

GLOBAL CONCERN

Stopping terrorism globally is a daunting challenge that requires a multifaceted approach involving international cooperation, comprehensive strategies, and addressing the root causes that fuel extremism. Terrorism, defined as the deliberate use of violence against civilians to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives, threatens global peace and security. Effectively combating terrorism requires a combination of preventive measures, intelligence and law enforcement efforts, diplomatic initiatives, and addressing socio-economic and political grievances. International cooperation in intelligence sharing is crucial for identifying terrorist networks, disrupting plots, and apprehending perpetrators. Platforms such as Interpol and bilateral agreements facilitate timely information exchange. Preventing the movement of terrorists across borders requires robust border control measures, including use of technology, cooperation agreements, and capacity-building assistance to vulnerable states. Cutting off sources of funding is essential. International efforts such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) work to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through regulations and monitoring. Addressing protracted conflicts and promoting peaceful resolutions can reduce grievances that fuel terrorism. Diplomatic efforts through mediation, peacekeeping, and supporting political dialogue are essential. Organizations like the United Nations, African Union, and European Union play crucial roles in coordinating regional responses. Engaging with religious leaders and promoting interfaith dialogue can counter extremist interpretations of religion. Highlighting common values and respect for diversity undermines extremist narratives. Integrating critical thinking, civic education, and human rights into school curricula helps inoculate youth against extremist ideologies and propaganda. Collaboration with tech companies to monitor and remove extremist content online is essential. In conclusion, stopping terrorism globally requires a comprehensive and sustained effort involving preventive measures, intelligence and law enforcement cooperation, diplomatic initiatives, addressing socio-economic grievances, and countering extremist ideologies. Success depends on international solidarity, political will, and collaboration across borders and sectors to confront this shared threat to humanity's security and stability. By addressing root causes, enhancing security measures, and promoting peace and tolerance, the international community can make significant strides towards a world free from terrorism.

Say 'no' to plastic bags, 'yes' to paper bags

■ SUNIL VAID

Paper Bag Day is celebrated every year on July 12, as a reminder of the importance of eco-friendly alternative to plastic bags. This day serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about harmful effects of plastic on the environment and promote the use of sustainable alternatives such as paper bags. It is a day to reflect on our consumption habits and make conscious efforts to protect our planet. It is we the people, who can do it. On this paper bag day, let us get-together to inspire others to make positive change. The Earth is what we have in common. Let us make conscious changes today for a sustainable tomorrow. The future is in our hands, let's hold on to the plastic bags and protect our planet's precious resources. Let us unite in our efforts to reduce plastic waste and choose sustainable alternatives.

Let us celebrate the humble paper bag, which does more than carrying our groceries. Today, millions of people choose to switch to paper bags for carrying their shopping, as the wide spread use of plastic and its harmful effects on the environment at large, raise alarm bells in our collective consciousness. So how do paper bags aid us in the fight against environmental pollution and climate change? Firstly paper is biodegradable, which immediately makes it a preferable alternative to plastic, which is not. Paper bags are also made of renewable raw materials, which encourages a sustainable lifestyle, as they can be recycled. This gives our environment, a bit of break too. Paper bags can be quite durable, except when soggy, and have more up market aesthetic appeal thanks to high-end brands popularizing minimal and sustainable packaging. So really, what is not to love about paper bags.

History of Paper Bag Day

It is not clear who officiated paper bags day, we can surmise that it must have been founded in order to raise convenience about important environmental issue like climate change and to promote a more sustainable life style by introducing paper bags as alternatives to plastic bags. An American school teacher - turned Priest - Turned inventor Francis WOLLE in 1852, invented and patented the first paper bag machine, after which he and his brother founded the Union Bag and paper company. In 1871, Margaret E. Knight decided to refine Wollé design by inventing a machine that would produce paper bags with boxy bottoms. This improvement earned her the title of "Mother of the grocery Bag" as it was the key template for the foldable paper bags we use today. In 1883, Charles Stillwell Tweaked Knights Design further, adding pleated sides to paper bags in order to make it easier to carry, fold and store. In 1912, Walter Deubenues added a cord to reinforce the paper bags and handler for ease of carrying. Thus, the final product, which is the bag of today, is clearly and combined effort of all these inventors. Thanks to them.

