

JULY 16 - 22, 2023

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



UNDER THE UMBRELLAS

COVER STORY

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He is a physician by profession and entrepreneur by passion. But Aditya Khadanga, who was born in Bargarh, yet thinks that mountaineering is his actual calling. No wonder, he enjoys travelling and loves meeting new people. Aditya, who now lives in Bhubaneswar, has a goal to scale Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe



Me time

I take a day off on Sundays from work. My to-do list includes activities like seeing friends, going to the movies, taking a bike ride, reading books, listening to music and cycling.

Mount Elbrus beckons

I have completed a basic mountaineering course from Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABIVMAS) in Manali and am planning to climb Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe.



Home is where the heart is

I don't often have the chance to visit my hometown. I do, however, manage to get to Bargarh occasionally each year. Then, I arrange a family outing so we can spend some quality time together. I enjoy making mutton curry for my family as well.

Love for adventure

I have always had a love for exploration. To indulge my inner adventurer, I like longboarding, horseback riding, air pistol shooting, kayaking, and sailing.



At his clinic



At his air pistol shooting practice

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP



WhatsApp This Week

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Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- Why don't aliens visit our planet? Terrible ratings. One star.
I am a nobody, nobody is perfect, therefore I am perfect.
What does a liar do after he dies? He lies still.
My wife's not too smart. I told her, our kids were spoiled. She said, "All kids smell that way."



CIRCUS - A DYING ART

Sir, Last week's cover story 'It's Circus Time', depicts how circus, one of the most sought after forms of entertainment in the past, is gradually fading into oblivion. Many years ago I watched a show in Bhubaneswar and after going through the article, I went this time with my family to watch it again. It was very disappointing to see the empty seats in the gallery as people of Bhubaneswar hardly knew about the show even as it has been nearly a month since the circus party is here. In the sideline of the show, I also met some performers who are quite skeptic about their future. The footfall is decreasing as people are leaning towards other forms of entertainment like television and streaming platforms, said the manager. However, I loved how they have added a few new acts to woo the viewers. This is time, the government should recognise circus as a dying art from and take measures for its revival.

PURNA RANI SAMANTA, BHUBANESWAR

LETTERS



A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



The first silk and waterproof umbrella was invented in China in the 11th century BCE. Only the nobility and royalty had the privilege to use them. However, parasol, the predecessor of the umbrella, emerged exclusively to protect one from the scorching rays of the sun, not from the shower of rain

BUDDHADEV NANDI

"I really like umbrellas. It's like, I have a roof! I carry it with me! Umbrellas always amuse me": John Green, an American author.

UNDER THE UMBRELLAS

Sometimes we are stunned to think how so many trivial accessories that we come across in our humdrum existence entail rich history and protracted process of evolution. As the monsoon approaches, one such thing that spurs my thoughts is an umbrella. Though umbrellas are widely used during the rainy season, they also protect us from exposure to the scorching heat of the sun during the summer.

Etymology: The word parasol is a compound word. It is derived from the combination of *para* i.e. protecting one from and *sol* i.e. sun. But the term umbrella is derived from Latin *umbra* meaning 'shaded' or 'shadow'. Therefore, parasol may also be called sunshade or beach umbrella, whereas, umbrella is termed as brolly in colloquial English, parapluie in French and bumbershoot in American.

Parasols Vs Umbrellas: Though the discovery of umbrella dates back to over 4,000 years, the first use of sun protecting parasol recorded over 3,500 years ago in ancient Egypt. Several hieroglyphic paintings depicting the lives of gods and royalty in ancient Egyptian ruins bear the testimony of using parasols over their heads. Tutankhamun, the king of ancient Egypt, and his family would enjoy their leisurely days in the sun under parasols sans fear of being burned in the scorching heat of the sun.

