

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## **KV Subramanian becomes first Indian economist to win Chicago Alumni Award**

- KV Subramanian served as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) of India from 2018 to 2021.
- He has become the first Indian economist to receive the University of Chicago Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.
- This award has a history of 85 years, making his recognition particularly notable.
- Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian authored India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse and the three editions of the Economic Survey of India during his tenure as CEA.
- The Economic Surveys authored by him provided landmark guidance on economic reforms, competitive markets, inclusive growth, and self-reliance, reflecting his significant contributions to policymaking.
- His early analysis during the COVID-19 pandemic, describing the crisis as largely supply-side and forecasting a V-shaped recovery, was praised for anchoring confidence in India's economic resilience.
- The award places him among a distinguished group of recipients, including Nobel laureates and global thought leaders in economics and related fields.
- Subramanian also serves as Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), representing India in global economic matters.
- He is a Professor of Finance at the Indian School of Business (ISB), and has received distinguished alumnus honours from IIT Kanpur, IIM Calcutta, and the University of Chicago.
- The University of Chicago Alumni Award for Professional Achievement was established in 1941 to honour alumni with outstanding professional contributions.



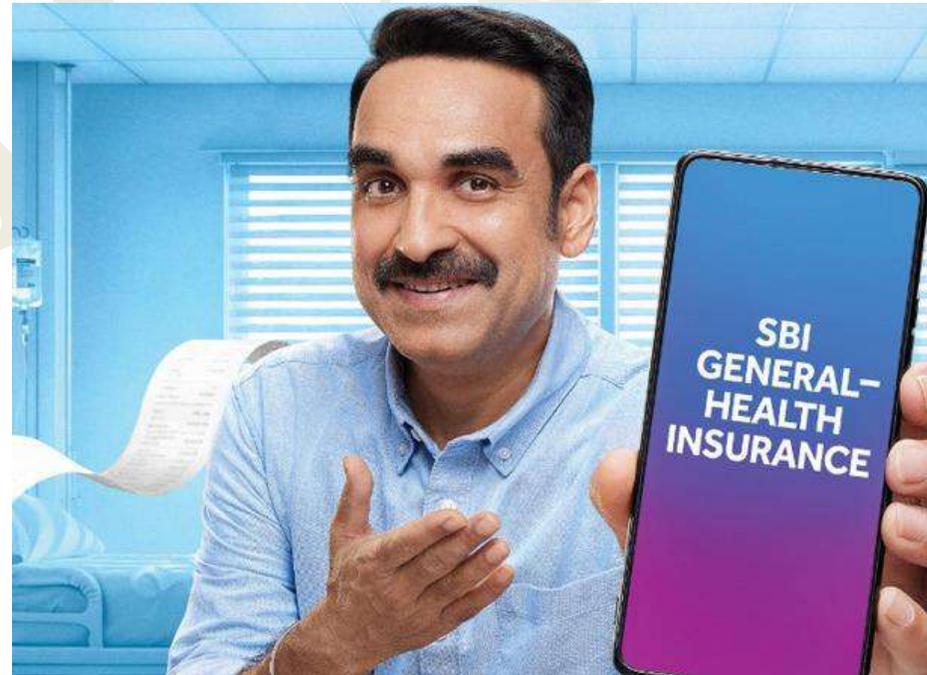
**Indian Economist KV  
Subramanian Wins  
University Of Chicago  
Honor**

## **SBI General Insurance onboards Pankaj Tripathi as its brand ambassador**

- SBI General Insurance appointed actor Pankaj Tripathi as its new brand ambassador.
- SBI General Insurance also launched an integrated brand campaign titled “Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa.”
- The campaign aims to promote awareness about health insurance and financial protection for families.
- The integrated campaign will be promoted across Print media, Television (TV), Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, Out-of-Home (OOH) advertising, and social media platforms to increase brand awareness.
- SBI General Insurance is the general insurance arm of State Bank of India.
- The campaign will highlight simple, reliable and accessible insurance solutions for individuals and businesses.

