

'Safeguard identities of residents of North-East'

At a lecture at IIT-Gn, Prof Samir Das of University of Calcutta highlighted the need to restore identities of people in the region since these were configured across nation-states and their territories

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau

amfeedback@timesgroup.in

TWEETS @ahmedabadmirror

While the much talked about Look East Policy of the country aims at building economic, institutional and defence links with the entire Asia-Pacific, a talk at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) focused on cultural and traditional identities of the country's north-eastern region.

Prof Samir Das of University of Calcutta, who spoke on the subject 'Is India's North-East a 'Different' Cultural Cat-



Professor Samir Das

egory?' on Thursday told students that the people in the region were already grappling with identity crisis.

"If the 'Look East Policy' were to bring about development in a holistic manner, it should also consider intro-

ducing policies and initiatives to restore and safeguard the identities of the residents in the north eastern region of India. But the identities are configured across nation-states and their territories in the age of globalisation," said Prof Das.

He further said, "People in the North-East are already facing identity crisis. For example, Manipur lost its script and some part of its identity with the emergence of Vaishnavism there around 300 years ago. People there are still struggling to resurrect the lost identity and their script."