

# Ahmedabad will soon have a France visa desk

*François Richier, ambassador of France to India, visits city*

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François Richier, ambassador of France to India, on his visit to Ahmedabad, announced that soon a France visa desk at the Alliance Française d'Ahmedabad (French language learning centre) will be set up. This initiative will prove a boon to those aspiring to visit France either for work or studies. Usually, one has to travel to Mumbai to complete visa formalities.

He also said that Indian students after completing their graduation in France, will get a chance to stay

there for two years and gather professional experience.

Richier also visited IIT Gandhinagar, where he gave a talk on "Leveraging the climate change challenge: new technologies and opportunities for sustainable growth". The talk was held in relation with the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which will take place in Paris in December.

He said that the role of France as the chair of the conference will be impartial. "Climate change is a topic of the utmost importance now. Global warming is an issue which needs to be addressed. It poses more problems for the poor. The rich have resources by which



*Climate change is a topic of the utmost importance. Global warming needs to be addressed. It poses more problems for the poor. The rich can adapt to it, but the poor cannot*

**FRANCOIS RICHIER**



Francois Richier addresses the audience at IIT Gandhinagar on Wednesday

they can adapt to the changing situation, but the poor cannot".

About climate change policies

and development, he said, "To reduce carbon footprints, one should emit them somewhere near and not

far off as it only adds to the burden of carbon emission. Tourism of any nation also gets affected if it is deemed polluted and dangerous. In India, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal are badly affected due to climate change. The issue of melting glaciers in Himachal Pradesh is of major concern."

He further added that in order to reduce carbon footprints, it is vital that everyday habits of citizens change. "In western countries, everyone is accustomed to shop with plastic bags. In France, we have made a target of having no plastic bags by 2020. Technology has an important role to play by coming up with new solutions. For this, various researches should be properly funded and private companies should be encouraged in this area."