel, however, is believed to have conveyed to Vara that GNLU will be interested in the tie-up if it is "level-playing field" for both sides. Patel said, "The UK government should go easy on tuition fee for Indian students if they take up higher education in UK, be it legal education or others."

Vara also spoke about the recent controversy regarding the judicial appointments in India. He said, "UK has an independent judiciary and makes appointments independent-

ly." Responding to Patel's question of opening Indian legal system to overseas lawyers, Vara said, "The move will not only bring foreign investment to India but also increase employment for people in India. Like it has worked in other areas, why not in legal area? By opening our legal system for overseas players in the UK, we have attracted best legal experts. Now, UK is known as centre for excellence. If India opens legal service for overseas experts, best lawyers will come to India, effectively creating a centre of excellence in legal service here too. It will bring clients and firms to India as it brings not only money but overseas firms will employ Indian lawyers."