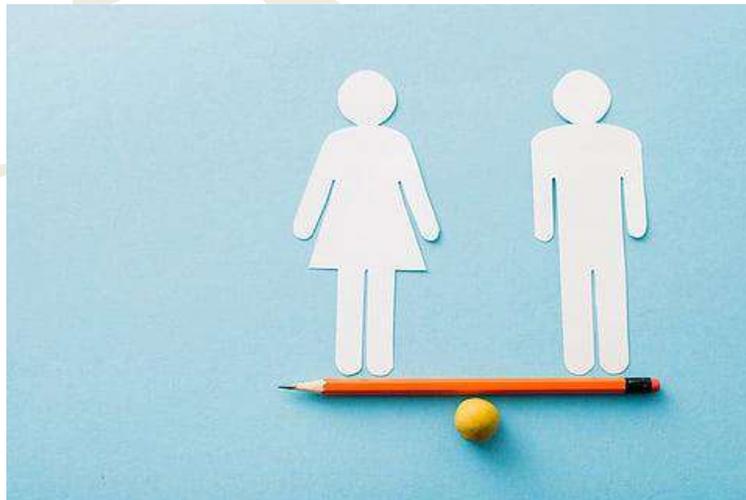
### **SBI General Insurance:**

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Naveen Chandra Jha
- Sector: General Insurance



## Women globally hold just 64% of the legal rights of men: UN

- Women around the world hold only 64% of the legal rights that men enjoy, and no country has yet achieved full legal equality.
- The UN Women report was released ahead of International Women's Day 2026 with the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls."
- In 54% of countries, rape is not legally defined based on consent, leaving many survivors without legal protection.
- Nearly three out of four countries still permit the legal practice of forced marriage of girls.
- Around 44% of countries do not have legal provisions for equal pay for work of equal value.
- Legal discrimination against women persists in inheritance, property rights, workplace equality, and family laws.
- Weak enforcement of existing laws and a culture of impunity hinder gender justice globally.
- The report calls for strengthening laws and removing legal barriers to ensure full legal equality for women and girls.



## **Cheetahs from Kuno National Park move to Rajasthan showing natural territorial behaviour**

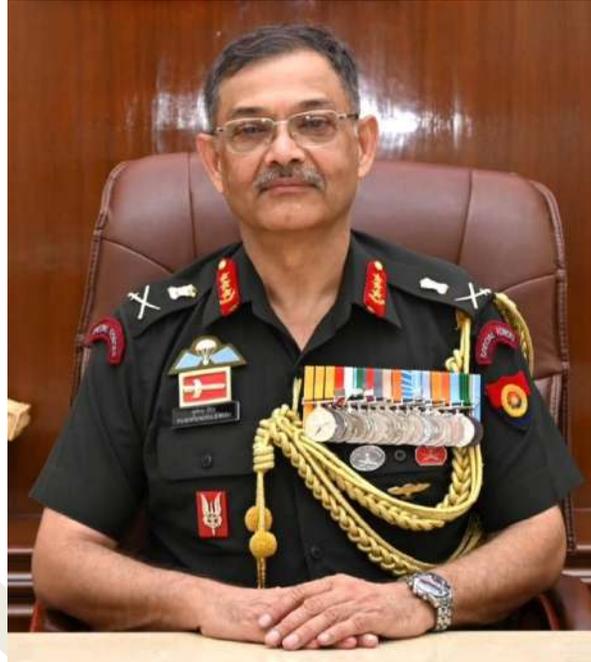


- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change stated that cheetahs moving from Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh to Baran district, Rajasthan are exhibiting natural territorial dispersal behaviour.
- Two cheetahs KP-2 and KP-3 travelled about 60–70 km from Kuno National Park and were tracked in Mangrol Range and Banjh Amla Conservation Reserve in Baran district.
- These cheetahs belong to the first generation of cubs born in India from African cheetahs introduced under Project Cheetah.
- Both animals are radio-collared and monitored through satellite tracking by joint teams of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan forest departments.
- Nine cheetahs (6 females and 3 males) from Botswana arrived in India on 28 February 2026 under Project Cheetah.
- They were transported by an Indian Air Force cargo aircraft to Gwalior Air Base and then shifted by helicopter to Kuno National Park. Botswana became the third African country to send cheetahs to India after Namibia and South Africa.

- 29 adult cheetahs have been translocated from Africa to India since 2022, though 9 adults have died due to various causes.
- 28 cheetah cubs have been born in India, while around 12 cubs have died so far.
- Three adult cheetahs are currently kept at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as part of the conservation programme.
- The government plans a Kuno–Gandhi Sagar wildlife corridor (~17,000 sq km) across seven districts of Rajasthan and eight districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- Project Cheetah, launched on 17 September 2022, aims to reintroduce cheetahs in India, where the species was declared extinct in 1952.

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## Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh to be next GOC-in-C Western Command



- Lieutenant General Pushendra Pal Singh has been appointed as the next General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Western Command of the Indian Army, headquartered at Chandimandir.
- He will assume charge at the end of the month after the retirement of Lieutenant General M. K. Katiyar.
- Currently, Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh is serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) since 31 July 2025.
- He hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and is an alumnus of La Martiniere College, Lucknow.
- He was commissioned into the 4th Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (Indian Army) on 19 December 1987.
- Lt Gen Singh has participated in several major operations including:
  - Operation Pawan: Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) military operation conducted by India in Sri Lanka during 1987–1990.

