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PM Modi's call to Sharad Pawar fuels speculation over NCP merger and NDA realignment



MUMBAI: Amid speculation over a possible merger of the two NCP factions and Sharad Pawar's potential entry into the BJP-led NDA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephone call to the veteran leader Mr Pawar on Wednesday to enquire about his health has sparked fresh political buzz.During the telephone conversation, PM Modi reportedly assured Pawar that his daughter and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule is capable of shouldering the country's responsibilities alongside him. Sharad Pawar, in response, reportedly said that he was not worried as the country was in Modi's hands. The conversation between the Prime Minister and Sharad Pawar has further fuelled speculation about a possible political realignment at both the national and state levels.The 86-year-old Sharad Pawar was admitted to a private hospital in Pune after experiencing chest pain and uneasiness. He was subsequently discharged. During this period, PM Modi, who shares cordial relations with Pawar, called him to enquire about his health and advised him to take proper rest, reportedly assuring him that his political heir was capable of handling responsibilities.Speaking about the telephone conversation, Vitthal Maniyar, a close and trusted associate of Sharad Pawar, told the media that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called the veteran leader on Wednesday morning and advised him to prioritise his health and take adequate rest.Recounting the conversation, Maniyar said the Prime Minister told Pawar that his daughter and Baramati MP Supriya Sule was ready to shoulder responsibilities and that she and others would take care of the country while he rested and recuperated."Supriya and I will take care of the country. You should take care of your health and remain strong to bless us," Maniyar quoted Modi as telling Pawar. He added that Pawar thanked the Prime Minister for his concern and said he had no worries as the country was in capable hands.Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had reportedly called NCP leaders to Delhi and conveyed that the merger of the two NCP factions was inevitable. He is understood to have asked them to iron out their differences and pave the way for a possible merger in the larger interest of the NDA. It was also reportedly discussed that if NCP national president Sunetra Pawar and her son, Parth Pawar, created hurdles in the merger process, they could be excluded from the proposed united NCP.The relationship between PM Modi and Sharad Pawar, however, has often attracted attention beyond conventional party politics. The two leaders have shared a relationship marked by mutual appreciation, political disagreements and occasional public bonhomie.An NCP (SP) leader said that too much should not be read into the bonhomie between the two senior leaders, as they mutually respect each other and honour their differences of opinion. He said Mr pawarEarlier, during his visit to Baramati, PM Modi had described Sharad Pawar as his political guru and mentor, recalling how the veteran leader had guided him during his early political career. Pawar, too, has acknowledged Modi's administrative abilities while maintaining his ideological and political differences with the BJP.

'Will prove in 5 minutes that Modi is anti-national': Rahul Gandhi repeats open debate dare to PM



