

Central  
Chronicle

Founder: Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari  
Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

Spectacular victory

The final of the Asia Cup 2025, held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, thrilled cricket fans. In a historic clash, India defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets to not only win their ninth Asia Cup title but also prove that Team India is the most balanced and strong team under pressure. This final was also special because for the first time in Asia Cup history, India and Pakistan faced each other directly in the title battle.

After losing the toss, Pakistan batted first, but their innings failed to last long in the face of the Indian bowlers' controlled strategy. Fakhar Zaman and Sahibzada Farhan played useful innings of 46 and 57 runs, respectively, but the rest of the batsmen failed to withstand the Indian bowling. Kuldeep Yadav's lethal bowling (4 wickets) shattered the backbone of Pakistan's batting, resulting in the team being bowled out for 146 runs in 19.1 overs. A score of less than 150 on such a big stage creates a situation of insecurity for any team. India suffered early set-backs while chasing the target. But this is where one of the greatest strengths of Indian cricket, the confidence of its young players, came to the fore. Tilak Verma played an unbeaten inning of 69 runs. This inning was not just about scoring runs, but demonstrated that the next generation of Indian cricket can also stand strong on big occasions. Shivam Dubey's contribution of 33 runs was also crucial, strengthening the partnership and leading the team to victory. Verma was rightly named the Player of the Match, as his inning changed the course of the match. This victory for India has re-established its supremacy in Asian cricket. The ninth title in itself is proof that India has almost made the Asia Cup its own tournament.

Teams like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh have occasionally challenged, but in terms of consistency and continuity, no team seems to be able to match India. However, amidst the euphoria of this vic-

tory, a controversy also emerged. After the match, the Indian team refused to accept the trophy from Asian Cricket Council President Mohsin Naqvi. Mohsin Naqvi is also Pakistan's Home Minister. He posted several tweets during the tournament that attributed Operation Sindoor to India's defeat and Pakistan's victory. Clearly, the Indian team did the right thing by deciding not to accept the trophy from him. After this, Mohsin Naqvi continued his antics. In anger, he took the trophy with him. Overall, the Pakistani players displayed indecency throughout the tournament, which was completely contrary to the spirit of the game. However, this final also redefined the India-Pakistan rivalry. Regardless of the political relations between the two countries, cricket has always been a bridge between public sentiment. This final in Dubai proved that when India and Pakistan face off, not just Asia, but the entire world is watching.

India's victory is not just a trophy, but a message for years to come. That the future of Indian cricket is in safe hands. The confidence of young players like Tilak Varma, the bowling prowess of Kuldeep Yadav, and the team's collective effort demonstrate that India will lead Asian cricket not only today, but tomorrow. Overall, the Asia Cup 2025 final has been etched in the golden pages of Indian cricket. The victory, coupled with the shadow of controversy, also reminded us that cricket is not just a game, but a reflection of discipline and values. Team India won on the field; now it's time to maintain that same brilliance in sportsmanship and administrative decorum. Two key moments changed match's course. The first key moment happened when India was bowling. In the 17th over, Kuldeep Yadav took control by getting Pakistan's captain Salman Agha out on the first ball. The second major turning point came when India were batting and under pressure after losing three wickets.

Emerging Alliances and Shifting Powers:  
The New Dynamics of Global Diplomacy

By Bhasha Singh  
The global diplomatic landscape is showing signs of transformation. New alliances are forming, strategic agreements are being inked, and the epicenters of these changes appear to be in West Asia and broader Asia. As nations recalibrate their relationships and establish new structures, the possibility of a redefined world order seems increasingly plausible. A shift in global economic influence—from the dominance of G7 nations to the rising significance of G20 economies—underscores this evolving balance. The G20's expanding membership, large populations, rising purchasing power parity, and burgeoning markets are giving this region unprecedented clout.

A particularly noteworthy development is the strategic mutual defense pact between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Both countries have traditionally been aligned with the United States, yet their recent collaboration has sent ripples across the international community. The pressing question now is whether countries in West Asia, especially those long considered America's close allies, are beginning to reassess their trust in Washington. Are they increasingly compelled to challenge American dominance?

This sentiment can also be linked to prior US foreign policy maneuvers. For instance, former President Donald Trump's demand that the Taliban vacate Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan, which was met with firm resistance, suggested a challenge to US authority. Similarly, the increase in H-1B visa fees for Indian applicants, coupled with China offering alterna-

tive visa options, reflects a larger reshuffling of influence and leverage.

