

'India should allow overseas lawyers'

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Ahmedabad: British law minister Shailesh Vara, who is of Gujarat origin, on Tuesday called for the need to open up the legal service sector in India, which could pave the way for excellence in service as well as employment generation.

Addressing the students of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) in Gandhinagar, Vara said that India must open up its legal sector: "If India allows overseas lawyers and legal firms to work here... we are not saying that the British lawyers should be allowed to speak before court, but if allowed to advise on international laws, the services in India will only become cheaper," said the UK's parliamentary under-secretary of state and minister of courts and legal aid at the ministry of justice.

Vara said that the opening up of legal services would bring the best of talents to India. This is how Britain has become a centre of excellence in legal sector. "If India opens up the legal sector like Prime Minister Narendra Modi invites investment in all other sectors, all the best from Britain would be available here too," he said, adding that there is a need for more exchange programmes between the two countries.



British law minister Shailesh Vara

Talking about the prospects for studies in the UK, he said: "We are always open for students. The minimum requirement is that they should sustain and come up with good qualification. The scholarships have also increased and reached up to 600 to 700. The scholarship amount has increased from £10 million in 2009 to £115 million nowadays in Cheveningscholarships. He also said that British students would also come to the world-class institutes in India.

He told the students that at any given point of time, Britain has nearly 35,000 Indian students following different programmes in its universities. The number has gone down in last couple of years. "This is for good reason that we closed down nearly 700 bogus colleges in Britain. They used to offer below standard education. Their closure is for the betterment of students and for the standard of education in our country," he said.