- Operation Meghdoot: Indian Army operation launched in 1984 to secure the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram Range.
- Operation Rakshak: Ongoing counter-insurgency operation by the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Operation Orchid: Indian Army operation conducted to restore peace and stability in Arunachal Pradesh.
- He commanded a Special Forces Unit in the Kashmir Valley and along the Line of Control (LoC).
- He has also commanded an Infantry Brigade, a Mountain Division along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and served as GOC of 9 Corps in Yol, Himachal Pradesh.
- His key staff appointments include Chief of Staff of Central Command of the Indian Army and Director General (Operational Logistics & Strategic Movement) at Army Headquarters.

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## **Echinus Geyser Erupts Again After Six Years in Yellowstone**

- Echinus Geyser, the world's largest acidic geyser, has erupted again in Yellowstone National Park, United States after about six years of dormancy.
- The geyser is located in the Norris Geyser Basin, the hottest and most dynamic geothermal region in Yellowstone.
- The latest eruption phase of Echinus Geyser began on 7 February 2026, after its previous activity ended in December 2020.
- During the active phase, the geyser erupted at intervals of about 2–5 hours.
- Each eruption lasts around 2–3 minutes.
- The geyser ejects hot acidic water and steam up to about 20–30 feet ( $\approx 9$  metres) into the air.
- After each eruption, the geyser pool takes about one hour to refill before the next eruption.
- The water in Echinus Geyser is highly acidic with a pH of about 3.3–3.6.
- The acidity results from mixing of volcanic gases with underground groundwater in the geothermal system.
- Yellowstone's geothermal activity is monitored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory.
- Scientists confirmed that the renewed eruption does not indicate increased volcanic risk in Yellowstone.



## **Randell sets record with five wickets of five balls**

- New Zealand domestic bowler Brett Randell became the first player in the 254-year history of First-Class cricket to take five wickets in five successive deliveries.
- Randell achieved this feat while playing for Central Districts (CD) against Northern Districts (ND) during a Plunket Shield match at McLean Park, Napier.
- The match was on day two, played in front of a sparse crowd.
- Randell's right-arm seamers dismantled the ND top-order, and he finished with figures of seven wickets for 25 runs.
- Previously, Ireland international Curtis Campher had taken five wickets in five balls in a domestic T20 match, becoming the first player to do so in a professional T20 game.



## Mercedes' George Russell Wins Formula 1's Australian Grand Prix 2026

- George Russell of Mercedes won the 2026 Australian Grand Prix, marking his sixth career Grand Prix victory and first since Singapore 2025.
- Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli finished second, while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc secured third place.
- Lewis Hamilton finished fourth, and McLaren's Lando Norris came fifth.
- Red Bull's Max Verstappen recovered from 20th on the grid to finish sixth after a qualifying crash.
- Home driver Oscar Piastri (McLaren) crashed on his outlap and did not start the race due to major damage.
- The race tested Formula One's new-look cars under 2026 technical rules, where half of every power unit is battery-powered, requiring drivers to recharge via braking or lifting off the throttle.
- Five cars failed to finish due to adaptation issues with the new rules: Piastri, Nico Hulkenberg, Isack Hadjar, Valtteri Bottas, and Fernando Alonso.
- Rookies Ollie Bearman (Haas) and Arvid Lindblad (Racing Bull) finished seventh and eighth respectively.



## International Women's Day 2026



- International Women's Day (IWD) is observed annually on 8 March, and the 2026 theme is "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls."
- India is moving from development for women to women-led development, recognising women as key drivers of social and economic progress.
- The Constitution of India guarantees gender equality through Articles 15, 16, 39, 42, and reserved seats for women in Panchayats and Municipalities under Article 243.
- The day is an official holiday in several countries and is marked through events, campaigns and discussions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.
- In 1869, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in the United States to advocate for women's voting rights and gender equality.
- In 1910, Clara Zetkin proposed the idea of an international day dedicated to women at the International Socialist Women's Conference 1910.

- The first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1911 in several countries to promote women's rights and equality.
- In 1965, the women's liberation movement gained momentum, advocating reforms related to politics, employment, family rights and gender equality.
- During the 2000s, the growth of the internet and digital communication helped unify global feminist movements, strengthening campaigns for women's rights and social equality worldwide.

