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'Modi chooses voters, not the other way round': INDIA bloc's Delhi rally targets BJP, CEC over 'vote chori'



The opposition INDIA bloc on Sunday held a massive rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, demanding the BJP's ouster over allegations of "vote chori" and electoral irregularities, and accusing the ruling party of coming to power at the Centre and in states through a "stolen" mandate.Prominent leaders of the grouping also opposed the revision of electoral rolls, while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi warned that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will be removed and jailed for treason in the future, and asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will not be allowed to escape the law."Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji, understand this -- after Gyanesh Kumar, we will stand against you and don't forget that for the 'vote chori' you have done, there will be legal action against you," Gandhi said.The opposition leaders alleged that the Chief Election Commisisoner (CEC) had colluded with the BJP to "steal" the votes of citizens and vowed to fight to "protect the Constitution and democracy".This was not the voice of any one political party or leader but of the entire opposition and nation that includes India's youth, women, farmers, labourers and common people.They are declaring that 'we will not let democracy and Constitution be destroyed in India," the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said, hailing the turnout at the rally.Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge accused Modi and Shah of shielding the CEC."Modi and Shah have attempted to snatch the vote of Dalits, youth and women. Modi ji wants to take away their votes through his man -- Ganesh Kumar. We will keep fighting until he goes, and ensure his exit," he said.Alleging that "vote chori" has been taking place in the country for several years, Gandhi described the 2024 Lok Sabha election as "illegal".He pointed out that the Election Commission removed 15 per cent of total voters from the electoral rolls even while the difference between the NDA and the opposition grouping was merely 3 per cent of votes."This means that the 2024 election was illegal; it was stolen. I am not saying this but the EC stated this because they have removed 13.3 crore voters from the 2024 list," he said."This was not a normal theft, as this is stealing the voice of citizens and in legal parlance it is called 'rarest of rare'; this is treason. Without Gyanesh Kumar, neither Modi would have become PM nor Shah Home Minister," he said.Responding to Shah's statement that Modi is not going anywhere, Gandhi said, "Narendra Modi cannot go anywhere; even if he wants to go, we will not let him."The "vote bachao, desh bachao maharally' was part of the opposition's series of protests for removal of CEC Kumar and scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.Top opposition leaders, including former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, TMC's Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, NC's Farooq Abdullah, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, CPI-M's M A Baby, CPI's D Rajs, NCP-SP's Supriya Sule and Shiv Sena-UBT's Sanjay Raut were among those present at the rally, besides Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K C Venugopal, Dipankar Bhattacharya and civil society members.SP's Akhilesh Yadav said the Ramlila Maidan has turned into the "Haldighati of democracy" with a massive turnout of people and asserted that this is indicative of change in the offing.Mamata Banerjee claimed that West Bengal election was hijacked and called upon people across communities and political affiliations to unite against the BJP. "The BJP will go, will go, will go. They are going to go," she said emphatically.RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav likened the fight against alleged "vote chori" to the epic Mahabharata, describing it as a battle between the country's voters and "cheaters"."You know who was Shakuni... Shakuni is playing his game, and we have to fight and create Kurukshetra. When Shakuni rolled the dice, he rigged it."Everyone knows who is Shakuni...Gyanu (Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar) is Modi's 'namoona (minion)'. He should be tried for treason and jailed so that no one dares to trample democracy in future.""The country is watching as constitutional institutions fail to deliver justice," he addedThe BJP, however, described the rally as a "chaotic, unruly spectacle" and assailed Rahul Gandhi for his remarks about Prime Minister Modi's election, saying the Congress leader was speaking like the "son of a Mughal emperor".BJP chief Nitin Nabin lashed out at Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he was acting at the behest of foreign powers to create anarchy in the country.Gandhi said that they did not promote violence and neither had any hatred towards Modi, Shah or Gyanesh Kumar. "We will not spread hatred; we will work with love but we will not let them destroy the Constitution," he said."I want to say to you, Gyanesh Kumar will be removed from the CEC post. Gyanesh Kumar will go to jail," Gandhi said, adding that removing Kumar was the first step in bringing the country back on rails and they would take on Modi and Shah thereafter.Congress chief Kharge said that it was essential to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power in order to save democracy."Modi jayega to hi loktantra bachega, Modi ko hatayenge tabhi loktantra ko bachenyenge, Modi ko hatao loktantra ko bachao (Remove Modi to save democracy)," he said.Alleging that Modi and Shah are trying to protect CEC Kumar, Kharge said even "if the CEC hides underground, we will find him"."It is not the voters who choose Modi, it is Modi who chooses the voters," he said, while alleging that there was collusion between the BJP and the CEC, who added or deleted voters to assist the BJP.Akhilesh Yadav also claimed that those who came to power at the Centre through Uttar Pradesh will also exit from there. 'UP wallahs (people)', who are good at welcoming, are better at giving send-offs," he said, referring to the upcoming state elections.Taking a dig at Shah, Yadav said those who speak of having a firm, immovable stance -- likening it to the unshakeable foot of Angad -- should consider where they would even place that foot, given that there is no ground left to stand on.He referred to the recent MLC polls and said the people of Kashi (Varanasi) have reduced the "double-engine" government to a 'double zero.""We, in the 'INDIA' alliance, will not stop," he said. "If we were unable to form the government in 2022, it is because of this very theft," Yadav added.He said a change was in the offing, and the "parivartan" can come anytime.Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee extended her support to the CJP leadership and Gen Z activists at the INDIA bloc rally here, as she accused the BJP of manipulating elections and using SIR exercise to target states ruled by non-NDA parties.She was seen warming up to Sonia Gandhi, whom she addressed as "my leader", and acknowledged the presence of her once arch rivals, Left parties.Criticising the SIR exercise, Banerjee described it as "Special Intensive Relief to a party like the BJP"."We did not lose, we were made to lose. We will fight this democratically. You looted jobs, lives and the respect of women. You hijacked the election," she alleged.Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti also spoke, besides left leaders M A Baby and CPI-ML's Dipankar Bhattacharya.