SANGRUR: The political face-off between the BJP and the Congress over alleged foreign links intensified as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday renewed his challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prove that Opposition parties were "anti-national".Inviting Modi to an open debate for the second time in as many days, Gandhi said, "Come anywhere, sit with me and debate."He also questioned Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement that drugs would be eradicated within three years, asking, "What deadline has he given? Three years? In three years, Amit Shah may not even be the Home Minister. I don't know what he is talking about. My assessment is that the government itself will fall within a year."The rally in Sangrur officially marked the launch of the Congress party's campaign for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.Addressing the 'Insaaf rally', Gandhi renewed his challenge to Prime Minister Modi, saying the latter could choose anyone to moderate a debate between them."Yesterday, I challenged Narendra Modi to a face-to-face debate. He can make anyone he wants the judge for this debate. I guarantee the nation that Modi cannot sit before me. I can guarantee that within five minutes of the debate starting, I will prove that Modi is a 'desh-drohi' and Donald Trump controls him," he said.He said Modi's repeated calls for a parliamentary discussion were meaningless as the Opposition was not being allowed to speak in Parliament and his microphone was switched off when he tried to speak.Gandhi accused Prime Minister Modi of working under the influence of US President Donald Trump and catering to the interests of billionaires. He criticised a five-minute deal signed with the US, claiming it had compromised the future of Indian farmers and small businesses. He alleged that Trump had pressured Modi into signing the deal and claimed that the agreement was concluded following threats from the US President. Gandhi also linked the deal to the closure of a case involving industrialist Gautam Adani in the US, alleging that the developments were connected.Gandhi also attacked the BJP, alleging that his microphone was switched off and he was not allowed to speak in Parliament.The latest challenge by Gandhi came within a day of his earlier call for an open debate with the Prime Minister, who had accused the Opposition of taking foreign help to destabilise the country. Gandhi, in turn, had accused Modi on Monday of coming to power and occupying the Prime Minister's chair with "foreign help".Gandhi also challenged Shah's announcement that drugs would be eradicated within three years, questioning the credibility of the timeline and the Union government's record in tackling drug trafficking."What deadline has he given? Three years? In three years, Amit Shah may not even be the Home Minister. I don't know what he is talking about. My assessment is that the government itself will fall within a year," he said.Gandhi subsequently raised questions about the seizure of narcotics at Adani's port in Gujarat, asking the Union Home Minister what action had followed the recovery of large quantities of drugs."What happened to the drugs seized at Adani's port in Gujarat? What action did you take in that matter? What happened to the thousands of kilograms of drugs and heroin seized there?" he asked.He further accused the Centre of failing to tackle organised crime and alleged that gangsters were receiving protection while lodged in prisons."You have, in fact, been sheltering gangsters inside prisons. The entire country knows that Amit Shah has been patronising his gangsters," he alleged.Questioning the Centre's claims on law and order, Gandhi also referred to the situation in Manipur, asking Shah to explain the developments there instead of making promises about eliminating drugs.Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Gandhi faced more than 24 FIRs, while gangsters and criminals in Punjab were going scot-free. He accused the AAP of being the BJP's "B team", alleging that it made inroads wherever it saw the Congress gaining ground and cut into the Congress vote share, paving the way for BJP victories.Kharge assured Gandhi that the Congress would win Punjab. He said the party needed to remain united to secure victory and accused the RSS and the BJP of trying to divide institutions and other bodies.Congress Punjab in-charge Sachin Pilot, state Congress chief Pargat Singh, and senior state leaders Partap Bajwa, Vijay Inder Singla, Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring were present at the rally.

'Youth raising concerns doesn't make them anti-national': RSS urges dialogue with Gen Z