So what triggered the Saudi-Pakistan alignment? The catalyst appears to be Israel's strike on Qatar. Israel's attack in Doha broke long-standing diplomatic norms and sent shockwaves across the region. Qatar, a long-standing US ally and host to a critical American military base since 2000, had relied on US protection. The Al Udeid Airbase near Doha serves as the operational hub for US Central

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's acknowledgment that he informed Trump of the strike, coupled with Trump's limited damage control, failed to alleviate the anxiety in the region. Saudi Arabia, sensing insecurity despite its regional power, chose to strengthen its position through Pakistan.

Command's air operations in West Asia. The Israeli strike, targeting Hamas leaders despite Qatar's mediation under US guidance, shattered Doha's confidence in Washington's protective umbrella. Saudi Arabia, witnessing missiles capable of breaching its airspace to reach Doha, also felt a heightened sense of vulnerability.

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The September 17, 2025, Saudi-

Pakistan strategic defense pact marks a potential game-changer for the region. It establishes that an attack on one party is considered an attack on both. Saudi Arabia is now effectively under Pakistan's nuclear umbrella, providing a deterrent against any external threat. For Pakistan, the agreement elevates its stature and leverages its nuclear capabilities strategically. While Pakistan's Prime Minister is slated to meet the US President soon, the current reality is

For India, the Saudi-Pakistan accord presents both challenges and opportunities. Pakistan's rising influence could complicate regional security calculations, yet India's strong economic and diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia—including energy, trade, and investment—remain pivotal. Indian policymakers will need to carefully assess strategic partnerships in both West and South Asia in light of these developments. Should Pakistan fully extend its nuclear umbrella to Saudi Arabia, India's nuclear deterrence framework may face new dynamics.

Meanwhile, US policies under Trump—ranging from tariff wars to aggressive diplomatic posturing—have incentivized nations to prioritize their national interests, fostering new agreements and multi-layered negotiations. West Asia, Asia, and BRICS nations are actively exploring collaborations that could reshape the status quo. Despite America's substantial stakes in the region—its oil reserves, military bases, and strategic leverage—the world is no longer passively aligned with Washington's whims.

The Saudi-Pakistan defense agreement signals a notable shift in regional power structures. While its full implications will unfold over time, one message is clear: American influence in West Asia is facing unprecedented challenges. The Trump era's decisions and contradictory statements are continuing to catalyze new equations and alliances, and this trend is likely to persist.

(The author is a senior journalist and an expert in international affairs.)

USA versus most world: Will human right to health and gender equality take primacy?

by Shobha Shukla- CNS

It was shocking to see that United States of America (USA) took a position against most other nations and went ahead to “torpedo” the draft political declaration that was about to be adopted with consensus at the 80th United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health.

Due to USA's position (against most other countries globally at the 80th UNGA High Level Meeting on NCDs), it is likely that the Political Declaration might go up for a vote in the first week of October this year.

I was there at UNGA High Level Meeting (UNHLM) on NCDs in 2018, UNHLM on TB in 2018, UNHLM on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in 2024, adoption of SDGs or Agenda 2030 at the UNGA 2015, and most recently, I was also the Lead Discussant for SDG-3 (health and

wellbeing) at the 2025 United Nations intergovernmental High Level Political Forum at the UN headquarters. UNHLM on NCDs were also held at UNGAs in 2014, 2018 and 2023. After interventions by several countries, all countries had adopted political declarations (or other agreements) with consensus.

Debate is welcome, necessary and healthy but when it is not grounded on human rights or based on science- and evidence- then it becomes deeply worrying – because vast majority of the world are suffering due to the failing (and Global North heavy) multilateralism between Global North and Global South – and historical plunder of resources by the richer nations (and people) from rest of the world and humanity.

USA government leader Robert Kennedy Junior (often referred to for his anti-vaccination stance) said that

he will not support “taxes on unhealthy products.” Raising taxes on unhealthy products like tobacco products has a strong body of scientific evidence to have saved lives. Raising taxes give more resources to the governments to advance public health as well as make unhealthy products out-of-reach for many. There are a battery of measures that must be clamped to protect our people from unhealthy products.