A sea of flags, a chorus of grievances: Ramlila Maidan rally brings up concerns beyond 'vote chori'



NEW DELHI: Thousands of colourful flags, big and small, fluttered across the sprawling Ramlila Maidan as chants of "vote bachao, desh bachao (save elections, save India)" rended the air, with people from every corner of the country converging in the capital for INDIA bloc's rally against alleged "vote chori".From farmers, labourers and domestic helps to students, transgender activists and political party workers, the gathering brought together people with concerns extending well beyond alleged electoral irregularities. Unemployment, inflation, women's safety, the Manipur crisis, access to education, and the rights of marginalised communities all found a place in the conversations unfolding at the venue.For Karuna Kurrey, a member of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress, the concerns over electoral democracy are inseparable from the everyday struggles of citizens, as those elected to power ultimately determine the policies governing their lives."If the names of crores of eligible voters have been deleted from electoral rolls, does that mean all these people are illegal immigrants? Are they not citizens of India whose right to vote must be protected?" she said.She said concerns regarding unemployment, crimes against women and children, and the justice system also demand political accountability. "Today, when children are raped, women are unsafe, and youths are denied jobs, taking away people's votes renders them incapable of holding those in power accountable."The difficulties faced by people trying to establish their eligibility to vote echoed among those from economically vulnerable backgrounds.Guddi Tirki, a domestic help originally from Jharkhand's Gumla, who lives in a slum cluster in southeast Delhi's Jasola, said a booth-level officer (BLO) had visited her residence and asked her to furnish proof linking her to her native village. Some discrepancies in her documents had complicated the process."We have not come from another country," she said, questioning why people like her have to struggle to establish their eligibility.She said the process is particularly difficult for people from disadvantaged backgrounds who often lack the education and language skills to navigate official procedures. "We are not educated; we do not understand English. We work as househelps. Who listens to us?"For Hasmat, 68, a supporter of the Jai Kisan Andolan from Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, the journey to Delhi was worth the expense. She said she had paid for the train journey out of her own pocket just to raise farmers' concerns at the protest."Farmers work very hard to feed the country; however, their own struggles -- for fair prices for their produce, rising input costs, and just making ends meet -- go unheeded," she said.The demand for accountability was loud and clear in the slogans raised by student organixations.Members of the Uttar Pradesh unit of National Students' Union of India (NSUI), who had travelled from Shahjahanpur, had just one message -- "Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod (Vote chor, vacate your seat)" they shouted in unison, demanding resignation of Gyanesh Kumar.Rajesh Chaudhary, a Congress leader from Haryana, invoked the fundamental democratic principle that the Constitution belongs to the people and derives its authority from them. She said the prevailing situation has raised questions about whether citizens are being adequately represented and if those in power are answerable at all.Unemployment, inflation, crimes against women and children and shortcomings in education, she said, demand accountability from the government. A democracy cannot function meaningfully if citizens are denied voting rights and the opposition is ignored.Bobo, who travelled from Kakching district in Manipur, said the call to scrap the SIR exercise is inseparable from the larger fight to hold the government accountable.He asserted that the Centre cannot be allowed to evade questions on alleged electoral irregularities, like it had ignored concerns and desperate pleas for help in the wake of violent ethnic clashes in Manipur, which drag on to this day, with little sign of a resolution even after more than three years.The rally also provided a platform for members of marginalised communities to raise concerns over their political representation.Simran Sharma, 29, a transgender activist and content creator living in Noida, said the exclusion of transgender people from electoral rolls has worsened the difficulties faced by a community already struggling for social acceptance and economic security.Born in Delhi, Sharma said she had separated from her family 12 years ago. Even her mentor, who resides in Delhi, has found her name missing from the draft electoral roll, she said.The number of registered third-gender voters in Delhi fell to 447 in the draft roll prepared during the ongoing SIR, from 1,261 during the 2025 assembly elections.Students brought their concerns about electoral representation and employment opportunities to the rally.Rubi, a 22-year-old student from Jamia Millia Islamia and associated with the Muslim Students' Federation (MSF), said she and her friends had been protesting against alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise for weeks. She said she had been detained earlier at Connaught Place during a march organised

NSA Ajit Doval in Hanoi to review India-Vietnam strategic ties

NEW DELHI: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived in Hanoi on Sunday for an official visit aimed at strengthening the India-Vietnam strategic partnership, sources said.During his visit, Doval is scheduled to meet senior Vietnamese leaders and discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the spheres of security, defence and strategic affairs.The visit follows the fourth India-Vietnam Security Dialogue, held in New Delhi in October 2026. The dialogue reviewed cooperation in areas including counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, maritime security, economic security and emerging technologies. The visit is expected to provide high-level political direction to the implementation of the outcomes of the dialogue.India and Vietnam have been strengthening their strategic engagement amid evolving security challenges in the Indo-Pacific. Vietnam is an important partner for New Delhi's Act East Policy and its broader Indo-Pacific strategy where both sides push for freedom of navigation and peaceful maritime periphery.Defence and maritime security cooperation are expected to figure prominently in the discussions. The two sides are also likely to explore ways to expand military-to-military engagement, including defence training, technology cooperation, equipment supplies and potential co-production arrangements. India has been seeking to expand its defence exports in Southeast Asia, while Vietnam is looking to diversify its defence partnerships.Cooperation in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, cybersecurity and energy is also expected to feature in the discussions. Both countries have been seeking to broaden their partnership beyond traditional security cooperation and strengthen institutional coordination between their respective agencies.The two countries have several institutional mechanisms covering defence, maritime security, foreign policy and technology cooperation.

India on the path to make affordable care available to all



With Indian doctors' prowess giving foreigners a confidence to seek treatment here, India has come a long way since independence in healthcare. The country has a booming medial tourism industry, coupled with improved score in health indicators like life expectancy, infant mortality and fertility rate. India now has a strengthened network of primary health centres, community health centres and tertiary care super specialty hospitals along with an army of trained medical personnel to provide health care to its people. Simultaneously, more hospitals are being opened, drug prices being regulated, technology being made affordable for masses, network on communicable diseases being strengthened and efforts being made to invest more in the healthcare.

The Gross Domestic Product per capita, which indicates a country's standard of living, has increased 21 times from the 1960 level when it was $61.3 to $1709.4 in 2016, according to World Bank estimates. The life expectancy at birth, the average number of years a person is expected to survive if existing patterns of mortality stayed the same throughout their life has increased by 65.8 percent or 27 years between 1960 when it was 41 years and 2015 at 68 years. Crude birth rate has also reduced from 37 in 1970 to 22.2 in 2012 (per 1000 population). Population stabilisation efforts have paid off with total fertility rate for the country going down to 2.3 while some states like Delhi at 1.7, Kerala at 1.8, Tamil Nadu at 1.7, Maharashtra at 1.8, West Bengal at 1.6 and Himachal Pradesh at 1.7 attaining fertility rates even lower than the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman.

The country has shown impressive progress in bringing down the infant mortality rate - the number of babies per 1000 who die before their first birthday. From 165 deaths per 1000 children in 1960, the IMR has come down to 38 deaths in 2015. A major reason for this is the country's vaccination program. After launching its first vaccine – BCG - in 1962 as part of the national tuberculosis control program, India now has come a long way. An expanded program on immunization as part of the World Health Organisation's initiative was launched in India in 1978 which included BCG, DPT and typhoid vaccine. Oral Polio vaccine was included in the program in 1979. In 1985, the program was converted into Universal Immunization Program (UIP) with a goal to cover all the children.

Over the years new vaccines like those against hepatitis B and Japanese encephalitis have been added. The thrust on vaccination has made India polio free. The country was removed from the endemic countries' list on February 25, 2012 by the WHO. Vaccination has also contributed to the decline in under-five mortality rate from around 233 to around 47.7 per 1,000 live births in 2015 in last five decades, though in numbers this is huge burden - an estimated 5.9 million children died under the age of five in 2015, 45 percent of them being newborns.