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## **Chile becomes the first country in the Americas to be verified by WHO for the elimination of leprosy**

- Chile was officially verified by WHO for the elimination of leprosy (Hansen disease) as a public health problem.
- Chile is the first country in the Americas and the second globally, after Jordan, to achieve this status.
- Verification was based on the absence of locally transmitted cases for more than 30 years.
- The last locally acquired case in Chile was reported in 1993.
- Key factors contributing to elimination include robust public health surveillance, universal access to healthcare, continuous availability of multidrug therapy (MDT), and decades of sustained public health measures including early detection, care, and disability prevention.
- Leprosy is caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, affects skin, peripheral nerves, and eyes, and can lead to disability if untreated; it is curable with MDT.
- Globally, leprosy remains endemic in around 120 countries, and WHO's "Towards Zero Leprosy" strategy aims to eliminate leprosy worldwide by 2030.



## Yes Bank launches exclusive salary account for women

- Private sector lender YES Bank has launched an exclusive salary account for working women called the YES Essence Women's Salary Account ahead of International Women's Day 2026.
- The account is tailored to address the financial, health, lifestyle and protection needs of women, reflecting the growing professional and economic participation of women in India.
- The new salary account includes a free locker facility for the first year, a complimentary top-up health insurance cover up to ₹5 lakh for one year, and an annual preventive health check-up.
- Account holders receive an Elegance Debit Card with up to 5% cashback on select spending categories, capped at ₹6,000 per year.
- Eligibility requires the applicant to be a resident Indian woman aged 18 years or above and the primary account holder.
- The initiative supports women's financial inclusion and empowerment by offering integrated banking and lifestyle benefits.
- This product launch aligns with broader trends in the banking sector to design segment-specific financial solutions for women.

### About YES Bank:

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : "Life Ko Banao Rich"



## Rapper Balen Shah to be Nepal PM after landslide win

- Rapper-turned-politician Balendra “Balen” Shah led the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) to a historic victory in Nepal’s general elections held on 5 March 2026.
- He defeated former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in the Jhapa-5 constituency, securing 68,348 votes against Oli’s 18,734.
- The RSP is set to win a majority in the 275-member House of Representatives, marking a significant generational shift in Nepali politics.
- The election reflects strong support from young and first-time voters who sought change from traditional political parties.
- Nepal’s mixed electoral system, consisting of 165 directly elected seats and 110 proportional representation seats, contributed to the RSP’s broad appeal.
- Balen Shah is expected to become Nepal’s next Prime Minister, representing a public mandate for anti-corruption, reforms, and political change.

### About Nepal:

- Capital : Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese Rupee (NPR).



## India Wins Third ICC Men's T20 World Cup Title

- India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final held on 8 March 2026 at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- India scored 255/5 in 20 overs, the highest total in a T20 World Cup final, with Sanju Samson (89 off 46), Ishan Kishan (54 off 25) and Abhishek Sharma (52 off 21) making key contributions.
- New Zealand were bowled out for 159 in 19 overs, with Jasprit Bumrah (4/15) and Axar Patel (3/27) leading India's bowling attack.
- India became the first men's team to win the T20 World Cup three times (2007, 2024, 2026) and the first to successfully defend the title.
- India also became the first host nation to win the Men's T20 World Cup on home soil.
- The final was attended by 86,824 spectators at Narendra Modi Stadium.
- India's captain: Suryakumar Yadav
- New Zealand's captain: Mitchell Santner



## Individual Awards & Performances:

<b>Award / Category</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Performance / Stats</b>
<b>Player of the Tournament</b>	Sanju Samson	INDIA	321 runs in 5 matches, consistent match-winning performance
<b>Player of the Match (Final)</b>	Jasprit Bumrah	INDIA	4 wickets for 15 runs
<b>Highest Run-Scorer (Tournament)</b>	Sahibzada Farhan	PAKISTAN	383 runs
<b>Highest Individual Score (Tournament)</b>	Yuvraj Samra	CANADA	110 runs
<b>Joint Highest Wicket-Takers</b>	Varun Chakravathy & Jasprit Bumrah	INDIA	14 wickets each

## ICC Prize Money Distribution (2026):

<b>Position / Stage</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>	<b>Approx. in INR</b>
<b>Champions</b>	3,000,000	₹27.48 crore
<b>Runners-up</b>	1,600,000	₹14.65 crore
<b>Losing Semi-finalists</b>	790,000	₹7.24 crore each
<b>Super 8 Stage Teams</b>	380,000	₹3.48 crore each
<b>Group Stage Teams</b>	250,000	₹2.29 crore each
<b>Total Prize Pool</b>	13,500,000	₹120 crore