Mahatma comes home

Check out a new virtual tour to understand the Mahatma's connect with Mumbai

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HAVEN'T ever been inside Mani Bhavan? Now is your chance despite the lockdown. The authorities at the museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi — housed in a historic building on Laburnum Road in Gamdevi — have started a virtual tour of the premises that you can view online.

The museum houses rare photographs of Gandhi building the virtual tour. there were people who said that since the Mahatma was opposed to technology, they were sullying his image with this modern-day endeavour. "But I said, no, he wasn't opposed to technology or machines at all. He was simply opposed to them being our masters," the museum secretary says.

But why a virtual tour and not a video to detail the interiors and its treasures? It's because the latter is a more passive art form, Kamdar answers, reasoning, "It would be less interactive, and more one-sided. Also, in a video, you zoom past everything. In a virtual tour, I can wait. I can reflect on an exhibit, and see different perspectives and close-ups."

The online walkthrough will be available on the main Mani Bhavan website once the minor errors are corrected. Right now, it's available on a separate URL, listed below. The viewing begins from outside the main gate, on a leafy road. And those curious about the historic building's interiors simply have to follow the arrows that guide a visitor inside.

*A video would have been less interactive, and more one-sided*— YEGOSH KAMDAR