

# Opinion | Abhay Mudra: Confusion Worse Confounded

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July 9, 2024

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Written By: Jagdish Batra

News18.com

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New Delhi, India

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. (File pic/PTI)

## How Rahul Gandhi's interpretation of the Abhay Mudra is, at best, based upon a superficial understanding of this symbolic gesture

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's interpretation of the Abhay Mudra is, at best, based upon a superficial understanding of this symbolic gesture. First, he interpreted it to mean not only "daro mat" (don't be afraid) but also "daraao mat" (don't terrorise). In his earlier reference to this very symbol, he had likened it to the Congress poll symbol of an open palm, in a way, trying to assign it a divine aura. Currently, while "daro mat" will find resonance with the generally understood meaning of the symbol as Almighty holding a protecting hand over the devotee, the real meaning of this particular mudra, as any spiritualist will tell you, is that it betokens kalyanamastu or blessing for the well-being of all, and not only the devotees who bow to the image. To a positive message of this posture, Rahul has committed the folly of giving a negativistic twist.

Even this is a partial take on the image of the deity. Rahul failed to see the arms in the other hand of the deity, whether it was Ram, Shiva, or Shakti. They carry arms which means that while the blessings are for the dharmic or virtuous ones, there is punishment awaiting the evil-doers also. There is no scope for the stipulation "daraao mat" or don't terrorise; this is pure imagination of the Congress leader.

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Further, the way Rahul piled up pictures of deities one upon the other like papers in a file shows utter disregard for the sacred images worshipped by the devotees. The Sikh spiritual leaders have already disparaged Rahul's display of the picture of Guru Nanak Dev ji. The Muslim community is hardly able to appreciate the way Rahul contorted the prayer pose of the devotees to a gesture from the Almighty whom they consider without form. Probably Rahul thought that this dramatisation would give an edge to his speech; instead, it has only laid bare his ignorance. The least he can do now is to shun sharing this kind of sham knowledge in the future.

Further, his description of the word "Hindu" showed his hatred for the majority community in India. One thought that this kind of insinuation applied to him also, as he often donned janeu (sacred thread) and saffron shawl and worshipped in temples during election time. But then came his afterthought limiting such "violence and hatemongering" to the Hindus supporting RSS-BJP. While there are lunatic fringes in all communities, this kind of stereotyping is surely obnoxious and deserves condemnation.

Now, if the majority of Hindus (believing that all other communities voted against it) put the BJP in power, how does it lead to the conclusion that the present government is given to hatred? Was it hatred at the back of the BJP government in providing free ration to 80 crore people regardless of caste or religious affiliation which got started during Covid times and is being continued even now? Was it hatred that impelled RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat to declare that the Hindus and the Muslims have the same DNA? Was it hatred for other religionists in 100 other countries to whom the government supplied Covid vaccines at a time when rich countries held back the supplies and even the formulae?

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagging of Rahul Gandhi as "Balak Buddhi" was a very mild reprimand. There is a method to this madness which can be gauged when one considers the timing of unnecessarily dragging the Hindu community into his speech. While American Hindus through Representative Shri Thanedar have brought forth a bill against Hinduphobia in the House of Representatives there, here is Rahul badmouthing Hindus in Parliament, thus providing fodder to the anti-Hindu and anti-India foreign forces. This may cast a shadow on the fate of the bill in America — a measure that is the need of the hour considering the repeated attacks on temples and Indian consulates by Khalistanis and Pakistanis. However, it shows who is dictating whom in global geopolitics. Rahul and his party are more worried about their vote-bank than about projecting a better image of India abroad.

***Jagdish Batra is an academic and writer, presently working as Professor & Executive Dean at OP Jindal Global University, India. Views expressed in the above piece are personal and solely those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect News18's views.***

Tags:

1. BJP
2. congress
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### **National Mango Day 2024: History, Significance, Interesting Facts and How to Celebrate**

**National Mango Day is celebrated to honour the delicious and tropical fruit.**

**Mango is primarily a summer fruit and it comes in all shapes and sizes.**

**Mango is also known to be associated with Indian folklore.**

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- Jul-22,2024

### **Kanwar Yatra 2024: Wishes, History, Significance, and Steps Taken for Safe Conduct!**

**The Kanwar Yatra is an annual pilgrimage of Shiva devotees, known as Kanvarias.**

**This year, the yatra is scheduled to begin today on July 22 and end on August 2.**

**Devotees of Lord Shiva from across the country participate in this yatra.**

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- Jul-16,2024

**'Completely Fit' Hardik Pandya Likely to Lead India in T20Is**

**Hardik Pandya is all set to lead India in the three T20Is vs Sri Lanka**

**No injury concerns whatsoever and he is completely fit**

**Suryakumar Yadav is not in contention for captaincy in any format**

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- Jul-16,2024

**Gautam Gambhir Wants Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah to Play SL ODIs; Hardik Pandya to Skip: Report**

