



Current Affairs

05 Dec. 2025

Vikas Gupta appointed as Commissioner of KVS



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- **Officer Details:** Vikas Gupta is a senior IAS officer of the 2001 batch from the Haryana Cadre. He was serving as the Commissioner & Secretary, Urban Local Bodies Department in Haryana immediately before this Central deputation.
- **Date of Appointment:** The central appointment order was issued around November 1, 2025, and he officially joined as the Commissioner of KVS in early December 2025.
- **Critical Timing for NEP Implementation:** His appointment comes at a crucial juncture when the Ministry of Education is actively working on the large-scale implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. KVS, being a model school system, is key to the effective rollout of these reforms across its vast network.
- **Scope of Responsibility (KVS):** The KVS Commissioner heads a massive, autonomous organization operating under the Ministry of Education. The role involves administering over 1,200 Kendriya Vidyalayas across India and abroad, catering to over 14 lakh students, and overseeing more than 60,000 staff members.
- **Key Responsibilities:** The Commissioner's mandate includes policy formulation, administrative management, implementing the National Curriculum Framework, overseeing teacher recruitment, training, and transfer processes, and ensuring quality education for the children of transferable Central Government employees, defense, and paramilitary personnel.



Foot notes:

About KVS:

- **Commissioner:** Vikas Gupta, IAS
- **Established:** 1963

2. Sunil Narine Takes Historic 600 T20 Wickets

- **The Elite Club:** Sunil Narine became only the third bowler in the history of T20 cricket to cross the 600-wicket mark. He joins an exclusive club led by his fellow West Indian, Dwayne Bravo (631+ wickets), and Afghanistan's spin wizard, Rashid Khan (681+ wickets).
- **Match & Opponent:** He achieved this significant feat on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, during an International League T20 (ILT20) match while playing for the Abu Dhabi Knight Riders against the Sharjah Warriorz. His 600th victim was England's Tom Abell.
- **The Mystery Factor:** The record is a testament to his longevity and enduring effectiveness, achieved through his mysterious and subtle variations (mostly with the off-spin finger-spin action), which have baffled batters across the globe for over a decade.
- **Exceptional Economy Rate:** Despite bowling in the most aggressive phase of the game (the Powerplay and death overs), Narine possesses one of the best economy rates among all top T20 wicket-takers, currently standing around \$6.16\$ runs per over, highlighting his incredible control and value.
- **Knight Riders' Global Icon:** This achievement strongly underscores his indispensable role across the Knight Riders (KKR) global franchise network (Kolkata, Trinbago, Abu Dhabi, and Los Angeles), demonstrating his sustained commitment and quality across all major T20 leagues.



3. Bhullar Clinches Record 3rd IGPL Title

- **Record-Breaking Feat:** Gaganjeet Bhullar became the first player in the history of the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Tour to win three titles. This win cements his dominance in the newly formed domestic league.
- **Tournament & Venue:** The victory came at the IGPL Invitational Ahmedabad event, held at the Glade One Resort & Golf Club, concluding on December 4, 2025.
- **The "Three-Peat" Start:** Remarkably, this was only the third time Bhullar had started in an IGPL event since the league began in 2025, meaning he has won every tournament he has participated in (Chandigarh, Jaypee Greens, and Ahmedabad).



- **Clutch Final-Hole Performance:** Bhullar, known for his experience, showed immense class by closing with a decisive birdie on the 18th hole to finish at 11-under par (Rounds of 71, 67, 67), narrowly defeating the talented 21-year-old Raghav Chugh by just one stroke.
- **Bonus Highlight:** His week began strongly with a hole-in-one on the first day, providing a memorable start, and his final round included a crucial eagle-birdie combination on the 14th and 15th holes, demonstrating his ability to produce clutch shots under pressure.