Despite the progress, health sector in India still faces some challenges. For example, a large proportion of population - two-thirds of children and more than half of the women – suffer from anemia and malnutrition. High cost of care is a cause of concern which makes accessing care difficult for the poor and the weaker sections. Statistics show that even the well-to-do families reach the brink of poverty if faced with a serious illness. This is because of low government investment in health and private sector becoming the main source of healthcare.

However, the government has initiated landmark measures in the past three years to overcome these problems. It has brought out of a new national health policy which aims to provide universal access to good quality services at affordable cost. There is an emphasis on strengthening of the public health system by increasing public expenditure on health to 2.5 per cent of the GDP in a time bound manner. The policy also proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency care services in all public hospitals to reduce financial burden of health care on people. The policy envisages giving choice of treatment to patients by co-location of AYUSH remedies in public facilities. Yoga should be introduced in schools and work places as part of promotion of good health, it says. The policy advocates strengthening of district level services so that people get secondary care there itself rather than in medical college hospitals, and recommends proactive engagement with the private sector.

In line with the intention of health policy, government has already initiated measures to reduce cost of medicines and medical equipment while bringing more people under the health insurance net. There are plans to provide about 500 medicines free of cost in government district hospitals across the country. Fifty basic medicines will be provided free in primary health centres and 300 medicines in community health centers. The government has opened 83 outlets under the Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) program. It also intends to empower citizens to access quality healthcare services using better mobile and internet connectivity. Aiming for equitable care, the government has been opening new AIIMS, including the latest approved for Assam.

Affordable medical care is the focus of this government. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has added 30 more essential drugs in the price control list taking the total medicines under price control to about 760. A draft national medical device policy aimed at bringing most medical devices within the ambit of price regulation and boosting their local manufacturing has also been prepared. Currently, only a few critical medical devices are under indirect price control and 80 per cent of all devices are imported products.

Far from keeping the world safe

The 23rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded on November 17 in Bonn, Germany. The two-week meeting was regarded by many as primarily intended to clarify processes for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the creation of a rule book, with technical guidelines and processes. This would explain what compliance with the Paris Agreement means and how it would be monitored.

The key topics of contention were related to financial support, mitigation action, differentiation, and loss and damage — the same knots of disagreements that came up at COP-21 in Paris. The questions raised in Bonn were: Are developed countries going to do their fair share to support poor and emerging countries, having occupied the bulk of the planet's available carbon space? What actions have thus far been taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by rich countries? Shouldn't there be greater emphasis to phase out coal? There was also some apprehension about the role of the U.S. in the discussions since President Donald Trump had earlier declared that it would leave the Paris Agreement.

Actions related to the Paris Agreement are intended for 2020-2030. However, the pre-2020 period is part of the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol. Both the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol (2005-2012) and the second (2013-2020) principally laid out the responsibilities for reducing emissions by rich countries. However, there has been little progress and the 2012 Doha Amendment, the agreement concerning the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, has not been ratified by a sufficient number of countries to enter into force.

Under pressure from poor and emerging economies, actions on the pre-2020 Kyoto period were added to the agenda in the first week of the Bonn meeting. As a result, in 2018 and 2019 there will be additional stocktaking on progress made on the Kyoto Protocol. There will also be climate finance assessments and all of these will be part of the overall process undertaken before 2020. It is reported that several countries have since expressed interest in ratifying the Doha Amendment and all these changes indicate some advancement.

Another aspect of the obligations that need to be fulfilled by big emitters is related to economic and non-economic losses under the work programme on loss and damage. In Warsaw, Poland, COP-19 established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage to address the destruction likely from climate change, including extreme events (such as severe storms) and slow-onset events (such as sea-level rise). This track of negotiations recognised that even if the world were to drastically reduce its emissions, anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere would cause warming. This would severely affect the poorest countries that are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

It is important that such countries have access to economic and non-economic support, especially since their actions have not led to these increased concentrations of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement recognises loss and damage and calls for enhanced action and support from the parties. However, loss and damage was not included in the agenda for the Paris rule book, and this was rightly a big bone of contention with poor and developing economies. There are no funds currently available for this stream and the discussion on this has been postponed to 2018. This is alarming given that the world has already faced the wrath of numerous extreme events just in the last couple of years.

A third aspect of the support from rich countries is about providing finance, technology, and building capacity for poorer countries, both to protect themselves from the effects of climate change and to help them move along a low-carbon pathway. There were conflicts on financial support at various points, and on this topic, COP-23 was a failure. Without the means of implementation, the targets set by each country in Paris will not be achieved. There is also the promise of $100 billion each year by 2020 into the Green Climate Fund, which has not seen much inflow to meet the goal. There was therefore little progress on the key issue of finance and several important decisions were moved forward to be discussed at the next meeting to be held in Katowice, Poland in 2018.

There have been a number of advances in renewable energy over the last several years. These were highlighted at various side events at COP-23. There were also several state and substate actors from the U.S. at Bonn, some of whom tried to distance themselves from the actions and statements of the Trump administration, along with a series of colourful protests and interactions.

On the plus side, negotiators did move forward on developing other details for the Paris Agreement implementation, a process that is carried out under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement and a policy should be ready in 2018. There was also a draft of a document integrating positions from parties on information needed to communicate the Nationally Determined Contributions. Steps were also taken to spell out the details of the global stock-taking that will occur every five years starting in 2023 and on transparency measures that are part of the overall process.

Nevertheless, the science on climate change has been grim this year. Greenhouse gas emissions which appeared to have stabilised for a few years, probably for economic reasons, rose by 2% in 2017, perhaps due to additional electricity drawn from coal power plants in China. When coal will be phased out globally was a major question. In fact, there were protests organised by activists at Europe's largest open pit coal mine near the Hambach Forest in Germany, not far from the COP-23. Clearly, greater ambition on clamping down on fossil fuels is needed for the Paris Agreement to be successful. The Bonn meeting saw the launch of the Powering Past Coal Alliance, which was led by Canada and the U.K., and joined by numerous countries and substate actors.

There was small but significant headway made regarding agriculture where a work plan was proposed by Parties on items related to climate change and agriculture, including improvements in soil fertility and carbon, management of land use and livestock maintenance. For India, these developments could be an excellent opportunity for learning from others and sharing local knowledge. Much more needs to be done for the international community to truly grapple with climate change — we are still far from keeping the world safe from its harmful consequences. And for India, there is unfortunately no time left for delaying action on multiple fronts on the landscape of sustainable development, which itself will be derailed by a warming world.

Carbohydrates may help to design better malaria vaccine

Good news! Carbohydrates are not our enemy, especially when it comes to stopping the spread of malaria, suggests a study. According to researchers, carbohydrates on the surface of malaria parasites play a critical role in malaria's ability to infect mosquito and human hosts. The discovery also suggests steps that may improve the only malaria vaccine approved to protect people against Plasmodium falciparum malaria - the most deadly form of the disease. Justin Boddey led the research from the Univeristy of Alberta, Canada.

