

Allow foreign lawyers to practise in India, says UK Law Minister

AHMEDABAD: Batting for opening up of India's legal services to overseas lawyers, UK Law Minister Shailesh Vara asked India's law practitioners to "keep an enquiring mind" while delivering a guest lecture on 'Legal Services' at the Gujarat National Law University on Tuesday. Vara, who is among the first of Gujarati origin to serve as a British government minister and is on a three day visit to India to build bilateral ties, spoke to an audience comprising around 100 law students and faculty.

His trip is expected to focus on efforts to open up the Indian legal jurisdiction by lifting current restrictions on foreign lawyers practicing in the country and also promote the upcoming Global Law Summit, to be held in London in February 2015

to the law fraternity here. "I am not giving any advice on what your judiciary should be doing, but asking for some consideration, if UK lawyers can come to India and advise companies, on international law, that require their services. Many Indian companies that want international legal advise have to take a plane to UK which is a very expensive affair, when the same advise can be given in India."

In response to a query from GNLU president Bimal Patel on how legal services in the country can be enhanced and if UK has created a level-playing field for Indian lawyers to practice equally in foreign markets, Vara added, "The judicial system should be subject to 'regular reviews' and the judiciary should keep an enquiring mind."