

# 'Liberate Gandhi from Gandhians'

**BENGALURU: Gandhi needs to be liberated from Gandhians. He needs to be unshackled from institutions that speak in his name, former Governor of West Bengal and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Gopalakrishna Gandhi said.**

He was delivering the Gandhi memorial lecture on 'Gandhi's India' at the Raman Research Institute here on Friday which also marked the death anniversary of the Mahatma.

"Gandhi's ideological adversaries want to frame him into a very limited identity. The over-emphasis on the mechanical aspects of Gandhi's life has made Gandhi vulnerable to

those who want to limit Gandhi to a narrow identity of the so-called Gandhian codes," he said.

Gandhi is not just about fasting, eating pounded grains, drinking goat's milk and spinning khadi alone. That is an interesting aspect but just one part of him. These things were as important to Gandhi as was, walking barefoot from village to village, meditating under a tree and begging for food was to Buddha. Buddha was much bigger than the particular tree he sat under for meditation, he added.

Referring to recent controversy over omission of the words "socialist" and "secular"



**Gopalakrishna Gandhi**

in a print advertisement issued by the Union, government, he said: "We should not become prisoners of archival discovery.

Why is the existence of the word secular in preamble such a problem now? If you are not changing it, what is there to debate? You want to make the minorities feel insecure. This should not be done in Gandhi's India. This should not be done in our India".

He said that Gandhi's concerns were larger in nature. His concern today would have been about the obsession of money, corruption and sectarian hatred. "More importantly, it is not about Gandhi taking on these issues. He would have wanted his India to take these on. We must gather ourselves about in this concern."

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