4. Arjun Erigaisi Wins Jerusalem Masters 2025

- **Defeated a Legend in the Final:** Arjun Erigaisi clinched the title by defeating five-time World Champion and fellow Indian legend Viswanathan Anand in the final. This victory is highly significant as it marks a generational shift in Indian chess.
- **Tie-Break Victory:** The final match was highly contested. After drawing both their initial Rapid games, Erigaisi secured the championship by winning the Blitz tie-breaks with a score of 2.5–1.5. This proved his psychological resilience and skill in faster time controls.
- **High-Profile Field:** The tournament featured a strong closed invitational field of 12 top players, including elite Grandmasters like the former World Championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi and former World Cup winner Peter Svidler, whom Erigaisi defeated in the semifinal.
- **Major Prize Money:** The tournament had a substantial prize pool, with Erigaisi taking home a significant winner's cheque of USD 55,000, highlighting the competitive financial stakes of the event.
- **Statement of Consistency:** This win, secured on December 3, 2025, marks a major closing moment for Erigaisi, showcasing his ability to convert his consistently high performance throughout the year (where he previously climbed to the World No. 3 ranking) into a major tournament victory.



5. Jeyandran Venugopal appointed as President & CEO of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd

- **Ex-Flipkart Veteran:** Venugopal joins Reliance Retail from its major competitor, Flipkart, where he most recently served as the Chief Product and Technology Officer (CPTO). His move signals Reliance's strong focus on integrating technology expertise from the e-commerce sector.
- **Strategic New Role:** This is a newly created position (President & CEO of RRVL, the holding entity). This creation underscores the company's intent to



deepen its leadership structure and accelerate its ambitious roadmap in the increasingly competitive retail space.

- **Core Mandate:** Omni-channel Acceleration: His primary mandate is to strengthen the retail portfolio and significantly accelerate omni-channel growth. This means seamlessly integrating Reliance's massive physical store network with its digital platforms (like JioMart and Ajio) using cutting-edge technology.
- **Reporting Structure & Guidance:** Venugopal will work closely with Isha Ambani, Executive Director of RRVL, and the leadership team, under the overall guidance of RIL Chairman & MD Mukesh Ambani and Director Manoj Modi, highlighting the strategic importance of this role to the group's top management.
- **Preparation for IPO:** The appointment is part of a broader strategy to strengthen the leadership team as Reliance Retail Ventures prepares for a potential Initial Public Offering (IPO), which analysts have valued in excess of \$100 billion.

6. AIM & Hitachi MGRM Net Launch MStar AI Innovation Platform

- **Objective & Core Technology:** The platform's primary goal is to accelerate nationwide innovation and entrepreneurship by creating a unified, democratized ecosystem. It is an AI-driven platform that acts as a national-scale digital backbone for innovation.
- **Scope and Reach:** The platform aims for Universal Reach by linking stakeholders from rural, suburban, and urban areas across India. It connects schools, students, teachers, Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), incubators, mentors, research institutions, and industry on a single interoperable network.
- **Key Pipeline Focus:** A core focus is to strengthen the "school-to-startup pipeline" and accelerate the "lab-to-market translation" of Indian innovations. It provides end-to-end support from ideation to Intellectual Property (IP) creation/filing, investor connects, and public procurement pathways.
- **Strategic Alignment (Viksit Bharat):** The collaboration is instrumental in realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). By leveraging AI and digital technology, the platform aims to move from isolated success stories to a structured, scalable, and inclusive pipeline of innovators and job creators.
- **Hitachi's Contribution:** Hitachi MGRM Net brings its expertise in e-governance and MStar™ Expert Systems (known for their application in education and governance) to provide the technological backbone.



