

# THE DAILY GK DOSE

## VARTIKA SHUKLA CONFERRED LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

- Awarding Body and Industry Impact:** The award was presented at the FICCI Chemicals & Petrochemicals Awards 2025 (held in Jan 2026) in New Delhi. It celebrates her over three decades of leadership and transformative impact on India's core industrial sectors, specifically in refineries, chemicals, and petrochemicals.
- Champion of Self-Reliance:** The honor recognizes her role in advancing the Make in India initiative by leading EIL to develop indigenous engineering and project management capabilities, reducing reliance on foreign technologies.
- Strategic Shift to Green Energy:** Shukla has played a key role in expanding EIL into sustainable sectors, leading initiatives in green hydrogen, biofuels, and renewable energy in line with India's net-zero and energy transition goals.

## INDIA RANKS 6<sup>TH</sup> IN ASIA MANUFACTURING INDEX 2026

- Mixed Pillar Performance:** While India ranks 1st in Workforce (due to labor size and cost) and 3rd in Economy (driven by high GDP growth), it struggles in other areas. It ranks poorly in Tax Policy (9th), International Trade (9th), and Political Risk (9th), with the report highlighting high logistics costs and administrative complexity as major bottlenecks.

- Strategic "Red Flag" for Make in India:** The index highlights India's \$1 trillion manufacturing goal by FY2026, emphasizing the need to improve logistics, policy stability, and digital infrastructure beyond labor advantages to stay competitive.

**Footnotes:** Top Performers: China (1st), Malaysia (2nd), Vietnam (3rd)

## PUNJAB LAUNCHES 'MUKHYA MANTRI SEHAT YOJANA'



- Universal Health Coverage:** Under this scheme, every family in Punjab will receive free medical treatment worth up to ₹5 lakh per year, covering not only poor families but also the middle class and unorganized sector workers to achieve "Health for All."
- Empanelled Hospitals aur OPD Suvidha:** The scheme includes all government hospitals in the state as well as major private hospitals, and covers not only surgeries but also OPD services and medicines, which were often excluded in earlier schemes.

**Footnotes:** Launched in Mohali by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Free Treatment Up to Rs.10 Lakh

## IMPORTANT FACTS

### CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY & CONSTITUTION

- Constitutional Advisor – V. N. Rao*
- Permanent Chairman of the Constituent Assembly – Dr. Rajendra Prasad*
- Chairman of the Drafting Committee – Dr. B. R. Ambedkar*
- First Law Minister of India – Dr. B. R. Ambedkar*
- Soul of the Constitution – Right to Constitutional Remedies the soul of the Constitution*
- Adoption of the Constitution – The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949*

## PIXEL-LED CONSORTIUM SIGNS PACT WITH IN-SPACE

- India's First Private National Constellation:** This is the country's first privately-led national Earth Observation (EO) satellite system. Under this Public-Private Partnership (PPP), the consortium will design, build, own, and operate a fleet of 12 advanced satellites to provide sovereign "Earth Intelligence" for India.
- Multimodal Data Capabilities:** The 12-satellite constellation will combine optical, multispectral, SAR, and hyperspectral sensors, with priority data access for the Indian government while allowing commercial sales globally.

**About Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre- Chairman:** Dr. Pawan Goenka, **HQ:** Ahmedabad, **Estd:** 2020

## SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK PARTNERS WITH HYPERVERGE

- AI-Powered Video KYC:** The bank has deployed HyperVerge's advanced Video KYC (VKYC) solution. This AI-driven platform allows for real-time identity verification, enabling customers to open accounts remotely and securely within minutes, significantly reducing manual paperwork.
- Doubling Operational Productivity:** The solution is designed to double the efficiency of the bank's verification agents. By automating key checks, each agent can now successfully complete nearly twice the number of verification calls per day compared to previous workflows, allowing the bank to scale rapidly without increasing overhead.

**Footnotes:** SSFB's CEO: R. Baskar Babu, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2008

## RAYMOND LIFESTYLE APPOINTS SATYAKI GHOSH AS CEO

- Extensive Industry Experience:** Ghosh is a seasoned veteran with over 25 years of experience across FMCG, textiles, and retail. He has held senior leadership roles at global giants including L'Oréal India (where he managed brands like Garnier and Maybelline) and PepsiCo, bringing a blend of B2B and B2C expertise.
- Strategic Growth Mandate:** His appointment follows the exit of Sunil Kataria in 2025 and

comes at a "crucial inflection point" for the company. Ghosh is tasked with driving innovation and consumer centricity as Raymond Lifestyle prepares for its next growth phase, focusing on rising domestic consumption and international market opportunities.

**Footnotes:** Raymond's Chairman: Gautam Singhania, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1925

## AMELIA VALVERDE APPOINTED AS COACH OF INDIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM



- World Cup Pedigree:** Valverde, 39, is a highly experienced international coach who led the Costa Rican national team to their only two FIFA Women's World Cup appearances (2015 and 2023). In 2015, she made history as the second-youngest head coach in World Cup history at just 28 years old.
- Immediate Mission:** She has already joined the Indian squad ("Blue Tigresses") at their training camp in Antalya, Türkiye. Her primary goal is to lead the team through the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, which begins in March, with a focus on securing India's first-ever qualification for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

- Proven Championship Success:** Beyond international football, Valverde comes with recent club success, having led Mexican side CF Monterrey to a historic Bicampeonato (two consecutive titles) in 2024. She was also named the Mexican Balón de Oro Best Coach and the 2016 CONCACAF Female Coach of the Year.

## FORMER INDIAN FOOTBALL TEAM DEFENDER ILYAS PASHA PASSED AWAY

- East Bengal Stalwart & Captain:** Pasha was a mainstay of the East Bengal defense from 1990 to 1998, a period often cited as one of the club's most successful eras. He famously captained the team to its first-ever international title at the Wai Wai Cup in 1993 and led them during their historic 6-2 victory over Iraq's Al-Zawraa SC.
- International Representation:** Pasha earned eight caps for the Indian national team. He made his debut in 1987 against Bulgaria and went on to represent the country in two editions of the Nehru Cup (1987, 1991), the 1991 SAF Games, and the 1992 Asian Cup qualifiers.
- Highly Decorated Domestic Career:** He also won the Santosh Trophy twice representing Bengal (1993, 1995) after starting his career with his home state, Karnataka.

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

**International Day of Education: 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

- Theme 2026:** Focuses on the role of education in promoting peace, inclusion, and sustainable development worldwide.
- Significance:** Highlights education as a basic human right and a key tool to reduce inequality and poverty.