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# 'India had arbitration laws even before Raj'

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AHMEDABAD: The two-day seminar on international arbitration law began at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) on Friday.

GNLU is organizing the seminar in collaboration with Amarchand Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff & Co (AMSS), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Court of International Arbitration - India (LCIA-India), and Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

In the inaugural session on Friday, GNLU director Dr Bimal N. Patel talked about the importance of arbitration in modern dispute resolution and the reasons why India is not chosen as an arbitration destination by international companies.

Former Supreme Court judge, justice C K Thakkar, spoke on the existence of arbitration in the Indian legal system even before the advent of the British Raj. He was critical of the arbitration system as it was based on the Crown's court and also on factors like delay, appeal and difficulties in execution as it prevented arbitration as a system from achieving goals of justice.

Former CJI, justice A M Ahmadi, highlighted the efforts made to start national law schools in India. Ahmadi lamented on the interference of the court in ADR matters.

Speakers like Shreyas Jaysimha, founding partner, Aarna Law and Abhinav Bhushan, deputy counsel, ICC Paris, gave an introductory lecture on international commercial arbitration law. Ashwin Shanker, partner, Chambers of George A Rebello, Mumbai, spoke about maritime arbitration.