Dr Justin Boddey said the team had shown that the malaria parasite 'tag' its proteins with carbohydrates in order to stabilise and transport them and that this process was crucial to completing the parasite's lifecycle. "Malaria parasites have a complex lifecycle that involves constant shape shifting to evade detection and infect humans and subsequently mosquitoes," Dr Boddey said. They found that the parasite's ability to 'tag' key proteins with carbohydrates is important for two stages of the malaria lifecycle.

It is critical for the earliest stages of human infection, when the parasite migrates through the body and invades in the liver and later when it is transmitted back to the mosquito from an infected human, enabling the parasite to be spread between people. Dr Goddard-Borger said the research had attracted a lot of interest because of the implications it has for improving malaria vaccine design. "It was hoped that the vaccine would generate a good antibody response that protected against the parasite, however it has unfortunately not been as effective at evoking protective immunity as hoped," Dr Goddard-Borger said.

"Now that we know how important these carbohydrates are to the parasite, we can be confident that the malaria parasite cannot 'escape' vaccination pressure by doing away with its carbohydrates," he added. This discovery reveals that carbohydrates are very important, and in two completely different lifecycle stages. This is exciting because to ultimately eradicate malaria the researchers need combined approaches that attack different stages of the parasite at once, Dr Boddey noted.

App to treat substance abuse gets FDA nod

In a first, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved marketing of a novel mobile medical application designed to help treat people with substance use disorders such as addiction to alcohol, cocaine and marijuana. The "Reset" app developed by Pear Therapeutics – a US-based Prescription Digital Therapeutics firm – delivers cognitive behavioural therapy to teach users the skills that aid in the treatment of substance use disorders.

The app, which is also a web interface for clinicians, is also intended to increase abstinence from substance abuse and increase retention in treatment compared to other therapies, the agency said in a statement on Thursday. "This is an example of how innovative digital technologies can help provide patients access to additional tools during their treatment," said Carlos Pena, Director at FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "More therapy tools means a greater potential to help improve outcomes, including abstinence, for patients with substance use disorder," Pena added.

As part of the approval process, the FDA reviewed data from a multi-site, in a 12-week clinical trial of 399 patients who received either standard treatment or standard treatment with the addition of a desktop-based version of Reset which could be accessed at the clinic or home. The data showed a statistically significant increase in adherence to abstinence for the patients with alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and stimulant substance use disorders in those who used Reset, 40.3 per cent, compared to the patients who did not, 17.6 per cent. The clinical trial did not demonstrate the effectiveness of using the Reset device in patients reporting opioids as their substance of abuse. Data from the clinical studies also did not indicate any side effects associated with the device, the statement said.

E-cigs may double risk of tobacco smoking in teenagers

Teenagers who try vape may be at double the risk for developing addiction to smoking tobacco cigarettes, according to a new study. The findings showed that students in grades 7 to 12 who had tried an e-cigarette are 2.16 times more likely to be susceptible to cigarette smoking. "Since e-cigarettes came on the market, there has been a debate about whether their use may lead to cigarette smoking. The answer among adolescents is yes," said Bruce Baskerville, a researcher at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

E-cigarettes can contain nicotine but not many of the harmful substances produced by smoking tobacco such as tar or carbon monoxide. These products work through an inhalation-activated system that heats a solution to create an inhalable aerosol often known as vapour. "While preliminary evidence suggests that e-cigarettes contain fewer toxic chemicals than traditional cigarettes, our findings suggest that a potential increase in harmful cigarette use may follow as e-cigarette use continues to rise among adolescent populations," Baskerville added.

The study was published in the journal Preventive Medicine. "This study supports the restricting of e-cigarette access to minors, which have been shown to have heightened risk to initiate smoking," Baskerville said. However, more research is needed on additional contributing risk factors as well as longitudinal data to evaluate the complex relationship between e-cigarette use and tobacco cigarette use in adolescence.

High BP can cause organ damage in teenagers too

Is your teenage son or daughter suffering from high blood pressure? Beware, if left uncontrolled the condition can lead to organ damage as in adults, according to a research. The findings showed that organ damage – damage to the heart and blood vessels – from high blood pressure does not only occur in adults, but also in teenagers. Importantly, the damage in teenagers occurs at blood pressure levels that are below the clinical definition of hypertension in the age group, the researchers said.

"Some adolescents may have organ damage related to blood pressure and are not targeted for therapy," said Elaine M. Urbina, Director at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio. "Imaging of the heart may be useful in youth in the high-normal range of blood pressure to determine how aggressive therapy should be." High blood pressure in teenagers is defined on the basis of percentiles, rather than blood pressure level as in adults.

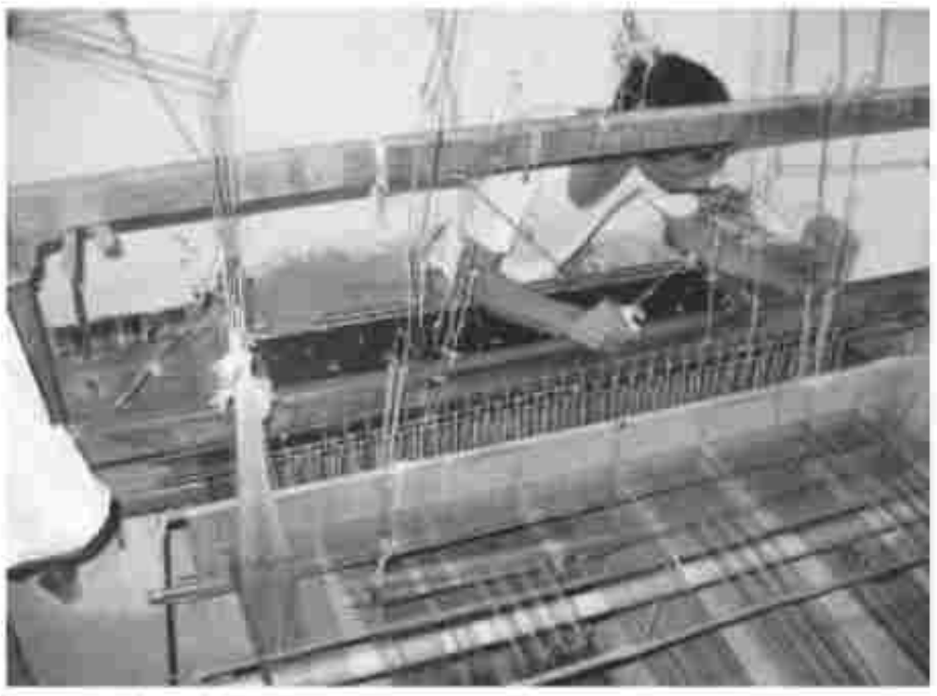
In the study, presented at the 2017 American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Hypertension in San Francisco, the team looked at whether organ damage in teens develops below the 95th percentile – the clinical definition of high blood pressure in teenagers. The researchers examined blood pressure and measured organ damage in 180 teenagers (14-17 years old, 64 per cent white, 57 per cent males). The results showed evidence of organ damage even among the youth categorised as "normal" with blood pressure less than in the 80th percentile.