But USA is the home country to most of the major corporations that are profiteering from unhealthy and/or deadly products, such as tobacco products (for example, biggest tobacco company PMI), sugary and sweetened drinks (such as, Coca Cola and Pepsi), fast food industries (like McDonald's, etc), and Big Oil! There is a proven deadly link between climate and health too.

Ahead of 30th UN Climate Conference (formally called 30th

United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change or UNFCCC), 11th Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) [or COP11] and 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products [or MOP4], we must up the growing call to governments to put people before profit, #MakeBigTobaccoPay and #KickPollutersOut.

Questions must be raised on USA to protect profiteering by its industries against public health.

Safe abortion and gender equality are human rights

When we read the draft political declaration of UNHLM on NCDs and mental health, firstly, it no where mentions “abortion” - although we would like to stress that safe abortion rights are among human rights.

Ride Against Drugs

Tarun Parmar's 1700 km Cycling Journey  
Spreads Awareness on Drug-Free India

In a remarkable display of endurance, determination, and purpose, 56-year-old software engineer and Heartfulness meditation practitioner, Tarun Parmar has completed a 1700 km journey from Noida to Hyderabad to raise awareness about the 'Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan' and promote Heartfulness meditation. Beginning on September 13, Parmar concluded his 14-day journey at Kanha Shanti Vanam, the world's largest meditation centre and global headquarters of the Heartfulness Institute. His arrival coincides with the Bhandara celebrations marking the birthday of Kamlesh D. Patel, lovingly called Daaji, the Global Guide of Heartfulness, adding symbolic significance to the culmination of his journey.

Cycling an average of 110 to 120 km every day, Parmar crossed Noida, Mathura, Agra, Gwalior, Shivपुरi, Guna, Biawara, Bhopal, Itarsi, Betul, Nagpur, Pandharkhadwa, Nirmal, Kamareddy, and finally Hyderabad. The journey tested both his physical and mental limits.

Parmar faced scorching heat in Madhya Pradesh, heavy rainfall across Telangana, dangerous highway stretches, and dense forest areas where he often had to navigate in darkness. Hilly terrain in places like Shivपुरi and Nirmal forced him to push his cycle on foot. Despite getting minimal rest, cycling late into the night, and enduring wet and challenging conditions, Parmar completed the journey with resilience, attributing his strength to Heartfulness meditation.

Along the way, Parmar met people who expressed curiosity and interest in his mission, often stopping to ask about the purpose of his journey, record videos, and encourage him. At every stop, Heartfulness practitioners welcomed him warmly, providing



food, lodging, and support that sustained him through the physically taxing journey.

Tarun embarked on this journey to support the Government of India's Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign) - a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that aims to curb substance abuse, raise awareness about its harmful impact, and build community-led preventive systems across the country.

The campaign places special emphasis on engaging youth and educational institutions in building a healthier, addiction-free India, and promote the transformative power of Heartfulness meditation - a simple practice of relaxation and inner connection that helps individuals reduce stress, improve focus, and cultivate emotional balance. Rooted in yogic traditions, it is offered free of cost worldwide and has been adopted by millions to bring peace, clarity, and purpose into their daily lives.

Congratulating Tarun on completing his mission, Daaji, Global Guide of Heartfulness and President of Shri Ram Chandra Mission, said, “At Heartfulness, we believe that true transformation begins from within.

Science Fact

Mitochondria expel tainted DNA — spurring age-related inflammation

The cellular batteries known as mitochondria sometimes dump DNA into their surroundings, which can contribute to inflammation during ageing. Now a study in mice reveals why this dumping occurs: mitochondria are expelling 'tainted' DNA1.

Scientists found that, in the cells of ageing mice with kidney inflammation, strands of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) contained an excess of certain types of nucleotides — molecular building blocks — that can harm DNA. This excess prompted the mitochondria to eject the abnormal fragments of genetic code into the cytosol, a fluid that fills the cell, in which the free-roaming mtDNA kick-started key inflammatory pathways associated with ageing.

The study is exciting because it helps to explain why and how mitochondria throw away their DNA, says Timothy Shutt, a medical geneticist at the University of Calgary in Canada, who focuses on mitochondria. This insight could help researchers to better understand mitochondria's contribution to inflammaging — the chronic inflammation that occurs as people get older, adds Shutt.