The use of umbrellas is also traced back in the early civilizations in China, Assyria, Greece and Mesopotamia region in Western Asia. Parasol, the predecessor of

the umbrella, emerged exclusively to protect one from the scorching rays of the sun, not from the shower of rain. In ancient China light parasols were made out of bamboo sticks and canopied with leaves and feathers. Later, parasols evolved into heavier umbrellas to prevent one from being soaked in rain water. In those days umbrellas made of palm leaves, papyrus and peacock feathers were exclusively reserved for people belonging to the upper class of the society. But the first silk and waterproof umbrella was discovered in China in 11th century BC. Only nobility and royalty had the privilege to use them. In Assyria, the royalty had exclusively enjoyed the right of using gorgeous parasols. An umbrella would then be regarded as the

symbol of dignity in Africa and the Orient.

Umbrellas in Hindu scriptures: The use of umbrella may be traced back from time immemorial in India. In Vamana, the 5th avatar Lord Vishnu is found holding an umbrella. There is a popular Mahabharata story where Jamadagni, the father of Parashurama, blamed the Sun God for his heat. Jamadagni's devoted wife Renuka complained that the heat caused the delay of fetching the arrow shot by her husband. Angry Jamadagni shot an arrow at the

Sun God. Then the Sun God pacified Jamadagni by offering an umbrella and a pair of shoes to protect the head and the feet from burning.

A Ladies' Luxury: Umbrellas would be regarded as feminine accessories in the 16th century Europe. The umbrella was meant to shield women's skin and complexion from the onslaught of weather as they were considered fragile and delicate.



The use of umbrellas and parasols gained much popularity among the ladies when Catherine de Medici married Henry II of France and arrived in the French court from Italy with her parasols. Other ladies started emulating the queen and took to using parasols as well. The commercial production of umbrellas started during the mid-eighteenth century. Women hailing from the rainy zones of northern Europe started using umbrellas regularly. The Persian traveller and writer Jonas Hanway removed gender discrimination about the use of umbrellas. He publicly used umbrellas in England for decades. At last, the English gentlemen followed suit and called their umbrellas as a Hanway.

Modern Day Umbrellas: Though the ancient Chinese people were the first to wax and waterproof their paper umbrellas paving the way for modern umbrellas, Samuel Fox, a British industrialist and businessman, is noted as the founder of steelworks in Stockbridge for developing the Paragon umbrella frame in the 19th century. He first invented the steel-ribbed umbrella with an eyelet that could be screwed into brass nuts at intervals along its length so that it would stay open in use. John Van Wormer, an American, invented the collapsible umbrella in 1885 but it did

not gain popularity for want of manufacturer on a large scale. Besides, a foldable or pocket umbrella was developed in Hungary by the Balogh brothers whose patent appeal was admitted in 1923 by the Royal Notary Public of Szombathely. However, Hans Haupt revolutionised the market by inventing the first foldable pocket umbrella with a collapsible frame with brand name Knirps in 1928. The first umbrella shop was opened in London by James Smith and Sons in the first half of the 19th century.

Types of Umbrella: There are different types of umbrellas not only in design and materials but also in serving various purposes. They are primarily categorised in two – Straight Umbrellas and Folding Umbrellas. The former is a traditional style of umbrellas and latter is portable a one having the facility of various fold styles ranging from 2-fold to 5-fold. Besides, there is a variety of umbrellas including classic umbrellas, bubble umbrellas, golf umbrellas, wind resistant umbrellas, automatic umbrellas, child umbrellas, artistic umbrellas and so on. However, the basic purposes are almost the same i.e. to protect the carrier from the heat of the sun, rain, snowfall and hailstorm. There is another type of umbrella called UV-Umbrella that is designed to protect one from ultraviolet radiation that damages the DNA in skin cells and causes major skin diseases and even skin cancer.



Umbrellas in Literature:

Umbrella is such a ubiquitous item that in many novels it plays the role of catalyst for an entire book. Knack for getting lost, borrowed, stolen are common matters happening with novelistic and cinematic brollies. In Ruskin Bond's popular novel "The Blue Umbrella", the whole story surrounds a blue umbrella that Binya, a little girl, received from some foreigners in exchange for her leopard claw pendant. A Gamp is essentially a large umbrella. The name is derived from Charles Dickens' novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* where he featured a character called Sarah Gamp who often carried a large cotton umbrella.