Even teens can suffer organ damage from high blood pressure

Turns out, organ damage from high blood pressure occurs not only in adults, but also in teens. A recent study also found that the damage to the heart and blood vessels can occur in youth at blood pressure levels that are below the clinical definition of hypertension in youth. High blood pressure in youth is defined differently than it is in adults. In childhood, high blood pressure is based on percentiles, rather than blood pressure level. Researchers looked at whether organ damage in teens develops below the 95th percentile, which is the clinical definition of high blood pressure in youth.

Researchers studied blood pressure and measured organ damage in 180 teenagers (14-17 years old, 64 percent white, 57 percent males). They found evidence of organ damage even among the youth categorized as "normal" with blood pressure less than in the 80th percentile. They also found heart and vessel damage in the mid-risk group, which had blood pressures in the 80th to 90th percentiles and the high-risk group, with blood pressures above the 90th percentile.

Hope looms large for the handloom sector



A riot of colours, eye-riveting designs, scintillating hues and entrancing interlacing of warps and wefts give these fabrics a distinctive appeal. From the northeast and Kashmir to the southern tip, these fabrics have distinguishing features that impart a unique exotic appeal. Through centuries, handlooms have been associated with excellence in India's artistry in fabrics and providing a source of livelihood to millions of crafts persons in almost every state.

Despite sweeping changes, the art and craft traditions have been kept alive due to continuous efforts of generations of artists and craftsmen who weaved their dreams and visions into exquisite handloom products and transferred their skills to their progenies. From ancient times, Indian handloom products have been identified by their impeccable quality. These include muslin of Chanderi, silk brocades of Varanasi, the tie and dye products of Rajasthan and Orissa, the Chintas of Machhlipatnam, the Himroos of Hyderabad, the Khes of Punjab, the prints of Farrukhabad, the Phenek and Tongam and bottle designs of Assam and Manipur, the Maheshwari sarees of Madhya Pradesh and the Patola sarees of Vadodara.

Furthermore, the skill involved in producing these special handloom products, such as the Kancheepuram and Benaras silks, the Kosa and Moga silk from Chhattisgarh and Assam respectively, or the Jamdhani from Bengal, the Bhagalpur silk, the Chanderi from Madhya Pradesh and the Tussar and Ikat of Orissa, is part of a special cultural capital. Though lighter, western clothing is preferred today, most of us still do not miss the most intricately woven traditional clothing on special occasions like weddings and festivals.

After Independence, the government introduced many safeguards to preserve the Gandhian legacy of valuing Khadi to protect handloom weavers and the cultural heritage of this industry from encroachment by the powerloom and mill sectors. The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, set aside 22 traditional cloth items such as sarees with borders, dhoti, lungi, among others, for exclusive handloom production and put them outside the purview of the powerloom sector. But, when this Act took effect after eight years in 1993, after a protracted litigation by the powerloom sector, the reserved list had only 11 items.

In the late nineties, production suffered due to a combination of factors such as customer's changing tastes, trade practices, and duty-free imports of Chinese crepe yarn. Weavers became labourers. Slowly, trends changed and traditional crafts persons found it difficult to sustain their livelihood. However, since 2015, the saree has revived people's interest in handlooms like never before.

The second biggest source of employment in rural India, next only to agriculture, the handloom sector provides employment to 4.33 million from diverse communities engaged in 2.38 million looms across the country. It contributes nearly 15 percent of the cloth production in the country and also to export earnings. About 95 percent of the world's handwoven fabric is from India.

Recognising the glorious history of the industry and its relevance to present times, the government is committed to resurgence of hand-woven textiles and also weavers. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared August 7 as the National Handloom Day to mark the day the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905 and dedicated the day to the weavers of the country, making good on his poll promise of the 5Fs: farm to fibre, fibre to fabric, fabric to fashion and fashion to foreign.

The prime minister also launched the "India Handloom" Brand (IHB) the same day, to endorse the quality of the products in terms of raw material, processing, weaving and other parameters besides social and environmental compliances for earning customers' trust. The IHB soon made its presence on social media to connect with customers, especially youth, to promote high quality handloom products and help build customer awareness and carve a distinct identity for it. Since assuming charge of the textiles ministry in July 2016, Union Minister Smriti Irani has led by example with her "I Wear Handloom" campaign on social media started last August.

The government has also initiated several steps to revive handlooms. It has laid stress on increasing weavers' earnings, which would in turn attract the younger generation to this profession. These include: Organising weavers in clusters and providing basic infrastructure by setting up Common Facility Centres. To boost handlooms, the textiles minister recently brought together leading designers in a unique public-private partnership. More than a dozen of them were assigned handloom clusters for product development and training weavers to upgrade their skills.

The other measures include—encouraging weavers to sell products through e-commerce; promoting educated youth from weavers' families as weaver entrepreneurs, who will get market information, produce and market cloth directly; linking handloom with fashion and tourism, to expand the market and increase earnings; and involving the private sector in design development and marketing. The textiles ministry is making concerted efforts to pitch India as a global sourcing centre for all fabric, making handloom India's niche contribution to the international fashion industry.

Efforts are on to upgrade hand weaving technology in terms of weavers' comfort, productivity and quality. To ensure continuity of the hand weaving heritage,

Structural differences in brain linked to epilepsy: Study

Thickness and volume differences in the grey matter of several brain regions could predict an increased risk of developing epilepsy a neurological disorder characterised by seizures, finds a research led by a professor of Indian-origin. Epilepsy affects 0.6-1.5 per cent of the global population, comprising many different syndromes and conditions, and defined by a tendency for seizures. The findings showed reduced grey matter thickness in parts of the brain's outer layer (cortex) and reduced volume in subcortical brain regions in all epilepsy groups when compared to the control group.

Reduced volume and thickness were associated with longer duration of epilepsy. Adults with epilepsy exhibited lower volume in the right thalamus a region which relays sensory and motor signals --and reduced thickness in the motor cortex, which controls the body's movement. These patterns were even present among people with idiopathic generalised epilepsies – a type of the disorder that are typically considered to be more benign if seizures are under control. "We found differences in brain matter even in common epilepsies that are often considered to be comparatively benign," said lead author, Sanjay Sisodiya, Professor at the University College London.

"We have identified a common neuroanatomical signature of epilepsy, across multiple epilepsy types. We found that structural changes are present in multiple brain regions, which informs our understanding of epilepsy as a network disorder," added Christopher Whelan from the University of Southern California. For the study, published in the journal Brain, the team conducted MRI brain scans of 2,149 people with epilepsy, and compared with 1,727 healthy controls from across Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia. "Our findings suggest there's more to epilepsy than we realise, and now we need to do more research to understand the causes of these differences," Sisodiya said.

