

Why 'Vande...' is not our nat'l anthem

Rajmohan Gandhi shed light on the issue at IITGn on Thursday

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Have you ever wondered why Vande Mataram was never made the national anthem but has remained the national song? Speaking on how Jana Gana Mana went on to become the national anthem in 1950, Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi said, "Although a profound poetry, it appears in Chattopadhyay's book 'Anand Math' which has a storyline that has conflict between Hindus and Muslims." Rajmohan Gandhi, who is a scholar-in-residence at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) and a biographer, thinks the book which contained the original poem is the reason why the song was given a lesser status to Jana Gana Mana.

Also explaining the Bharat Bhagya Vidhata, the male character in India's national anthem, Gandhi explained, "When Tagore mentioned the Bhagya Vidhata of Bharat, he meant that God himself is overlooking India." Apart from this, Gandhi also addressed a lecture at IIT-Gn on Thursday during his talk titled - "Articulating a Vision: Learning from Lincoln, Tagore and Gandhi". Professor Gandhi inspired young minds to visualise and work



Rajmohan Gandhi speaks at IITGn

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towards improving India as a nation.

While comparing several national anthems and speeches, he mentioned that while many nations spoke about war, traitors and need to protect the nation, writers and orators like Abraham Lincoln, Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi spoke about the universal family, suffering and enlightenment. He also spoke about India as an upcoming global power and urged its youth to have a comprehensive vision for it. "Instead of desiring India to be a Vishwa Guru, a 'world teacher' I would prefer that India be a Vishwa Mitra or Vishwa Bandhu, a friend to each other within our nation as well as outside" said Gandhi.