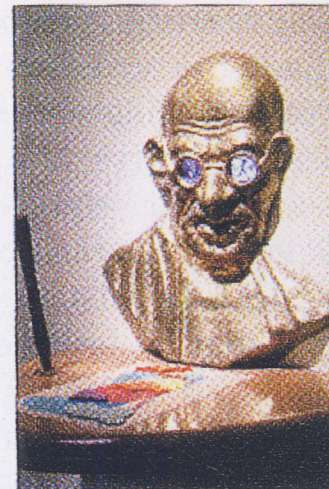

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Silicon Implant The inevitable installation: cyberkhadi

AN anthropomorphic computer that talks and listens and a laser charkha that emits songs are just some of the interactive e-exhibits to be viewed but not touched at the Eternal Gandhi Multimedia Museum. The life of M.K. Gandhi is showcased through imaginative digital means that trade the computer, mouse and keyboard for physical gesture, sound and touch. Fun, till you realise that it's not you but a presumptuous staff that ordains your journey with stern reprimand, "no touching, no lingering". "I know it's a problem," defends Ranjit Mukkani, president of Sacred World Foundation and the brain behind the exhibition, adding that the exhibits require delicate handling. Ironically, many exhibits are kept switched off to control power consumption. "Switched off? Don't say that," urges Mukkani, "look at the fact that it's Asia first digital museum." Indeed, the museum does challenge the way we perceive technology, but in the end it's the same old message—the middlemen call the shots. {Charu Soni}



Eternal Gandhi Multimedia Museum

At Birla House, 5 Tees January Marg
(23012843). Open 10am-5pm daily, except
Mondays and second Saturdays. Entry free.