Depression may reduce survival rates in cancer patients

Even mild depression among patients with head and neck cancer are associated with poorer overall survival, a new study has said. The findings of the study indicated that patients should be screened and treated for depressive symptoms at the time of diagnosis. "We observed that patients with depressive symptoms suffered greater two-year overall mortality rates and this was especially true for those who did not achieve optimal response to medical treatment," said study co-author Elizabeth Cash from the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

According to the researchers, many patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer experience symptoms of depression, which can make it difficult for them to manage treatment side effects, quit smoking, or maintain adequate nutrition or sleep habits. To see if depressive symptoms might affect patients' health outcomes, researchers studied 134 patients with head and neck cancers who reported depressive symptoms during the planning of their treatment.

When they examined the patients' clinical data over the following two years, they found that patients with greater depressive symptoms had shorter survival, higher rates of chemoradiation interruption and poorer treatment response. Poorer treatment response partially explained the depression-survival relationship; however, there were no significant effects from factors commonly used to determine cancer prognosis -- such as the patient's age, the stage of tumour advancement or extent of smoking history.

"This suggests that depressive symptoms may be as powerful as the clinical features that physicians typically use to determine the prognosis of patients with head and neck cancer," Cash added. The researchers noted that most patients in the study, published in the jornal CANCER, did not meet criteria for diagnosis of major depressive disorder, suggesting that even mild symptoms of depression may interfere with head and neck cancer treatment outcomes.

The problematics of genetics and the Aryan issue

Tony Joseph's article ("How genetics is settling the Aryan migration debate, June 16) on how recent genetic studies of Indian populations might be "settling the Aryan migration debate" attempts to summarise polemical as well as technical aspects of the contribution of genetics to the debate in question. I will focus here mostly on methodological issues to argue that the conclusions of two recent studies Mr. Joseph's article heavily leans on are much shakier than conveyed. (Those are "A genetic chronology for the Indian Subcontinent", published earlier this year in BMC Evolutionary Biology, which I will refer to as "Silva et al." after its first author, and "Reconstructing Indian population history" by David Reich and four co-authors, published in Nature in 2009, henceforth "Reich et al.")

To begin with, most studies of population genetics suffer from shortcomings and flaws, some of which are currently unavoidable, while others are the result of subjective, personal choices. The larger public interested in the field of population genetics should be all the more aware of this problematics as genetic studies come to us in a scientific garb; in actual fact, they are scientific only in part; there is still much room for human prejudice and error.

The first limitation is one of numbers. Silva et al.'s study sequenced very few new genomes of the Subcontinent's populations; rather, it revisited older samples with new techniques (about 1,500 for their mtDNA study and 850 for their genome-wide study, if I have correctly read the paper's Additional file 1). That is, of course, a valid exercise, but such a small data set remains inadequate to represent the diversity of Indian populations, which the paper itself often stresses ("a remarkable genetic diversity", "a very complex history", etc.), and may easily lead to over-interpretation of the limited data. It is the case with all genetic studies to date understandably so, DNA sequencing being a time-consuming and costly affair. Moreover, the paper (see its Fig. 2) inherits from earlier studies serious inconsistencies in categorising the samples, grouped sometimes regionally ("Sindhi", "Bengali from Bangladesh", "Gujarati from Houston", "Indian Telugu from UK", with no further details), sometimes caste-wise ("Kshatriya", "Low-caste South" and "Central", "Brahmin South" and "Central", again without further details), and sometimes religion-wise ("Muslim", with no geographical precision). A look at Table S3 in Additional file 1 makes it clear that thousands of communities from all over the Subcontinent are left out of the picture. Bias is built into the data set.

Let us turn to another example of this limitation: I refer to the construct of Ancestral North Indians (ANI) and Ancestral South Indians (ASI) promoted by Reich et al., Middle Easterners, Central Asians, and Europeans", making it "tempting to assume that the population ancestral to ANI and CEU [Europeans] spoke 'Proto-Indo-European'". In reality, as I showed in a paper published last year ("Aryans and the Indus Civilization: Archaeological, Skeletal, and Molecular Evidence"), the study had no samples whatsoever from several major Indian States (Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and a few Northeastern States), while other States (Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala) were represented by a single population. With such a heavily skewed distribution, the constructs of ANI and ASI clearly lacked any scientific validity and, moreover, were never defined genetically in the said paper. This prompted in 2014 the biologist B.M. Reddy to call them "ill-conceived and untenable as units of study". ANI and ASI were advanced simply because they were expected to conform to predetermined results, such as ANI entering as Indo-Aryan speakers. When Mr. Joseph asserts that Reich et al.'s study "proved that most groups in India today can be approximated as a mixture of these two populations, with the ANI ancestry higher in traditionally upper caste and Indo-European speakers", he merely resorts to the classic "argument from authority" except that there is no authority at all in this case. That particular study only "proved" how good scientists are apt to bungle when their theoretical framework remains amateurish. We might as well put forth constructs of "Ancestral Eastern Indians" and "Ancestral Western Indians" and demonstrate that most Indian populations "can be approximated as a mixture of these two" the approach would be just as valid, or invalid, as that of Reich et al.

In fact, Reich et al. were themselves careful to "warn that 'models' in population genetics... although they provide an important framework for testing historical hypotheses, are oversimplifications. For example, the true ancestral populations of India were probably not homogeneous as we assume in our model, but instead were probably formed by clusters of related groups that mixed at different times". Clearly, the same complex processes of intermixing continued through most of Indian prehistory and history, which means that there are no "true ancestral populations of India", barring the original immigration from Africa some 60 or 70,000 years ago. The concept of Adivasi has no genetic legitimacy, unless we are ready to restrict it to the Andamanese.

The second flaw, hinted at above, is that of circularity. Mr. Joseph also quotes Reich et al.'s above words of caution, and adds, "In other words, ANI is likely to have resulted from multiple migrations, possibly including the migration of Indo-European language speakers" (note the use of the definite article "the" before "migration"). Silva et al.'s paper also refers to "multiple dispersals into the Subcontinent." If, then, we have "multiple migrations" or "dispersals" at different periods, what are the criteria that allow us to associate a particular migration with "the" presumed migration of Indo-Aryan speakers? There are no criteria at all only a predetermined dogma that Indo-Aryans speakers did enter India in the early or mid-second millennium B.C.E. Silva et al.'s study suffers from this argument from circularity by constantly assuming that any populations migrating in or about central Asia during the Bronze Age must have been "speaking a proto-Indo-Iranian language"; the genetic data are not allowed to gradually build up a picture of possible population movements but immediately squeezed into the mainstream linguistic model.

In a perceptive paper of 2007 entitled "Anthropological, historical, archaeological and genetic perspectives on the origins of caste in South Asia", Nicole Boivin, an archaeologist at Oxford University's School of Archaeology with wide experience of the Subcontinent, offered this critique of genetic studies: "In reading the genetics literature on South Asia, it is very clear that many of the studies actually start out with some assumptions that are clearly problematic, if not in some cases completely untenable. Perhaps the single most serious problem concerns the assumption, which many studies actually start with as a basic premise... that the Indo-Aryan invasions are a well-established (pre)historical reality."