Unusual Uses of Umbrellas: Except for mere protection from the sun and rain, umbrellas have other decorative, cultural, aesthetic, symbolic, ritual uses in many



societies and around the world. Umbrellas with vibrant colours being aesthetically pleasing to eyes are widely used for decorative purposes in big events including religious festivals, wedding venues, parties, parks, restaurants etc. During the 20th century umbrellas started to be used as ideal weapons to protect one especially women from surprise attackers. It is one of the best weapons to scare away violent dogs or cows in the street just by opening and closing in quick succession. The 2014 Hong Kong Revolution was termed the Umbrella Revolution as the protesters used umbrellas to avoid tear gas and pepper spray attacks launched by the authorities. Old and useless umbrellas are used to cultivate garden annual flower plants like sedum, petunias, geraniums, marigolds etc that do not require lots of root depth. In pho-



Vamana, the 5th avatar Lord Vishnu holding an umbrella



Ruskin Bond's popular novel The Blue Umbrella

tography studios umbrellas are used as a photography equipment to create professionally lit images by diffusing light and giving it a softer effect instead of allowing light to focus directly on a subject. In architecture umbrella-shaped canopies were very much popular in Medieval South Asian sculpture buildings. Besides, umbrellas save loving couples, debtors

from facing untoward and embarrassing situations. **Umbrella Menders Days:** Though an ordinary umbrella is mainly composed of canopy, ferrule, shaft, ribs, handle, runner, top notch etc, there are about twenty parts in umbrella structures. With the monsoon approaching with her jingle feet of rain, a frantic search for the old, dismantled umbrellas stacked with other almost-wasted articles under the staircase was a common thing. The umbrellas would have waited to be mended by some umbrella mender walking past the roads and the lanes with his familiar trade cry to attract people's attention. But the halcyon days of the umbrella menders almost passed into oblivion when umbrellas entered into the popular vogue of use-and-throw status.

Now sub-standard umbrellas are available at such a cheap price that very few people care to get the old and dismantled umbrellas mended. As a result, the business of the reputed umbrella manufacturing companies as well as the profession of umbrella mending has been terribly lambasted.



Image courtesy: google

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Rourkela lad Mandeep Singh brought laurels to Odisha as a member of the VFX team of epic American sci-fi *Avatar 2: The Way of Water* that bagged an Oscar this year for Best Visual Effects. According to him, staying committed to one's vocation, having a clear vision, and being willing to take chances are all essential to success.

Though the Oscars success has made him rather busy these days, Mandeep took some time off from his work to speak to **Sunday POST** via e-mail from his Wellington home.

Here're the excerpts:
■ What motivated you to seek a profession in visual effects, and how did come on board of *Avatar 2*?
■ Having an older sister who works in the IT industry made it challenging for me to decide between programming and animation. But finally I zeroed in on the latter as I didn't enjoy the other one. I made a few daring choices to pursue my passion. I would quit unsatisfying jobs to work on personal projects and eventually I landed a job in James Cameron directorial at Weta when they were hiring. Timing and my willingness to take risks played a role in my journey to success.



'Taking chances is essential for success'

- **What value did you add to the project?**
 ■ My contribution was to transfer the artistes' performances to the computer-generated characters. The work was collaborative. We worked on some details for days making sure we got those emotions and body language exactly how our director wanted, after all it was his vision.
- **What, in your opinion, distinguishes the best VFX work from the rest?**
 ■ *Avatar 2* stands out as 90 per cent of its content comprises computer-generated characters, which is rare in VFX films. What distinguishes this project is the unity of vision between the director and artists, striving for something extraordinary rather than solely focusing on making money.
- **Can you share a challenging visual effects sequence you worked on for *Avatar 2*?**
 ■ There were so many of them, and each sequence presented unique set of challenges. One of them is working on the shots when Jake and his family moves out of their hideout and are heading towards the water

tribe to find shelter. Animating those Ikrans and knowing how a bird glides - studying those technicality and details so that they did not look wrong was a challenging as well as learning experience.