BHOPAL: RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Wednesday urged the government to pay "proper attention" to the concerns of young people and "engage in positive dialogue" with them, asserting that raising concerns and aspirations "doesn't make the youth anti-national."Speaking to journalists after the three-day RSS Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal meeting concluded at Indore's Daly College, Hosabale outlined the key issues discussed during the meeting."Decades back, I was also a youngster and a part of then Gen Z, while participating in the JP Movement. Proper attention needs to be paid towards the aspirations and concerns of the youngsters. During an interview in Mumbai, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat made it clear that raising issues and concerns doesn't mean that the youth is against the country. Positive and sustained dialogue is needed for addressing the concerns of the youth and keeping them at bay from the anarchic forces," he said.Hosabale warned against "anarchic forces" from within and outside the country misusing youth power and protests to further their agendas."We are against misusing youth protests and movement for furthering political agenda, for disintegrating the society or country and using or spreading violence through these protests. From what is particularly happening in our country as well as other countries in the name of protest, conspiracy by anarchic forces from within and outside the country is very much possible," the RSS general secretary said."Regime change through elections is a different thing all together, but spreading violence and anarchy in the name of protests, particularly through provocation of youths, isn't at all in the interest of the society and nation," he added.Hosabale said the three-day Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal meeting, held in Indore from November 2 to 4, had prominently discussed the activities of anarchic forces during youth protests and the need to remain alert to their actions. "We've to all work at ensuring that anarchic forces don't dominate in India. For that to happen, the inactive positive thinking individuals sitting at home need to integrate all like-minded people to form a unified voice to silence the anarchists. Staying silent and inactive at home will not serve cause," he said.Calling for constructive and positive dialogue with young people on a sustained basis, Hosabale said, "Youth too has a role to play in addressing injustice in the society, so the best way to address it by always listening to them. The abundant skill, talent and energy of the youth power should be channelised for positive purposes. An organization associated with the RSS started the Sarhad ko Pranam initiative to foster patriotic awareness about India's land border among the youths. Similar initiatives are needed on regular basis."Detailing the youth-centric programmes held during the RSS's centenary celebrations, which concluded on Vijayadashami last month, Hosabale said more than 31.26 lakh college students, including those pursuing postgraduate courses, and over 6.90 lakh young working professionals had attended special youth-centric events organised by the Sangh across the country during the centenary year.A total of 57,243 events were held at 14,285 locations to engage young working professionals, while events at 21,237 locations saw the participation of college students.Defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Hosabale said, "Political parties are habitual of working as per their agenda. But protests should be staged only after considering the entire truth of any subject rather than protesting only for the sake of opposition. SIR involves the refinement of voter lists, which has been done in the past too. The 13 crore voters whose names have been deleted included crores of dead voters, shouldn't their names have been deleted?"Citing his own experience of having his name removed from a duplicate entry in the electoral rolls during the SIR process, the RSS leader said, "Even I got a notice, as my brother got my name included in the voter list in my village in Karnataka 20 years back, but I never voted there. Though I vote in Bengaluru, my name remained in the list in my village also. So ultimately, I got my name deleted from the voter list in my village. So, the SIR has also removed names of duplicate voters from the lists," he said."Further, if those who aren't citizens of India, have managed to become voters, then it is wrong both in terms of country's economic, national and social security. While TN Sheshan was the Election Commissioner, he got the voter lists of Bihar revised, you all know who was in power at that time, was that process wrong? SIR should be undertaken at regular intervals, politicians should raise genuine issues, rather than raising an irrelevant issues like SIR. There should be no politics on SIR. If anyone's name has been wrongly deleted from the list, that individual has remedies through the ECI as well as the Court to get it rectified," he added.Meanwhile, Hosabale said the use of technology, the internet and social media had frequently come up for discussion during the Yuva Samvad programmes organised as part of the centenary celebrations."Curbing technology isn't easy for governments. Governments in some countries have tried to stop the use of internet for children aged up to 13 years or restrict the night use of internet. TikTok has been banned in India, but did it actually succeed fully? In India too similar demands are being made by many people. Sangh believes that if this is possible through law then it can be done, but we believe that it cannot be addressed through law alone. The children need to be reformed through the right Sanskar (values and upbringing), spanning from families to school. During our Parivar Prabodhan programmes, the Sangh workers appealed the elders in families to render quality time to children and

Court grants CBI eight-day custody of alleged Mahadev app kingpin Saurabh Chandrakar

RAIPUR: In the high-profile multi-thousand-crore Mahadev online betting scam, a special court in Raipur on Wednesday granted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) an eight-day custodial remand of the syndicate's alleged kingpin, Saurabh Chandrakar.Following his recent extradition to India from Oman, Chandrakar was presented before the special judge in Raipur under tight security.He was brought to Raipur from Delhi after securing a two-day transit remand from a Delhi court on Tuesday.

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 $81.3 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 Universisty 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.

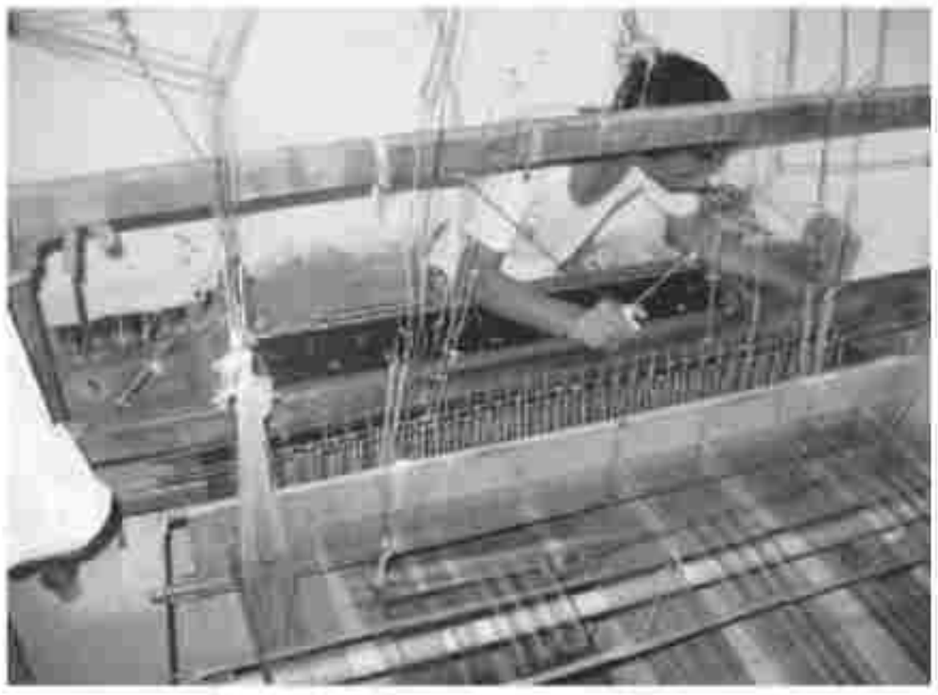
Researchers studied blood pressure and measured organ damage in 180 teenagers (14-17 years old, 64 percent white, 57 percent males). They found evidence of organ damage even among the youth categorized as "normal" with blood pressure less than in the 80th percentile. They also found heart and vessel 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 Machilipatnam, 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.