Test vaccine for malaria appears promising

A new, experimental vaccine for malaria has shown fast and effective results against acute infection, protection against relapse, as well as, delay in resistance formation, researchers say. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), nearly half of the world's population is at risk of malaria. In 2015, there were roughly 212 million malaria cases and an estimated 429,000 malaria deaths. Researchers from the University of Tubingen in Germany, tested the efficacy, tolerability and safety of a combination of the drugs Fosmidomycin and Piperaquine on 83 patients in the phase II clinical trials.

The two-fold medication was administered for three days to patients aged one to 30, who were infected with malaria via the Plasmodium falciparum pathogen. In the 83 cases, there was a 100 per cent cure rate, said Peter Kremsner, Professor at the varsity. Patients tolerated the treatment well, and it led to a swift reduction of clinical symptoms. "This study represents a milestone in the clinical research into Fosmidomycin," Kremsner said.

The antibiotic Fosmidomycin, is originally isolated from Streptomyces lavendulae a species of bacteria from the genus Streptomyces. Streptomyces lavendulae blocks a metabolic pathway for the production of Isoprenoid – naturally occurring organic chemicals in the malaria pathogen. This makes the malaria pathogen unable to metabolise or reproduce. As Isoprenoids are formed via a different synthesis path in the human body, humans have no target structures for Fosmidomycin.

As a result, humans tolerate the drug well and suffer barely any side effects, the researchers said, in a paper published in Clinical Infectious Diseases. In addition, this unique mechanism excludes the possibility of cross-resistance to the drugs used in earlier malaria treatments. The new combination also meets WHO guidelines for combination therapies. The two drugs mechanisms against differing target structures means that they attack the parasite in the bloodstream independently of one another. This meets WHO requirements for a fast and effective treatment of the acute phase of infection, and for protection against relapse due to reappearance of the infection. Furthermore, the effective mechanism helps to delay the formation of a possible resistance, the researchers noted.

Cervical cancer's signs every woman should know

The symptoms of cervical cancer, a condition that develops in the cervix, don't surface during its early stages, but there are some crucial signs of the disease that women should know. According to the Daily Express, one of the pivotal signs can be bleeding from the vagina at any time, other than during monthly period. National Health Service also shared that the bleeding can usually occur after having sex.

The organisation added, "Other symptoms of cervical cancer may include pain and discomfort during sex and an unpleasant smelling vaginal discharge. If cancer spreads out of your cervix and into surrounding tissue and organs, it can trigger a range of other symptoms". Bone pain, loss of appetite and finding blood in the urine are also considered to be the signs of the condition. Though there is no single way to prevent cervical cancer, the people can lower your risk by using a condom when having sex.

Most cases of the cancer are linked to an infection from the human papillomavirus (HPV), and using a condom could lower the risk of the infection. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women and the seventh most common cancer overall. In 2012, worldwide, there were estimated to have been around 528,000 new cases. India alone accounts for one-fourth of the global burden of cervical cancers.

In a recent study, it was estimated that cervical cancer will occur in approximately one in 53 Indian women during their lifetime compared with one in 100 women in more developed regions of the world. The data also showed that cervical cancer contributes to approximately 6-29 percent of all cancer in females at different locations within the country.

Kriti is very protective about me: 'Filhall' girl Nupur Sanon



Nupur Sanon has followed her more illustrious elder sister Kriti Sanon into the world of glamour with her debut appearance in B Praak's new music video "Filhall", where she features along with Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar. Nupur says Kriti is very protective about her, and acts like a mother to her, and added that apart from complimenting her for her efforts, Kriti is also quite honest about pointing out her flaws.

"Whenever Kriti compliments me about something, she also gives me some kind of negative feedback, because she is very protective and she is also like my chhoti mummy so," said Nupur about her elder sister, adding that she was scared about how Kriti would react to her debut work.

"I didn't contact her after the release of my video. I thought she would contact me after watching it because she has been away shooting in Mandawa. So, she sent me a long text message and there was nothing negative in it. She was like 'I loved the song and I am so proud of you'. I am really happy after reading her message," said Nupur, while interacting with the media at success press meet of the recently-released song along with singer B Praak and lyricist Jaani.

"Filhall" garnered more than 97 million views within five days of release.

Asked when she would debut as a Bollywood actress, Nupur said: "Hopefully soon. I am glad that I took my time to do my first music video because I never ever dreamt that I would work with superstar Akshay Kumar in my very first project. I am going to wait for right opportunities. I am in talks with a few people but I haven't signed anything as of now. A lot people have approached me after seeing the music video but I want to take things easy. This career for me is about longevity. I am in no hurry but I just want to be there for the longest time."

Talking about the audience response to "Filhall", Nupur said: "I am overwhelmed with the response to our song. We expected this kind of response because the song is good. B Praak has beautifully sung it and Jaani has beautifully written it so, we expected love from the audience. The kind of love we are getting is really special." Two decades after his big screen debut, Akshay Kumar has released his first music video that also features Nupur Sanon. The five-minute song "Filhall" is a romantic ballad that speaks of the pain of separation.

'MacGyver' extremely important in my career: Justin Hires



Actor Justin Hires says working on TV show "MacGyver" has opened more business opportunities for him in Hollywood. "I get to work with an amazing cast and crew every episode. Also, I've become such a better actor working on this show. I've had to do comedy, action, then cry all in one episode! It's really been a terrific challenge for me artistically and allowed me to hone my craft as an actor," Hires told.

The "Rush Hour" star said featuring in "MacGyver" has been an important move in his career. "The character has been extremely important for me in my career. I started growing a legitimate fan base- people from all over the world watch the show and playing this role has opened more business opportunities for me in Hollywood," he said.

"MacGyver", a reimagining of the classic 1985 series, stars Lucas Till in the title role and Hires in the role of MacGyver's roommate Wilt Bozer. The show is about an agent who improvises his way out of sticky situations using everyday items like rubber bands and chewing gum. The show premiered in 2016, and will get its fourth season in 2020. It is aired in India on AXN.

"I think the scripts and character development gets better and better each year. Peter Lenkov and the new co-showrunner, Terry Matalas, really do an exceptional job when it comes to delivering great back-stories for our characters, along with giving us exciting missions to tackle every episode," he said. How's the show is going forward? "The show will continue to deliver more action, science, heart, and surprises," he said.

Manushi Chillar to star opposite Akshay Kumar in 'Prithviraj'



Miss World 2017 Manushi Chillar is making her Bollywood debut opposite Akshay Kumar in the upcoming film "Prithviraj". Directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi, "Prithviraj" is based on the life and heroism of the fearless king Prithviraj Chauhan. It stars superstar Akshay as Prithviraj while Manushi will play the role of the Sanyogita, the love of his life. Dwivedi said: "We auditioned a lot of young, fresh faces for the role because we were looking for a stunningly gorgeous Indian heroine. While Sanyogita was an incredibly beautiful person, she was also a strong, confident girl. We were looking to find someone who could match the magnetic persona of Sanyogita and we found that in Manushi."