**Hardik Pandya Informs BCCI About his Unavailability**

**Gambhir Urges Rohit, Kohli, Bumrah to Play ODI Series**

**Hardik Pandya Set to be Ignored for T20I Captaincy**

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- Jul-16,2024

**Happy Birthday Katrina Kaif: Top Films, Songs, and Vicky Kaushal's Sweetest Quotes!**

**One of the highest-paid actresses in Indian cinema, Katrina Kaif turns 41 today.**

**From light-hearted romantic comedies to action blockbusters, she has done it all**

**Katrina and Vicky Kaushal dated for about 2 years before tying the knot in 2021.**

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- Jul-12,2024

### **Paper Bag Day 2024: Theme, History, Facts, Wishes, Quotes, and Messages**

**Paper Bag Day (or World Paper Bag Day) is observed on July 12**

**The day aims to promote the use of paper bags over plastic bags.**

**Unlike non-biodegradable plastic bags, paper bags offer eco-friendly alternative**

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- Jul-12,2024

### **National Simplicity Day 2024: Theme, History, Significance and Quotes to Share**

**National Simplicity Day is observed annually on July 12.**

**It encourages people to reflect on the benefits of living a simple lifestyle.**

**The day marks the birth anniversary of American philosopher David Thoreau.**

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- Jul-10,2024

### **World Population Day 2024: Date, Theme, History, Significance, Celebration and Quotes**

**World Population Day, or International Population Day, is celebrated on July 11.**

**The theme for this year is 'To Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone.'**

**The day promotes reproductive health services and rights for all individuals.**

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- Jul-10,2024

### **Sunil Gavaskar Turns 75: Did You Know he is 'Only Cricketer' to Get a Haircut On-Field?**

**Arguably one of India's most impactful cricketers, Sunil Gavaskar turns 75 today**

**He dominated Test cricket, setting the world record for most runs and centuries.**

**Since retiring, he took up various responsibilities within BCCI and ICC.**

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- Jul-07,2024

### **Happy Birthday MS Dhoni: 43 Interesting Facts About the Legendary India Skipper, and His Top Knocks**

**Indian cricket legend MS Dhoni celebrates his 43rd birthday today.**

**He is one of the most successful skippers ever to lead the Indian cricket team.**

**'Thala' holds the record for most IPL appearances (264).**

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- Jul-07,2024

### **The Last Time Is Now! John Cena Says He Will Retire from WWE in 2025**

**John Cena announced that he will retire from in-ring competition at WWE in 2025**

**Cena made the announcement during a surprise appearance at WWE Money in the Bank**

**Cena's towel read 'The Last Time Is Now' and his shirt 'John Cena Farewell Tour'**

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- Jul-05,2024

**National Workaholics Day 2024: Celebrate Your Hustle, But Don't Forget to Rest!**

**National Workaholics Day is observed on July 5.**

**The day helps realise the importance of balancing work life and social life.**

**One should relax and prioritise their mental health over earning money.**

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- Jul-04,2024

**Jagannath Rath Yatra 2024: Date, History, and a Rare Occurrence After 53 Years!**

**This year, Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri will be held on Sunday, July 7.**

**It marks the 9-day visit of holy trinity to their birthplace at Gundicha temple.**

**The festival will conclude with Bahuda Yatra on July 16.**

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**Swami Vivekananda Death Anniversary 2024: Life, Legacy, and 10 Inspiring Quotes!**

**Swami Vivekananda was a key figure in the introduction of Indian philosophies.**

**His birth name was Narendranath Dutta.**

**He was the chief disciple of the saint Ramakrishna Paramahansa.**

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- Jul-04,2024

**Team India Victory Parade Highlights: World Champs Return To Unprecedented Celebrations; Rohit, Virat Get Unforgettable T20 Farewell**

**Team India to Land in Delhi on Thursday Morning**

**To Meet PM Modi for Breakfast at .30 AM IST**

**Open Bus Parade in Mumbai at 4:00 PM IST**

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- Jul-03,2024

**International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024: History, Significance, Quotes and Tips to Reduce Plastic Use While Travelling**

**International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed annually on July 3.**

**It aims to raise awareness about the problem of plastic pollution.**

**It also raises awareness about the environmental impact of plastic bags.**

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- Jul-02,2024

**Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma and Harshit Rana Added to India's Squad for First Two T20Is**

**Jaiswal, Dube, Samson yet to leave Barbados due to the hurricane situation**

**Captain Shubman Gill will directly link up with team in Harare**

**India play five T20Is vs Zimbabwe starting July 6**

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Aries

Ganesha says today will be a day of assorted results for you. If there is no conflict going on in marital life, it will end and you can go anywhere to get the attraction again. If you want to partner in a business, you will get a lot of profit, but you may suffer loss due to a dispute with

an official. You are planning to go on a long-distance trip with friends.

**Lucky Number:** 17

**Lucky Color:** White

**By Astrologer Chirag Daruwalla**

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