How to Celebrate Paper Bag Day

1. Switch on two paper bags. If you have not done so; there is no better day to make an informed decision to switch to using paper bags for most of the shopping as they are safe, durable and stronger.
2. Have fun with paper bags. Paper bags can be fun, too. Many craft activities can be like creating scrap book, making paper bag puppet, decorating paper bags with kids with old paper bags. Paper bags come in handy due to their alternative uses. For instance paper bags work better than wipers to clean windows. They can be used for decorations even as an eco friendly option for packing lunches.
3. Recycle at home. Recycle your paper bags if they are still in good condition. Store them carefully for reuse. If they are damaged, they can be used in composting, as well as for wrapping food items (like garlic and onions). Not only does store fruit in paper bags ripen them and keeps them in good condition. They won't end up in landfills or pollute oceans and rivers. And if you are looking to save money, many stores offer reusable paper, shopping bags that can last for years.

As plastic bags waste is causing serious threat to the environment across the world, GOI has announced a draft of "Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2021" on March 11, 2011. For combating any social issues 'bans' have been a favorite measure of Indian Policy. The policy is being implemented in centre as well as states but not successful at length. Reports have indicated that plastic items (plastic bags) is increasing@7% per year as against 3% of global average. The Govt. will have to take strict action and seek people's cooperation to switch on to paper bags and shun plastic bags.

Paper Bags Day is all about choosing to be more sustainable and eco-friendly, as we grapple with the all-too-real crises like climate change and globalization. A simple switch to paper bags will make a difference. Paper bags are toxin free and safe for use, so we have a reason to appreciate this invention. We have to ensure that the next generation does not experience doomsday early due to global environmental crises that are making life on earth more of a challenge. Heavy words, we know but simple, conscious decisions like switching to paper bags and choosing recyclable materials for everyday use can help combat these universal challenges and ensure a sustainable future. World paper bag days is a significant opportunity to learn about the environmental benefits of paper bags and opt for paper bags, embrace sustainability and shape a greener future together.



■ ER. P.L.KHUSHU

LOP of the newly constituted parliament brazenly insulted the Hindus by calling them as violent people. Will he become the prime minister of India through his so called inherited legacy of Nehru - Gandhi dynasty, with such mediocre statements, of maligning Hindus and thus Hinduism? Let him introspect his worthiness about it. Do shabby insults and utterances about a major section of population of India by any one, for achieving laurels as a political leader; that too of a dynasty base, which is now fighting for its existence, pay such a person with worth and honor. Is this his "Balak Budhi" as suggested by Modi, while retorting him back with a politically loaded fierce speech in the parliament, which the LOP deserved. Has he given such a communal speech to win the sympathies of the Muslims of India for his vote bank politics, under a well devised plan of dividing the people of India on communal lines under a proper plan? Yes it appears so. If it is so, then the displaced Kashmiri Pandits, who are the worst victims of the Islamic fundamentalism in Kashmir; silently abetted and aided by the congress party, during its rules under the slogans of pseudo secularism, curse and admonish him for his such statements as they being the most tolerant Hindus had to suffer at the hands of non Hindus. Can he justify it? In fact congress is basically responsible for the uprooting of KP's from Kashmir, while encouraging the local dynasty based Muslim political parties to rule Kashmir for decades, with a concealed set up of mind, for its vote bank politics, to appease the Muslim majority of Kashmir. KP's condemn such an intolerant statement of the LOP given in parliament against the Hindus, as they are the worst hit Hindus of this country, due to the double standards of the congress party which ruled India for decades. Since the LOP has insulted all the Hindus of this nation, he needs to be told that he is on bail, apart from having been pulled up by the Honble supreme court of India for his un called for abuses against Modi, a well known secular and democratic prime minister of India.