The director said that Manushi auditioned "for the role a couple of times". "We wanted to be dead sure with this casting and she nailed it each time. She has been rehearsing six days a week since then and is being thoroughly groomed for the last nine months by Yash Raj Films (YRF)," Manushi said her life so far has been a fairy tale and she is now looking forward to her big debut.

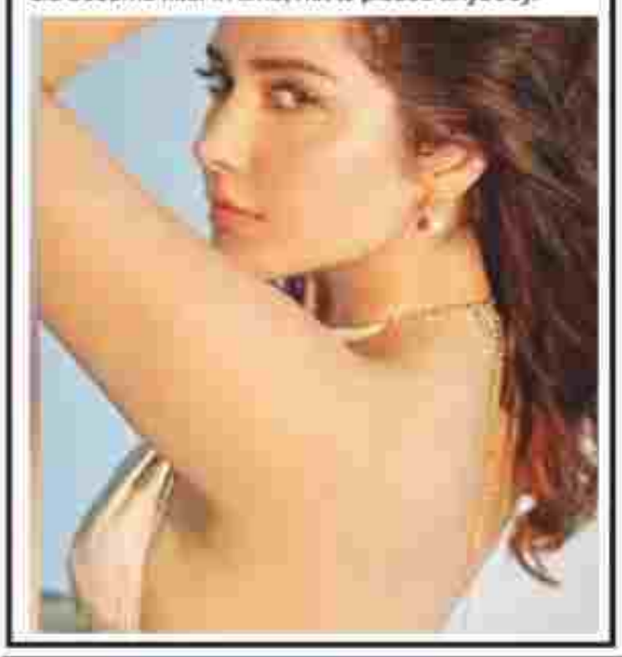
"I'm thoroughly happy and thrilled about the learnings that I will have through this journey. My life, so far, has really been a fairy tale. From becoming Miss India and then Miss World to now getting such a big project as my debut film, it's like a new, exciting chapter of my life," she said. Manushi finds it a "huge responsibility" to play princess Sanyogita. "She was a powerful personality and she stood up for what is right and took the most important decisions of her life by herself. Her life is an extremely important chapter in Indian history and I will try my best to play her as accurately as possible," she added.

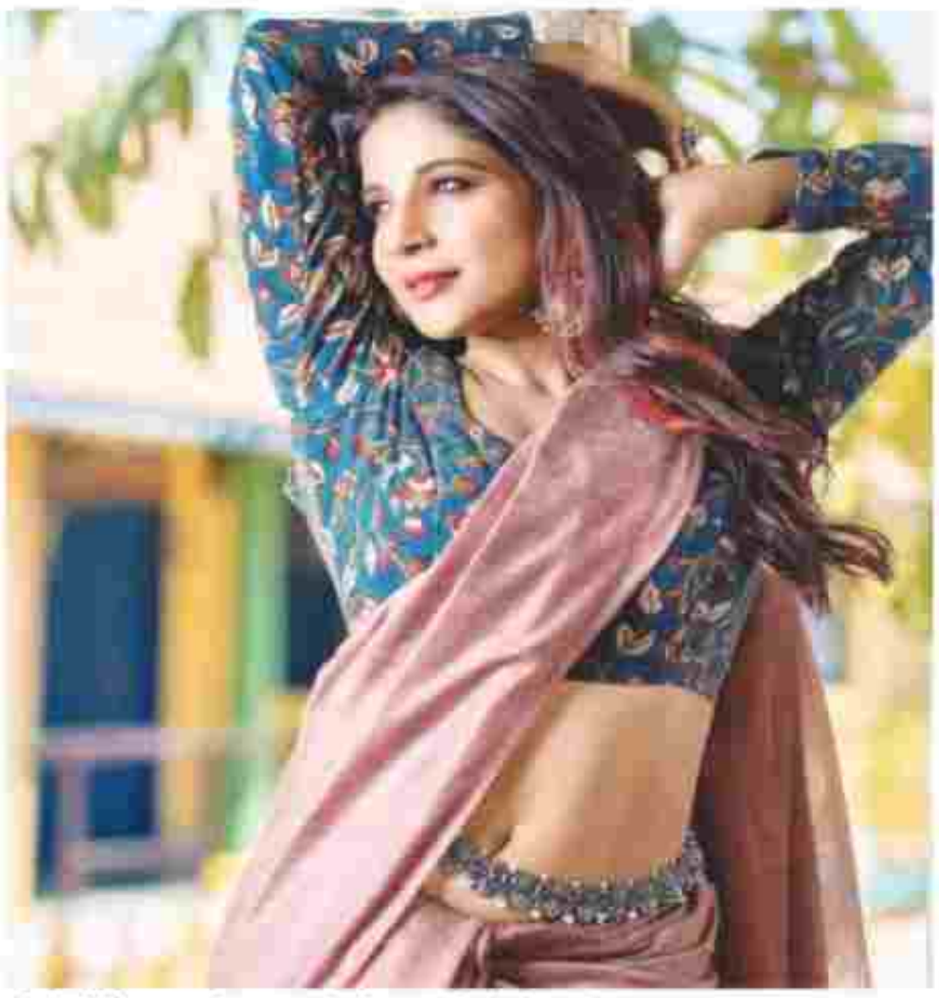


Abigail Spencer arrives at the 47th International Emmy Awards gala at the Hilton Hotel, in New York.

Telugu Heroine busy in different languages

Raashii Khanna, who is one of the fondest ladies on screen for the Telugu audience is now hitting the OTT screen with the web series 'Rudra: The Edge of Darkness'. She has been giving interviews in the process of promoting the series. When asked about online bullying, she replied, "I don't say anything because I was quite big for the mainstream that they have. And I did become fitter in time, not to please anybody.





Sakshi Agarwal pose during a photoshoot.

Hrithik Roshan: My mother watched 'Super 30' 9 times in theatre



Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan and math wiz Anand Kumar finally found time to get together to celebrate the success of the film "Super 30". The biopic released in July, has Hrithik playing out the life of Anand Kumar.

"It was a delightful evening. My mother has watched super 30 nine times in the theatres but never got the chance to meet Anand sir and his brother Pranav personally. Yesterday, we all sat and reminisced about the tough journey of 'Super 30' with smiles and laughter. Incidents and interactions that were devastating while shooting today seemed to make us laugh in victory. Good conversations over a good meal is the best way to celebrate anything and that's what we did yesterday," said Hrithik, who is basking in the glory of consecutive box-office successes "Super 30 and "War" this year.

Said Anand Kumar: "I am very grateful for Hrithik Roshan and the whole team of Super 30 for bringing this story to the public. He is as amazing as a person as he is an actor, and I wouldn't have anyone else to play the role. After that, seeing him in 'War' was mesmerising. The way he switched roles was shocking to say the least."

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