



# ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

## Session On

Christophe Jaffrelot on the “Indian Democracy: Challenges Ahead”  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010  
New Delhi



On the 22nd of February 2009, Aspen Institute India invited Mr. Christophe Jaffrelot, Research Director for the Centre National de la Reserche Scientifique, to talk about “The Indian Democracy: Challenges Ahead”. Moderated by Mr. Arun Maira, Member Planning Commission, the talk focussed on how the Indian democratic system is on the path of stability but is still quite fragile. Socio-economic factors are drastically changing in India, which is causing a major gap between the rich and the poor. The main challenge is now how to handle this growing gap and further reduce it. Gap such as these are a cause of revolution, such as the Maoist insurgency in the east. This according to him is the failure of inclusive representation, yet where inclusive representation is vibrant, the gap is not leading to revolutionary mentalities. “Inclusive representation in politics keeps the energies of revolt down”