Does he become taller with such postures, presuming with a blind thought within himself, that he is the best contestant, who can brow beat Modi and exhibit that he is the only choice left in the country to replace him.

With such utterances in the parliament he has made a self goal for congress, when he has done it on earlier occasions too and he was made to resign as the congress president. His other family members are trying their best to push him through and make him the prime minister of India somehow, yet, his common factor of intelligent quotient is not that ripe which can elevate him as the prime minister of India. It is day dreaming for him as also for his other family members. A famous proverb which says that "if wishes were horses, beggars would ride". That is the situation for him. Is he worth it? He should ask this question to his own self. The other allies of the congress party who are sacred of Modi as a crusader against corruption, badly used him in the recent elections to their advantages, when congress could not cross its tally beyond 100 M.P seats in parliament and the other allies of I.N.D.I Alliance scored much better in these elections, at the cost of the congress party. Even the congress was totally routed out from its base in some important states of India. Let congress party introspect about it. Present congress party is happy that it has made "Raj-Kumar" the LOP, obliging the left over "Kings and Queens" of the erstwhile congress party, the then powerful national level political party of India, governed

LOP Insults Hindus, Are Hindus Violent?

and controlled by veteran and educated political brains and acemens of India of that time. Congress is now reduced to the status of a minor regional level political party in most of the states of India and has equally lost its base in most of the states of India. Congress party is presently managed by some sycophant leaders of south India as its managing and governing leaders, who are dancing to the tunes of its dynasty based political mentors of congress, who have a single aim to project its Raj Kumar's and Raj Kumaries as the rulers of India, which in all probability is a day dream for them. This notion of congress party may have serious repercussions on the overall governance of this country as congress party is all hell-bent to create chaos and confusions within various sections and groups of the Indian society; particularly on religious and caste basis, to get power of administering the nation, with the "Raj Kumar" as its leader, by hook or crook. The LOP has not spoken such derogatory words against the Hindus thorough innocence. He has done it willfully to thank his voters from the minorities of India who added about 40 more seats to the congress tally of the parliamentary seats of 2019, by voting for congress while congress was fighting elections in alliance with the other regional parties. With such an alliance congress helped the regional political parties to fair much better in these elections, while surrendering its claim on most of the seats, just to ensure that BJP losses in most of the belts where Muslims and the other minorities were more in number.

It is a vicious game plan of the congress party and its allies the I.N.D.I Alliance, to see the end of BJP rule with Modi as the prime minister to get back their lost power and positions as dynasty based political parties, at any cost, which may jeopardized even the security and the stability of India. They are happy to see Rahul Gandhi as the LOP as these disgruntled political parties, which are dynasty based and mostly regional in its shape and formations are using him to garner their mischievous aims and objectives of coming back to power, with his immature utterances and intolerant postures of exhibiting his absolute incompetence to be a perfect leader of the masses of India which is a vast country with a population of 140 crores. This political alliance which includes congress party as well are now fully determined to spread hate and chaos in the country like saying that constitution is in danger, there is no democracy in the country, minorities rights are at stakes, regional aspirations are being curbed, seeking extra reservations for Muslims, Dalits and the like. The people across the country have to assess the intensions behind such moves of these alliance partners, as they are not doing so for the people, but for their own interest as there is no threat to the constitution, to the democracy in India when the democracy is at its peak presently in India, appropriate reservations have been provided to the needy, regional balances are very well in place.

If people of India, fall a prey to these poisonous admirations of the I.N.D.I Alliance, being processed through an immature LOP, there can be a situation of complete unrest in the country along with attempts to divide the people of India on cast and religion basis, with a greedy ambitions of these political alliance partners, to come back to power and destabilize the Modi government, which is on a mission to eradicate corruption of sorts from the country, as also to provide people akin development of all sorts across the country. This is evinced by the fact that India has attained a status of 5th place in the zone of world economy and is on its path to reach to the 3rd position soon in this regard.