- **How being part of an Academy award winning movie has impacted your career?**
 ■ Well I am still at Weta. So, nothing has changed and we continue to work on other amazing stuff. But yeah I have received a lot of attention from my hometown which surely has made my friends and family proud. I'm also getting offers from different studios but I am happy where I am.
- **What makes working on *Avatar 2* different from the other films you've worked on?**
 ■ Here, attention to detail played a crucial role in creating a visually stunning world. The digitally created forests, oceans, animals, creatures, and Na'vi appear real. For instance, all scenes were shot in a tank, requiring actors to learn to hold their breath for extended periods and act underwater. This translated into believable underwater scenes, unlike other projects that relied on ropes and added water digitally.
- **What words of wisdom would you offer budding VFX artists?**
 ■ For new artists, it's important to be true to their craft and have a clear understanding of your objectives. To gain alternative viewpoints, they must consult other artists and even those outside the field. The industry can be difficult, with instances of unexpected layoffs and inadequate recognition and compensation. But persistence and commitment have been crucial for success. Work hard, prioritise personal growth, and ignore distractions.

Adah reacts to Naseer, Kamal's comments

Adah Sharma has reacted to *The Kerala Story* breaking box office records and how even comments from actors like Naseeruddin Shah and Kamal Haasan did not deter audiences from watching the film in theatres.

Adah was asked about her reaction to these comments that were made against the film by Naseer and Kamal. She said, "I rejoiced at the freedom of speech we have in our country, where without even watching a film, it can be discredited, labeled and publicly be ripped apart. Anyone can say anything about anybody and can continue to live unharmed. Even after such famous actors made their stance about what they thought of the film clear, the audiences still chose to go to theatres to support a film that stood against terrorism."

Earlier, Kamal had said, "I told you, it's a propagandist films. It's not enough if you write 'true

story' just at the bottom as a logo." Meanwhile, Naseeruddin Shah said that it's a dangerous trend that audiences are choosing to see the film, which he compared with the way of Nazi Germany making films running down on the Jewish community. AGENCIES



'Voice your opinion, you will be heard'

Actress Kajol plays an intense character in her debut web series on *The Trial*, and her character makes it a point to voice her opinion.

Kajol said, "I believe that wherever you are, as long as you have a voice, you will be heard. As long as you are voicing your opinion, you will be heard. It has nothing to do with hierarchy or how far up or down the ladder you are, if you want to be heard, you will be heard and social media has proved me right!"

Talking about the most intense scene, the *Lust Stories 2* actress said, "I love the scene where Noyonika sits down and tells her daughter that it will all be ok. It's an unspoken scene, it's just a moment in the series that I love."

