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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Historic Visit to Ethiopia Strengthens India-Ethiopia Ties

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Ethiopia for two days, starting today.
- ✓ He will arrive in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.
- ✓ PM Modi will hold detailed talks with Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed on India-Ethiopia relations.
- ✓ This is PM Modi's first visit to Ethiopia.
- ✓ He will also address a joint session of the Ethiopian Parliament.
- ✓ Addis Ababa has been decorated with welcome posters, hoardings, and Indian flags.
- ✓ This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since 2011.
- ✓ During his visit, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji** on being bestowed with Ethiopia's highest award, the 'Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia'.



- ✓ **Prime Minister Modi is the first global head of state to receive this award.**
- ✓ **It is the 28th accolade to Modi Ji's statesmanship by a foreign nation,** signifying Bharat's rising stature in global diplomacy under his leadership.
- ✓ This honour will remain a milestone in the friendship between India and Ethiopia.

Indian Army AH-64E Apache Helicopters

- ✓ The Indian Army has received the **final 3 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters**, completing delivery of **all 6 helicopters**.
- ✓ These helicopters are for the **Army Aviation Corps**.
- ✓ The **US Embassy in India** confirmed the delivery and called it a **milestone in the US-India defence partnership**.
- ✓ The helicopters are built by **Boeing (USA)**.
- ✓ Delivery was **delayed multiple times**:
 - Originally planned for **2023**
 - Then shifted to **2024**
 - First batch arrived only in **July this year**
- ✓ With the final delivery, the **long-pending process is now complete**.
- ✓ The helicopters will be deployed **after assembly, inspections, and technical clearances**.
- ✓ The full Apache fleet will be **based in Jodhpur**.



- ✓ The induction will **significantly boost the Army's attack, reconnaissance, and combat capabilities.**
- ✓ AH-64E Apaches offer **precision strike, advanced surveillance, and battlefield management systems.**
- ✓ The delivery reflects **stronger strategic and defence cooperation between India and the United States.**

IPL 2026 Mini Auction

- ✓ Cameron Green became the **most expensive overseas player in IPL history**, bought by **KKR** for **Rs. 25.20 crore**.
- ✓ Due to new IPL rules, **only Rs. 18 crore goes to Green**, and the extra amount goes to the **BCCI welfare fund**.
- ✓ The previous record was held by **Mitchell Starc (Rs. 24.75 crore in IPL 2024)**.
- ✓ All **10 teams** spent a total of **Rs. 237.55 crore** at the auction.
- ✓ **Base price range:** Rs. 30 lakh (minimum) to Rs. 2 crore (maximum).
- ✓ **CSK made history with uncapped Indian players:**
 - **Prashant Veer - Rs. 14.20 crore**
 - **Kartik Sharma - Rs. 14.20 crore**
- ✓ They became the **most expensive uncapped and Indian players** in IPL history.
- ✓ Earlier record: **Avesh Khan (Rs. 10 crore, IPL 2023)**.
- ✓ **KKR had the biggest purse** (Rs. 64.30 crore) and completed their squad first.
- ✓ KKR also bought **Matheesha Pathirana for Rs. 18 crore**.
- ✓ Each team had a **Rs. 125 crore budget** to build squads of **18-25 players**, with **up to 8 overseas players**.



- ✓ **Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants** did not fill all overseas slots.
- ✓ **77 players were sold** out of **369** available at the auction.
- ✓ **Mumbai Indians**, despite having only **Rs. 2.75 crore**, signed **Quinton de Kock** for **Rs. 1 crore**.

Key Records - IPL 2026

- ✓ Most expensive player: **Cameron Green - Rs. 25.20 crore**
- ✓ Most expensive overseas player: **Cameron Green - Rs. 25.20 crore**
- ✓ Most expensive Indian player: **Prashant Veer / Kartik Sharma - Rs. 14.20 crore**
- ✓ Most expensive uncapped player: **Prashant Veer / Kartik Sharma - Rs. 14.20 crore**

Arton Capital's Passport Index

- ✓ 2025 Passport Index Published by Arton Capital (Canada)
- ✓ UAE has the **world's strongest passport** for the **7th year in a row**.
- ✓ UAE's **Mobility Score: 179**
 - Visa-free access: **126 countries**
 - Visa-on-arrival: **45 countries**
 - ETA access: **8 countries**
- ✓ **India ranks 67th globally**
 - **Mobility Score: 74**
 - Visa-free access to **74 countries**
 - Covers about **37% of the world**



ARTON CAPITAL

✓ **Top 5 Passports in 2025 with a Mobility Score:**

1. UAE - 179

2. Singapore, Spain - 175

3. Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Switzerland, Greece, Austria, Malaysia, Norway, Ireland, South Korea, and Japan - 174

4. Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia - 173

5. Malta, Romania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Latvia, New Zealand - 172

✓ **Lowest Rank: Afghanistan - Rank 94, Mobility Score 38**

Numaligarh Refinery Limited of Assam receives 27th Navratna Status

- ✓ **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** in Assam has been granted the **27th Navratna status** by the Central Government.
- ✓ **Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep S. Puri** announced the news, highlighting it as a matter of pride under **PM Narendra Modi's leadership**.
- ✓ **Capacity Expansion:** NRL is increasing production from **3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA** with an investment of **Rs. 28,000 crore**.