Spiritual

Madonna Opens Up About Her ‘Spiritual Life’ in First-Ever Podcast Interview: ‘I Wouldn’t Be Here If I Didn’t Have One’ (Exclusive)

Madonna is lifting the curtain on her spirituality. On Monday, the Queen of Pop, 67, is set to make her first-ever podcast interview on a revealing new episode of On Purpose with Jay Shetty, PEOPLE confirms exclusively.

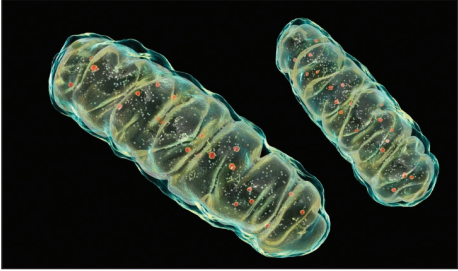
During the conversation, the superstar and podcast host Jay Shetty have an “open conversation” about Madonna's decades-long spiritual journey — which began shortly before the birth of her first child, Lourdes Leon — while reflecting on topics including forgiveness, success and how studying spirituality has shaped her life.

“You need to be spiritual to be successful. Success is having a spiritual life, period. I wouldn't be here if I didn't have one,” Madonna, who first discovered Kabbalah in 1996, tells Shetty on the episode.

The seven-time Grammy winner has long been embraced by fans for pushing boundaries and using her voice to advocate for human rights — something the star says has been a guiding light for her.

“What have I done for others? That's really the only way you can be successful in life,” she tells Shetty. “It's like the greatest amount of light is where there's darkness and you can reveal the most amount of light. When you're in a dark room, you turn on the light. When you're in a room that's already light, what do you, there's no, um, effort made. So should we look for darkness?”

“My soul's purpose is to reveal light in the world through whatever I do,” she continues, later adding, “I want it all, but I want it for the sake of sharing, not to keep it for myself.”



Letters to the Editor

Tilak to the rescue

Sir When those whom we expected to fire with the bat couldn't do so in the Asia cup final match against arch rival Pakistan and the atmosphere turned apprehensive with the fall of three quick Indian wickets a 22 year old came to save the nation from what could have been a humiliating defeat in a ‘do or die’ match at Dubai . Yes! Tilak varma is the new hero of Indian cricket , a new generation Indian who is fearless, making the impossible possible and who dares to win. If operation sindoor is the name for our mission- annihilating cross border terrorism , Tilak, as the name denotes is the name for victory on the pitch braving all sorts of odds and intimidation and an answer to unwanted exaggerated gestures and rhetorics. He has cent percent proved that ‘action speaks louder than words’.

M Pradyu

The Unsung Bridges of Language

Sir, In a world racing to communicate, translators remain the silent architects of understanding. On International Translation Day, we celebrate not just words, but the invisible bridges that connect cultures, ideas, and hearts. Translators carry the weight of meaning, nuance, and context—tasks often unnoticed, yet vital in a world of rising global dialogue. Without them, knowledge remains trapped, literature becomes local, and diplomacy falters. In the digital age, machine translations promise speed, but human insight remains irreplaceable. Ironically, while the world rushes to communicate, the real art of translation is seldom applauded. Isn't it time we acknowledged those who ensure that voices, centuries apart or continents away, can speak to each other clearly?

Hasnain Rabbani

Tech

Telegram's Pavel Durov says France asked to remove some Moldovan channels from app

Pavel Durov, the billionaire founder of the Telegram messaging app, accused French intelligence on Sunday of having asked him through an intermediary to censor some Moldovan voices in return for help with his court case in France.

Moldovans were voting in a parliamentary election on Sunday that could have a major impact on the government's quest to join the European Union, as a pro-Russian opposition group seeks to steer the nation away from closer ties with the bloc.

In a post in English on X, the French foreign ministry noted that Durov had made similar accusations about France trying to manipulate politics in Romania earlier this year, around the time of elections there: “After Romania, Moldova. @durov likes making accusations while elections are ongoing.”

Durov was arrested in 2024 at a French airport and is under judicial supervision in France while being investigated for suspected organised crime on the app.

Durov denies guilt and has said the accusations by France are “legally and logically absurd”.

Durov said on Sunday that while he was stuck in Paris, French intelligence used an intermediary, whom he did not identify, to ask him to “censor” some Telegram channels for the Moldovan government.



Telegram

a new era of messaging

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