

# Arms won't make nation strong...

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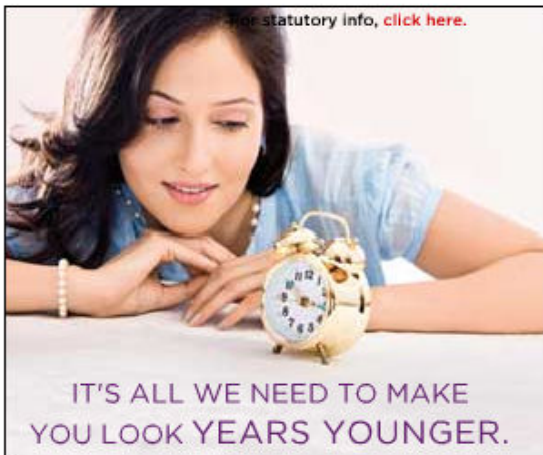
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AHMEDABAD: In his talk titled 'India as a world power: potential and realities' at the [Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar \(IIT-G\)](#) on Wednesday, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Rajmohan Gandhi said that the country's democracy is one of its strongest possessions that will help it in emerging as a powerful player at the international stage.

"Arms and atomic bombs are not enough to make a nation strong and powerful," he said. He took the example of [Russia](#), which was advanced with weapons, and [China](#), which is large in size and population and has good public health and education. "But both of them don't have democracy. The democratic part of India is an impressive thing," he said.

Gandhi, professor at the [University of Illinois](#), also elaborated on how the country needs to maintain a good relationship with the neighbouring states. He pointed out maintaining good relationship with the neighbouring countries as an important aspect that needs to be focused on. Gandhi said: "How the neighbour feels about us is very important. May be we can't control what the neighbouring countries think about our country, but it's very important to think on what to do so that they respect us." He said that if not from all the neighbours, then such a respect should be gained from the majority of them.

At the question and answer sessions, he spoke about the grave issue of corruption and poverty in the country, and said, "Imagine Gandhiji's reaction to today's corruption. We should also react in the same way and act accordingly." Highlighting the need to respect and elevate women he said, "We can't face the world, given the way we treat women at present. We have to make profound changes before we become a world power."

Gandhi also advocated that we should not connect terrorism to Islam.

Recollecting how millions of people died in the World War-I and World War-II in which Islam was not a factor and the large scale killings that took place in [Cambodia](#) and [Rwanda](#) in which Islam was not a factor again, Gandhi said, "Is it that Islam has suddenly become bad and the others have suddenly become good?" He said that there is a need to find other historical and psychological explanations to terrorism before it is simply labelled to any group.