7. Prateek Madhav Wins National Individual Excellence Award

- **Identity and Organization:** Prateek Madhav is the Co-Founder and CEO of the AssisTech Foundation (ATF), which is India's first ecosystem enabler dedicated to Assistive Technology (AT).
- **Award and Category:** He was conferred the prestigious National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. He won under the Individual Excellence Category for Best Research/Innovation/Product Development in the Field of Disability.
- **Presenter and Occasion:** The award was presented by the Honorable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at a ceremony in New Delhi on December 3, 2025, marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Impact of Work:** The recognition is for his outstanding contribution to advancing India's AT ecosystem. Under his leadership, ATF has supported over 500+ AT startups and accelerated 65 AT ventures, collectively impacting the lives of over 1 million PwDs across the country.
- **Core Mission:** His work champions the empowerment of PwDs by enabling the "3 Ls of Empowerment": Learning, Livelihood, and Living opportunities through the development and scaling of innovative assistive technology products and services.



8. Dr. Shardul S. Shroff Wins ACES 2025 Lifetime Honour

- **Recipient and Title:** The award was conferred upon Dr. Shardul S. Shroff, who is the Executive Chairman of one of India's leading full-service law firms, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. (SAM).
- **The Award:** He received the prestigious ACES (Asia Corporate Excellence & Sustainability) 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award. This honour is reserved for leaders whose integrity, governance standards, and long-standing influence have profoundly shaped Asia's corporate landscape.
- **Core Contribution:** The recognition is for his exemplary leadership and decades-long contribution to the field of corporate law and policy reform in India. He has been instrumental in shaping the jurisprudence of key commercial laws, including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and company law.
- **Influence in Policy Making:** Dr. Shroff's influence extends beyond the courtroom, as he has served as a key member of several high-powered Government of India Committees, such as the Insolvency Law Committee and



the Company Law Committee, directly contributing to modernizing India's commercial regulatory framework.

- **Global Recognition:** The award was presented at a gala ceremony in Bali (Jimbaran Bay) on December 3, 2025, highlighting that his impact is recognized not just domestically, but also on the international stage as a figure who elevates Asian business and legal standards.

9. International Volunteer Day celebrated on 05th December

- **UN Mandate and Purpose:** International Volunteer Day was mandated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1985. Its core purpose is to formally recognize and promote the vital contribution of volunteers to economic and social development at local, national, and international levels.
- **2025 Theme and Focus:** The theme for IVD 2025 is "Every Contribution Matters." This theme emphasizes that every act of volunteering, regardless of size or scale, is crucial for building a stronger, more sustainable world.
- **Launch of IVY 2026:** The 2025 observance is historically significant as it marks the official global launch of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026). This UN initiative aims to amplify the role of volunteers in accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- **Role in Crises and Development:** The day specifically recognizes volunteers as the first responders in times of crisis and emergency. It also calls upon governments and organizations to better integrate volunteerism into national and global implementation strategies for peace and development.



10. Veteran Producer AVM Saravanan passed away

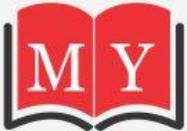
- **Custodian of AVM Productions:** Saravanan was the son of A. V. Meiyappan (AVM founder) and served as the Executive Head of the iconic AVM Productions for over six decades. He was instrumental in upholding and modernizing one of India's oldest and most respected production houses, which produced over 300 films across five languages.
- **The "Gentleman Producer":** He was widely known in the industry as the "gentleman producer" for his soft-spoken demeanor, ethical business practices, and unwavering commitment to professionalism and punctuality. His trademark attire was always pristine white clothes.



- **Architect of Superstardom:** He played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of generations of stars. His key production decisions were turning points for actors like Kamal Haasan (who debuted in their film Kalathur Kannamma), Rajinikanth (Murattu Kaalai, Sivaji: The Boss), and Sivaji Ganesan (Uyarndha Manidhan).
- **Landmark Films & Awards:** Under his leadership, AVM produced numerous critically acclaimed and commercially successful films, including National Award winners like Samsaram Adhu Minsaram (1986) and Minsara Kanavu (1997), and major blockbusters such as Sivaji: The Boss (2007) and Ayan (2009).

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