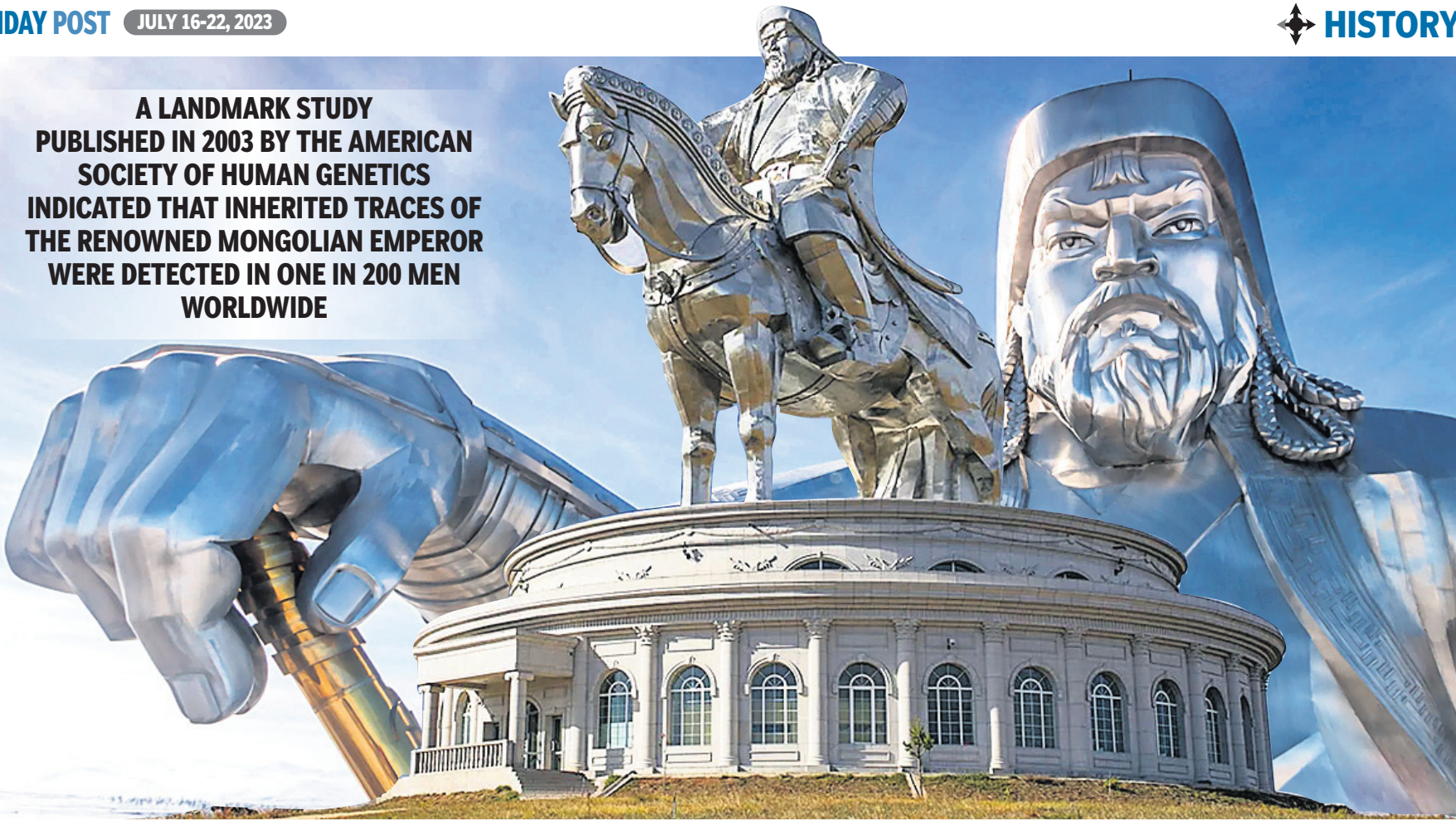
"There is another moment -- when she goes to Vishal's character and tells him -- you have never asked what I want, please don't take decisions about my life and I think that's pretty much Noyonika's motivating factor - that she is done with people taking decisions for her life. She definitely wants to take charge of her life," said the *DDLJ* actress.

The gritty courtroom drama, *The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha* will stream July 14, on Disney+ Hotstar.

IANS



A LANDMARK STUDY PUBLISHED IN 2003 BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HUMAN GENETICS INDICATED THAT INHERITED TRACES OF THE RENOWNED MONGOLIAN EMPEROR WERE DETECTED IN ONE IN 200 MEN WORLDWIDE



Genetic legacy of Genghis Khan

OP DESK

Did Genghis Khan, one of history's greatest conquerors, slaughter 10% of the world's population during his reign? Was he really so mean?

"No," says Abhijit Chavda, one of the most powerful voices in India's digital sphere. Chavda's YouTube channel has a large archive of content that provides historical insights from an Indian perspective.

"Where is the evidence, hard archaeological evidence?" he asks. Though textbooks say so, one must recognise that a book represents someone's perspective, often of Western or European writers, adds Chavda.

He believes that they just can't digest the fact that a man from the east is greater than Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Alexander the Great.

Though historians often dispute the accounts of Genghis' brutality, a 2003 study made some stunning revelations concerning his genetic legacy.

This week's **Sunday POST** looks into Genghis' rise as a world-beater and how his DNA may be present in one in every 200 persons on the planet.

