



Extending a message against single use plastic, St Raphael's School students clad in Gandhi attire distributed 80,000 paper bags to shopkeepers in Chhawani, Dawa Bazaar, Musakhedi, Jaora Compound in Indore on Tuesday

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part

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**ATUL GAUTAM**  
Indore

Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) had announced to set up Gandhi Shodha Peeth (research centre) three years ago. But not single brick has been placed. Now, Chancellor Lalji Tandon has directed every university to set up Gandhi Chair.

During coordination committee meeting on Monday, Tandon instructed vice chancellors of state universities that their campus should have a chair named after Father of Nation.

Much before the Chancellor issued the instruction, DAVV executive council in October 2016 had passed a proposal for setting up Gandhi Peeth on UTD campus.

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The university had estimated that at least Rs 1 crore would be required for setting up the centre. As it knew that the University Grants Commission won't fund the project as it had already approved Gandhi Peeth at some other varsity, DAVV had decided to

arrange funds on its own.

The university decided to mobilise funds seeking donations as it thought that people will happily contribute in the name of Father of Nation.

But that was it. "No step was taken for mobilising the funds even though people like noted environmentalist Padma Shri Thacheril Govindan Kutty Menon and social worker Tapan Bhattacharya had offered to mobilise funds on university's behalf," said a senior professor wishing anonymity.

He stated that the university was never serious on setting up Gandhi Chair. "The Gandhi Peeth, therefore, never saw light of day and remained only on papers," he added.

The university already has two Chairs on its campus - Devi Ahilya Bai Peeth and Sindhu Peeth. While Ahilya Peeth was set up in 2011, Sindhi Peeth came into being in 2015.

**//Chancellor wants us to set up Gandhi Chair in DAVV. After discussing with my subordinates, I may make announcement of setting up Gandhi Chair on Gandhi Jayanti."**

**PROF RENU JAIN,**  
vice chancellor, DAVV