The LOP and his other family members are in deep slumber to presume that it is he who has the

absolute right of becoming the prime minster of India, being the great grandson of Nehru, grandson of Indra Gandhi and the son of Rajiv Gandhi. This dynastic mind set of most of the political leaders of India, which came together to oppose Modi in the shape of I.N.D.I. Alliance are all dynasty linked and are unable to compromise with the present democratic governing situations of India, which is mostly free from adverse corruption and nepotism. During the recent election campaigns, such divisive elements spread canards that if BJP gets more than 400 seats the constitution of India will be amended to the distress of the minorities. Congress party took the lead in this lie. They succeeded to make small dent among the minority community voters who voted for these political parties, thus polarizing the political atmosphere badly, almost making it a communal fight within the peace loving citizens of India.

The general population of India have to be alarmed with such attitudes and designs of such unholy alliances of such political parties, which are loaded with a smoky mind set of dividing India on caste, color, culture and religion basis, for their survivals as the dynasty based political parties, as the only worthy political clans to rule and govern India.

Kashmiri pundits who are displaced from their homes and hearths for the last about 35 years due to such acrimonious communal trends in Kashmir; abetted by congress, can understand it better as they are living as refugees in their own country for the last 35 years when no body incuding congress is bothered about it. Could the LOP quote it too in parliament. He cannot. His Muslim acquaintances as his vote bank treasure will dupe him.

Such political alliances are mostly doing it to keep their progenies alive and ensure their crowning as the rulers in various forms to rule India or the Indian states in one form or the other; even if these progenies are uneducated and illiterate, when the instances are not wanting in this regard.

Coming back to the acrimonious statement of the LOP in the parliament of India, about Hindus, let him know what a Hindu means and stands for:

For Vivekananda, a Hindu, first and foremost, is a person who subscribes to the doctrines and practices of Hinduism. Although it is true that Vivekananda identifies the essence of Hinduism with the Vedanta tradition and, quite specifically, with the Advaita world-view, he does not limit his use of the term to the Vedanta or Advaita traditions only. Hinduism, for Vivekananda, is an umbrella term embracing Vaishnavites, Shaivites, Shaktas, Vishishtadvaitins, Dvaitins and Advaitins. The significant point here is that both terms describe a religious identity. "If a Hindu is not spiritual", says Vivekananda, "I do not call him a Hindu."

So a Hindu is a soul who is spiritually elevated, so how can he be violent.

In Swami Vivekananda's first major address before the Parliament of Religions, delivered on 19th September, 1893, he consistently uses the word 'Hindu' as indicative of religious belief. In one of his most important addresses entitled, "The Common Basis of Hinduism", and delivered in the city of Lahore after his return to India from the Parliament, Swami Vivekananda identified the doctrines shared by all Hindus. A Hindu, according to Vivekananda, is one who believes in the following: the authority of the Vedas, God, the cyclical order of creation, preservation and dissolution, the immortality of the atman and its innate purity and perfection, reincarnation and religion as realization and not as a dogma of fanaticism.

So a Hindu not by name only is non violent but by legacy of his birth too. It is a "Karnic" grace of a "Hindu" who gets born as a "Hindu" with spiritual objectives and aims in his or her life.

Hindu mythology believes in Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam. The phrase Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam is a Sanskrit word comprising of words as "Vasudha" - the Earth, "Eva"- is and "Kutumbhakam"- the family.

Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam, is a philosophy, which indicates that the whole world is one family. It is a social theory originating from a spiritual concept and understanding that entire humanity is made of one life energy.

The fundamental pillars of Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam are love and harmony, co-operation and mutual understanding and support. Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam, believes that the whole world is a garden of God. Let us not spoil it or do anything that would create the feelings of hatred. Thus the concept of Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam, can help in bringing unity and harmony in the universe.