The territory

Genghis Khan, born Temujin in 1162, ruled over the majority of modern-day Russia, China, Korea, Southeast Asia, Persia, the

Middle East, and Eastern Europe. The Mongols impacted global geography, culture, and history in ways that are still felt today. According to Chavda, he conquered more territory in 20 years than the Roman emperors did in 300 years.

Troubled childhood

To survive, he grew up hunting and foraging. Despite having slain his half-brother in his adolescence in a fight for food, Genghis spent time as a slave after his enemy clans kidnapped him and his wife. However, he escaped and recruited followers before assuming the title

Genghis Khan and claiming sole rulership over the Mongol tribes in 1206.

He launched wars against neighbouring kingdoms expanding outward from the Mongolian steppe, culminating in the infamous Mongol Invasions of the 13th and 14th centuries, which terrorised wide sections of Eurasia.

His descendants would go on to further extend the empire's dominion to regions like Korea, Vietnam, Syria, and even Poland.

The Legacy

Genghis Khan's legacy extends beyond his

military conquest of a historically vast realm. He also had unique ideas about government, which helped create the foundation of Mongolia's political framework. He commissioned the creation of a script in Mongolian that could be used to document records. Khan also constructed a Mongol legal code.

Because the Mongol Empire was too enormous to be administered by a single ruler, Genghis Khan created novel ways to strengthen and expand it, such as delegating parts of his conquered provinces to his close relatives to oversee.

Another excellent method Genghis used was to form several Quda-based strategic marriage partnerships with his sons and daughters. The traditional marriage alliance system used by the Mongolians was called Quda.

Genghis exploited this to marry his children into important dynasties and governing lineages of neighbouring kingdoms, cementing his family's rule.

This was a crucial diplomatic manoeuvre that helped his heirs to maintain geographical supremacy inside the Mongol Empire.

Genghis Khan died in 1227, at the age of 65. The precise cause of his death is still debated in history. According to one story, he died as a result of a disease, while others believe he died as a result of consequences from battlefield injuries.



Territory of Genghis Khan (in red)

IMAGE COURTESY: MAPSOFINDIA.COM



A Mongolian currency

Image courtesy: google

The inheritance

A landmark study published in 2003 by the American Society of Human Genetics indicated that inherited traces of the renowned Mongolian Emperor were detected in 1 in 200 men worldwide.

A team of geneticists led by Chris Tyler-Smith discovered that a substantial number of men throughout a huge section of the Asian continent shared the same Y-chromosome haplotype, indicating a shared paternal origin.

A haplotype is a set of alleles from distinct genes found on a single chromosome that are closely related enough to be inherited as a unit.

A haplogroup is a collection of similar haplotypes. Tracing certain haplogroups associated to the Y-chromosome can be used to determine a person's paternal heritage.

This one-of-a-kind haplotype is believed to be identified in 16 million men, accounting for around eight per cent of the present Asian male population and 0.5 of the global population, significantly above the conventional predictions of standard genetic variations over such a broad area.

The study revealed that the explanation for 16 million males sharing a very similar Y-chromosome could only be due to selective inheritance. More than one genetic line has been successfully duplicated, indicating an origin from a specific 'Alpha Male' character during the period.

The haplogroup was traced back to Mongolia, and using a batwing programme, it was found that the most recent direct common ancestor lived 12 to 13 centuries ago.

Given the conditions, only one man at that particular historical period stands out as fitting the description. Only he had the chance to have his genes spread across Asia and be constantly picked for centuries after he died... Genghis Khan was the man in question.

Ghenghis had numerous wives, concubines, and offspring, all of whom went unreported throughout his lifetime. Nonetheless, according to Mongol tradition, only the sons of Börte (the Khan's principal wife) were regarded rightful heirs.

Hundreds of children were known to have been fathered by Genghis and his closest descendants. Despite the fact that the Mongol empire gradually split into smaller political pieces, his direct descendants dominated significant sections of Asia in one form or another for several centuries.