Actress Karen Gillan poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Jumanji The Next Level', in central London.

Sanjay Dutt to play a villain in Ranbir Kapoor's 'Shamshera'



It looks like Sanjay Dutt has all his stars in his favours. The actor is all set to play Ranbir's nemesis in YRF's period action-adventure 'Shamshera'. It will be the first time that Sanjay Dutt is going to work with Yash Raj Films.

Sharing the news on social media Yash Raj Films wrote, "We've got an ultimate casting coup! Our upcoming action adventure #the one & only #SanjayDutt| @duttsanjay | @karanmalhotra21 | @ShamsheraMovie".

Sanjay Dutt also shared his excitement for the project and wrote, "Looking forward to this one". Ranbir Kapoor will play the lead role in this action-adventure saga, which will go on floors later this year. Produced by Yash Raj Films, 'Shamshera' will be directed by Karan Malhotra.

Theatre pays if you do right kind of roles: Rakesh Bedi



Often theatre artistes rue the medium is not well-paying, but veteran actor Rakesh Bedi says the story would be different if you do the right kind of roles. Having worked across the film, television and theatre mediums, Rakesh's "Chashme Buddoor" act, as well as his entertaining parts in "Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi", "Shrimaan Shrimati" and "Zabaan Sambhalke" cannot be forgotten. He has also worked in a number of plays, and continues to remain active.

The actor will be essaying the role of Yashwant in a play titled "Wrong Number" at the Kamani auditorium here on Sunday. "It's true that in India, theatre doesn't allow you to pay your bills or monthly expenses. In the past it didn't give monetary benefits. "But the kind of theatre I have done has allowed me to some extent to pay my bills and look after my well-being and health," Rakesh told.

Citing the example of "Wrong Number", presented by production house Felicity Theatre and directed by Raman Kumar, Rakesh says the play has given him the ability to do very well financially. "It is one of those plays which have the ability to do very well and generate a little bit of money for all of us. Another play of mine 'Mera Woh Matlab Nahin Tha', which is a big international hit, has completed 125 shows in two and half years' time and has travelled to the US, Middle East, Singapore, Australia, Kenya and New Zealand," said the 63-year-old actor.

"My play 'Massage' that has been running for 15 years now is giving me sufficient returns. So it is not that theatre doesn't pay you... (only) if you do the right kind of roles," he added. On films and TV shows today, Rakesh says they demand a fair share of an artiste's time. "A 25-day schedule becomes a 35-day schedule and leaves me with no time do anything else. If I have to do that kind of work, I have to forego my theatre and forego lots of other activities that I do. I do lots of other things that will be get jeopardised if I do those kind of schedules.

"Having said that, I still do my share of television such as 'Bhabhi Ji Ghar pe hai' and interesting roles in films that are not very time-consuming," he said. After the play, which also features Delnaaz Irani, Tanaaz Irani, Avtar Gill, Kishwar Merchant, Rajesh Puri and Rahul Bhuchar, Rakesh has written and directed another play on a "burning situation" prevailing in the country nowadays.

"It will be a celebrity-driven play and should hit theatres by the end of this year," said Rakesh. "Wrong Number" is a play based on juggling with time and space to present the lives and loves, passion and panic of three married couples in a play of love, laughter and mayhem.