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi used this phrase in a speech at the "World Cultural Festival" organized by the Art of living, saying that, "Indian Culture is very rich and has incultated each one of us with great values". "We are the people who have come from (Aham Brahamsmi to Vasudhaiva- Kutumbhakam)". Thus it means that the people living on this planet earth belong to the family of Vasudhaiva-Kutumbhakam, which means that all the human beings on earth are the members of the same family. So we pray to the God as:-

"Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah", " Sarve Santu Niramaya",

"Sarve Bhadrani Pasantu", Ma Kasehid Dukh Bhaag Bhavet",

"Om Shaantie, Shaantie, Shaantie".

Its meaning being: - May all become happy, May all be healthy (free from diseases), May all see what is auspicious, May no one suffer in any way. Om, Peace, Peace, Peace.

Vasudeva kutumbakam, is a phrase from the Hindu text the Maha Upanishad that is typically translated as "the world is one family." It is so valued that it is engraved in the entry to India's new parliament building. The term comes from the ancient Sanskrit vasudha, which means the Eternal Reality, and kutumbaka, meaning "family." In the alternate spelling, vasudha means the Earth. The overall meaning of the expression is the same, that all of the world, universe or reality is one. In context, the verse vasudeva kutumbakam describes the yogi who has reached the highest level on his spiritual journey and no longer has attachments to material things. Although the Maha Upanishad is the original source of the adage, it has influenced Hindu literature and philosophy since. The Bhagavata Purana describes vasudeva kutumbakam as the "loftiest Vedantic thought." It affirms the worth of all life - human, animal and plants - and the value of their interconnectedness on Earth and in the universe, just as the goal of yoga is unity.

This is the basic faith of the Hindu philosophy, which belongs to the cult of Hindus. It is the sole aim of a Hindu and his ism, the Hinduism. Where is the scope of any violence in a Hindu?

Let the LOP learn from the manuscripts of Hindus about the word Hindu, before portraying the images of lord Shiva and the like in the parliament, to exhibit his knowledge about Hindus and its ism, the Hinduism. These child like acts speak of enough of immaturity in the LOP. God save the country if such souls become the Kings of the country to rule the country.

(The author is a chartered consultant civil engineer, who loves his mother land the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir)

Global recognition of 'Papier Machie' artwork



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Papier Machie is one of the oldest handicrafts which is deeply intertwined with the culture and tradition of Kashmiri society and whose legacy has been passed from one generation to another for centuries. Besides, it generates employment for hundreds and thousands of Kashmiri households. The locally manufactured Papier-machie products are brought to local retail shops and tourist attractions for sale and are also exported to international markets, mainly in Europe.

Papier Machie is one of the most popular crafts practised in Kashmir. The tradition of the Kashmir Papier Machie has its origin rooted in the 15th century when king Zain-ul-Abidin invited accomplished artists and craftsmen from Central Asia.

Papier-machie is a French word that means chewed paper and the process of making it involves two steps: Sakhtsazi and Naqashi. Sakhtsazi, the initial stage of preparation, includes the making of the figurine from the mixture of paper pulp with the help of rice straw and copper sulfate. In the final step of Naqashi, several coats of paint are applied and the figurine is decorated. Artists prefer to use organic colors to paint their mesmerizing products. The entire procedure, which is done manually, requires much care and deliberation and is tedious and time-consuming.

The colours painted on object are made from pigments diluted in water to which some glue is added to fix the ground on which it is used. The three categories of colours are -- mineral (both actual and artificial) organic (both plants insects etc.) Vegetables. The final objects papier machie is given one or two coats of varnish which besides giving it shine serves as a protective agent.

Gulander Gul (flower in flower) Hazara (the thousand flowers) Gul Vilayat (the dear flower) Miniature Mughal paints Mythological figures Animals Hunting scenes Battle Scenes. The product range covers ring boxes, pill boxes, boxes of assorted shapes and sizes, flower vases, wall plaques, bowls, ashtrays, screens



etc. Also, Papier-machie products feature a wide range of intricate designs and depictions of Kashmir flora and fauna in their decorations. Birds, animals, wall clocks, photo frames, wind chimes and more recently, Christmas trees can be an ornament for Papier-machie products.

