

IITGN to host talk on marginalisation, discrimination of LGBT community

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IN keeping with the tradition of hosting talks by eminent speakers from all walks of life, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) will host a talk on 'Queer Movement in India: Rights, Struggles and Activism'. It will be delivered by Pallav Patankar, Director-HIV Programs of India's first registered LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) NGO, The Humsafar Trust at its Gandhinagar campus on Thursday.

Patankar who is involved in LGBT community mobilisation such as the Mumbai Pride March and has served as a Festival Director for the Mumbai International Queer Film Festival will chart out the history of The Humsafar Trust. He is expected to discuss the main issues of the

Queer movement and address open discussions regarding why these topics are essential. He will touch upon issues of gender and sexuality and the social toll that marginalisation and discrimination of 'Queer' people has on the society, read an invite from the institute.

"Since Section 377 has been criminalised in our country, I felt that Pallav who has been working for LGBT rights since the early 1990's and is working with the first LGBT NGO to address rights of this community in a courageous and single-handed manner is the right person to whom students can also put forward question on gender and sexuality. Since educational institutes have been typically male dominated especially engineering institutes, where being heterosexual is a norm, it is topical to have such discussions. The

talk is open to all engineering disciplines and UG students and even the faculty," says Tannishtha Samanta, Assistant Professor at the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IITGN.

On Thursday, IITGN will also host a talk 'From Dandy to Dandi: Gandhi's Journey to Social Justice' by Tara Sethia, Professor of History at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and who is also the founder and Director of Ahimsa Center at the University, which traces the transformative and transforming aspects of Gandhi's journey from trying to become an English gentleman to becoming "a half-naked fakir."

It will delve into his experiences of resisting the injustices of the British rule and demanding from the British complete freedom for Indians, the same freedom enjoyed by the English people.