Educating girls first step towards empowerment: Kareena Kapoor

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan on Sunday said educating girls should be the first step towards empowering women. "There is a direct link between a girl being educated and empowered," the 37-year-old actress said, adding education would enable a woman to shoulder the responsibilities of motherhood. Kareena was speaking at an event here organised by Unicef India to discuss the importance of celebrating mothers and their newborns.

"There is a very important need to stress on education of the girl child. Pregnancy during adolescence puts both the mother and child in danger and proper education will help put a check on it," she said.

The event was organised to mark Mother's Day against the backdrop of Unicef's 'Every Child Alive', a signature neonatal campaign that supports and accelerates Unicef's efforts to eliminate preventable neonatal deaths by 2030, with a focus on the girl child.

"We need to give more emphasis of girl education. They are on their way to become mothers, they need to be given right guidance and right education - this is something we all need to look for," Kareena said. The actress who will soon be seen in "Veere Di Wedding" also emphasised on the role of the father in parenthood and talked about her husband Saif Ali Khan's contribution in bringing up their first child.

"It is said what a mother can do father can't but there are lot of things that a father can do. And I am lucky to get the support from Saif. Even when I was exhausted after giving birth, I still insisted Saif to keep Taimur attached to his chest, give him the Kangaroo love. "A father should step in when a mother undergoes changes post delivery. We must champion those fathers and give a shout out to them for their support," she said.



Actress Penelope Cruz poses during a photocall before the presentation of Chanel's Metiers d'Art collection, at the Grand Palais in Paris.

Deepika Padukone creates a social media frenzy with her MET Gala appearance



Marking her second outing, Deepika Padukone is in Cannes already and the actress is slaying like a boss lady.

Deepika's recent outing at the Met Gala, 2018 set the red carpet on fire with her Red Hot avatar, as she donned a hand-draped silk gazar creation by Prabal Gurung in sync with the theme.

Deepika's attire received a thumbs up from netizens, a testimony of which was seen on social media as DEEPIKA AT MET witnessed a strong India trend and well as global trends on the social networking platform.

The actress also broke stereotypes by rehashing an old outfit at the Met Gala after party. This is for the second time that the actresses Met Gala outing has been garnering strong trends across multiple platforms. Last year when Deepika made her debut by wearing a Tommy Hilfiger satin gown had also gone ahead to become one of the most Googled outfits from the Met Gala night.

Deepika's day one at Cannes has already started taking the internet by storm as the actress has treated the audience with three different looks which also witnessed a strong India trend with the tag #DeepikaAtCannes.

The actress is also the most followed Asian Woman on Twitter with a huge fanbase across social networking sites. It only takes a glimpse of Deepika Padukone to get her trending, and her latest International outings is proving to be a treat for fans.

Here's the justice anthem 'Hum Hain Insaaf' from 'Bhavesh Joshi Superhero



The first song from Vikramaditya Motwane's Bhavesh Joshi Superhero is out and is surely going to become the justice anthem. After packing a punch with the Insaaf act in the trailer, makers of BJS present a justice anthem titled Hum Hain Insaaf. Hum Hai Insaaf emerges to be a millennial anthem as it gives an ode to the Opinionated youth of the country.

Bhavesh Joshi Superhero celebrates the extraordinary spirit of the common man, the film marks the emergence of a commoner into a Superhero as Bhavesh Joshi who stands up against corruption. Hum Hai Insaaf urges the citizens of the country to stand up and act in favour of a desirable change. It is a cool funky rap song composed by Amit Trivedi and the quirky lyrics are written by Anurag Kashyap, Babu Haabi, Naezy.

Ths song features Harshvardhan Kapoor lipsyncing the rap which is sung by Babu Haabi, Naezy. Keeping the storyline of the film as well as the new campaign the makers have started it is a perfect Justice song seeking for Insaaf The film marks Harshvardhan Kapoor's second outing where he turns social crusader in his fight against corruption as the common man turns Superhero in the vigilante drama. The action-packed trailer which was loved by the audience traces the journey of a group of friends who set out on the path of righteousness.

Over a series of thrilling incidents, their life takes a curve, leading a common man to become a Superhero in the form of 'Bhavesh Joshi Superhero'. The film promises some intense action and well-crafted hand combat fights, which have been designed by an international crew, and is shot at some never before seen locations in and around Mumbai.

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