Some common themes that artists use for their craft include flowers, jungle motifs, especially Kashmiri symbols like the chinar leaf and almond shapes. Some artisans have built a lasting influence with Papier-machie by bringing life to the historical scenes from Mughal courts and depicting Persian poetry on them.

Some artisans produce rahles, or small reading desks for reciting the Quran, and Quran boxes using Papier-machie, inscribing Quranic verses on them. These intricate designs appear to be of much touristic attraction with their sumptuous look, and their appeal lies in their uniqueness and mystic style. When adorned on a wall or inside showcases, these decorative pieces add a spark to it. Consequently, the prolific craft is not only traditionally, culturally or artistically important but aesthetically too.

The craft was originally known in Kashmir by its Iranian name 'Kar-I-Qalamdan'. Qalamdan means a pen case, and was named such because in its initial stages the craft was used only to make pen cases. The noblemen

and men of high stature commissioned the manufacture of pen cases. The Qalamdan was used to hold belongings like bottles of medicines, handkerchiefs, rings, insignia etc. Many products are crafted out of this technique, both decorative and utilitarian. The popular ones are flower vases, wall plaques, bowls, trays, boxes, bangles, mirror holders, frames etc. Groups of people called the 'Saktamakers' make Papier-machie objects out of pulp and sell these objects to the 'naqaash' or Papier-machie painter. The Sakta makes the molds themselves according to the object and purpose.

Great tributes have been paid to Kashmir artists for their cleverness and ability to copy even the minutest details of the figures they wish to recreate. Though the Kashmiri handicraft of Papier-machie has foreign origins, these influences have been aptly imbibed and adapted to evolve into unmistakably Kashmiri characteristics.

Papier-machie, today, has become highly stylized and appealing by using real gold and silver paint and by adding intricate decorations. The designs and decorations of the Kashmiri Papier-machie, usually in the form of flowers and birds, have a strong Persian flavor.

Among other rich designs are 'Arabesque', done in gold against a brown or red ground to

show sprays of rose blossoms in fine lines and 'Yarkand', an elaborate design built up in spirals with golden rosettes radiating from various centers and white flowers laid over golden scroll work. Some items like bowls and vases are lined with brass, while on special orders boxes and other items are ornamented with gold and silver leaves and depict beautiful landscapes and objects like a house boat, that form an inseparable part of Kashmiri lifestyle.

Handicrafts, in which skilled people produce many types of creative pieces using various materials from paper to stone, are one of the important ways of preserving and promoting cultural and artistic traditions along with the talents associated with the people's history and lifestyle. And when it comes to handicrafts, Jammu and Kashmir is widely known for its artwork, cultural heritage and handicrafts. Kashmiri handicrafts include sophisticated products made manually or with the help of hand tools.

The flow of tourists in the region has helped promote the Kashmiri crafts, and people associated with the craft are exploring their skills and gaining global recognition. The Kashmiri Diaspora, living in different parts of the world, has also been instrumental in promoting this unique art form.

Papier-machie art is a centuries-old craft that has been used for decorative purposes in various parts of the world, including the Middle East, Japan, China, and India, and now it is finding rejuvenation across continents as the Diaspora promotes this unique art form. However, in Kashmir, it has evolved into a distinct art form that has been a part of the region's cultural heritage for centuries. Kashmiri Papier-machie items, such as pen stands, coasters, jewelry boxes, flower vases, lamp shades, trays, photo frames, and decorative bowls, have good demand both inside and outside Kashmir.

With the support and promotional activities, Kashmiri papier machie art can continue to thrive and contribute to the cultural and economic prosperity of the region. It is a symbol of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir, and its rejuvenation and promotion can play a significant role in preserving and promoting the identity of the region.