While it is widely acknowledged that 16 million males living across Asia had a common ancestor in Genghis Khan from the 12th century AD, this idea must be verified with certainty because there is no method to obtain his actual genome

Some experts believe that the common male ancestor from whom 0.5 % of the world's male population is stemmed is unlikely to be Genghis Khan, but rather a male ancestor higher up in the tree

Though additional evidence is needed to prove his ancestry, it cannot be disregarded that someone with such an extraordinary history of achievement as Genghis Khan would not also have an incredible legacy of procreation

The likely heirs

The debate over whether Genghis Khan is the sole ancestor of the 16 million people who live today is particularly fascinating.

While it is widely acknowledged that 16 million males living across Asia had a common ancestor in Ghenghis Khan from the 12th century A.D., this idea must be verified with certainty because there is no method to obtain

Genghis Khan's actual genome.

To date, no true genealogical proof exists to support this claim because no human remains of Genghis Khan or any other known family member have ever been discovered.

Most of Genghis Khan's close relatives' vital genealogical material lost long before the emergence of contemporary genetic sciences.

Recent research have termed the 2003 study's core premise, which argues Genghis Khan and his close male relatives are the likely progenitors of one in every 200 men in Asia, as overly simplistic or including loopholes.

Some experts believe that the common male ancestor from whom 0.5 of the world's male population is stemmed is unlikely to be Genghis Khan, but rather a male ancestor higher up in the tree.

Moreover, the quantity of mutation in the figures suggests that they originated years before Genghis Khan was born.

Genghis Khan's descendants are also theoretically descended through his great-grandfather Kabul Khan, the famed founder of the Borijin tribe Bodonchar Munkhag.

Because the sample size for the 2003 study by the American Society of Human Genetics was based on a random selection of people rather than Genghis Khan's actual genealogical data, there are bound to be intersections and overlaps.

While additional proof is needed, it cannot be disregarded that someone with such an extraordinary history of achievement as Genghis Khan would not also have an incredible legacy of procreation.

2,000 romantic partners!

According to some reports, Genghis Khan had sexual intercourse with up to 2000 women during his lifetime.

While this may appear to be an absurd figure, it is worth noting that the



IMAGE COURTESY: ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM

A FEW LESSER KNOWN FACTS

In spite of ruling over most of what is now modern-day Russia, China, Korea, Southeast Asia, Persia, the Middle East, and eastern Europe, Genghis Khan spared India, which continues to astonish historians.

Despite being a shaman, Genghis urged his followers to be tolerant of other religions. No one in his dominion was coerced into joining a particular religion by him.

In order to suppress nationalism, the communist government of Mongolia discouraged its citizens from learning about Genghis Khan.

The largest statue of a man riding a horse is located close to Terelj National Park. One can climb up to the horse's head to get a great picture of Genghis.

Despite an official mausoleum in Inner Mongolia, no one is certain of Genghis Khan's final resting place.

Mongol horde, led by Genghis Khan, was incredibly successful in invading, conquering, and establishing territorial supremacy over the biggest continuous land empire ever known to man.

The plunder from these vast conquests almost certainly included the most gorgeous females who were either married off to or raped by the Khan. Expectedly, a Genghis Khan quote reads-- "The Greatest Happiness is to scatter your enemy and drive him before you. To see his cities reduced to ashes. To see those who love him shrouded and in tears. And to gather to your bosom his wives and daughters."

This suggests that Genghis was at the vanguard of raping and amassing beautiful women that were part of the profits of such massive conquests.

Rape, on the other hand, is a non-trivial fact in Genghis Khan's prolific genetic heritage. The continuous success of his descendant's selective marriage into royal houses, with each male descendant bearing a large number of children for generations due to the prestige connected with Genghis Khan's bloodline, appears to be a major predictor of this feat.

One of Genghis Khan's sons was said to have fathered 40 sons with his wife and concubines, with the possibility of many more illegitimate children from other women.

Going by the studies and statistics, there could be 16 million male descendants who possess his DNA but one will never know that this is factually right.

Smrutirekha

