

IIT-Gandhinagar organizes talk by French political scientist

TNN | Apr 14, 2014, 03.19 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, has organized a talk by Christophe Jaffrelot, a French political scientist, specializing in South Asia, at its campus at Chandkheda on Monday.

Jaffrelot will discuss his forthcoming book on Pakistan titled 'The Pakistan Paradox Instability and Resilience.' Jaffrelot's book says that Pakistan is facing three contradictions since 1947. Primarily, there is a tension between unitary notion of the Islamic nation-state and the diversity of the country in ethno-linguistic terms.

Second, the tension between democracy and authoritarianism and third, the conception of Islam. "Today Pakistan faces existential challenges ranging from ethnic strife to Islamism - two sources of instability which hark back to elite domination. But the resilience of the country and its people, the resolve of the judiciary and hints of reform in the army may decide the future of a region central to global stability," he said.

Christophe Jaffrelot is Research Director at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in France and teaches South Asian politics and history at Sciences Po (Paris). His publications include The Hindu Nationalist Movement and Indian Politics, India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of the Lower Castes in North India, and Dr Ambedkar and Untouchability: Analysing and Fighting Caste.