Recent Developments:

- PM inaugurated the **Assam Bioethanol Plant**.
- Laid the foundation for a **polypropylene plant** at NRL, Golaghat.

About Numaligarh Refinery Limited:

- ✓ Started on **22 April 1993** under the **1985 Assam Accord**.
- ✓ A **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- ✓ Navratna status provides **more financial and operational autonomy** to undertake larger projects.



Criteria for Navratna Status:

- ✓ CPSE must be **Miniratna I**.
- ✓ Must receive '**excellent**' or '**very good**' MoU ratings in at least **3 of the last 5 years**.
- ✓ Composite score of **60 or more** in performance indicators like net profit, EPS, and profit-to-turnover ratio.
- ✓ NRL thanked **Oil India Limited, Engineers India Limited, and Assam government employees** for their contribution to achieving this status.

DBS Bank Named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker

- ✓ **DBS Bank**, a Singapore-based Bank has been named **Global Bank of the Year 2025**.
- ✓ The award was given by **The Banker**, a publication of the **Financial Times**.
- ✓ The award was presented at the **Bank of the Year Awards 2025** in **London, UK**.

Other Awards Won by DBS in 2025:

- ✓ **Asia Bank of the Year**
- ✓ **Singapore Bank of the Year**
- ✓ **Investment Bank of the Year – Asia**
- ✓ **First-ever Investment Bank of the Year**

Significance:

- ✓ This is **DBS's third time** winning Global Bank of the Year
 - Earlier wins: **2018 and 2021**



BEE Leads National Energy Conservation Initiatives with NECA 2025 Awards

- ✓ **National Energy Conservation Day 2025** is observed on **14 December**.
 - ✓ **National Energy Conservation Week 2025** is celebrated from **14-20 December**.
 - ✓ The initiative is promoted by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025:**
- ✓ This is the **35th NECA** edition.
 - ✓ Covers **28 subsectors** under **7 broad categories**.
 - ✓ A **new category** introduced for **Social Media Influencers and Digital Content Creators** to promote energy conservation awareness.

Awards Distribution:

- ✓ **25 First Prizes**
- ✓ **5 Second Prizes**
- ✓ **26 Certificates of Merit (CoM)**
- ✓ **3 Certificates of Recognition (CoR)** under Innovation Awards

Best Performing States in Energy Efficiency:



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- ✓ **Group 1:** Karnataka - First Prize
- ✓ **Group 2:** Andhra Pradesh - First Prize
- ✓ **Group 3:** Kerala - First Prize
- ✓ **Group 4:** Assam - First Prize
- ✓ **Group 5:** Chandigarh - First Prize

Other Highlights:

- ✓ Miyana Railway Station in Guna, Madhya Pradesh, received the National Energy Conservation Award 2025 from the President of India, recognising its outstanding energysaving efforts. Recognised as Best Performing Unit in the Transport Category
- ✓ **East Vinod Nagar Metro Station (Delhi Metro Pink Line)** named **Best Performing Unit** for energy savings and sustainability.
- ✓ **Awards were presented by the President of India.**

Ravi Ranjan Takes Charge As SBI New Managing Director (MD)

- ✓ Ravi Ranjan has been appointed as Managing Director of State Bank of India.
- ✓ He succeeded Vinay M. Tonse, whose term ended on 30 November 2025.
- ✓ Ranjan earlier served as Deputy Managing Director at SBI.
- ✓ His tenure is approved until 30 September 2028, or until further orders.
- ✓ SBI's board consists of a Chairman and four Managing Directors.

About SBI (State Bank of India):

- ✓ Established: 1955
- ✓ Headquarters: Mumbai
- ✓ Chairman: C.S. Shetty
- ✓ MD's : Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Ravi Ranjan.



C-DOT Wins IEEE Standards Association Corporate Award 2025

- ✓ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has become the country's institution to win the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association (IEEE SA) Corporate Award 2025.
- ✓ C-DOT has become India's first organization and only the fifth organization globally to receive this honor from the 140-year-old IEEE.
- ✓ According to the minister, this award recognizes C-DOT's contribution to advancing IEEE standards in wireless broadband, rural 5G, telecom education, and building a globally recognized, standards-based innovation ecosystem from India.

About C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics):

- ✓ It was established in 1984 by the Government of India under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as an R&D hub to indigenize telecom technology, leading the "Indigenous Telecom Revolution."
- ✓ It developed India's first indigenous digital telephone exchange, C-DOT 128 RAX, which connected rural India.
- ✓ Developed Main Automatic Exchange (MAX) and MAX-XL for growing needs.



- ✓ Pioneered technologies such as Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), securing its first US patent.
- ✓ A major contributor to the national BharatNet project (optical fiber network).
- ✓ Developed indigenous 4G and 5G technologies.

India's First Wildlife-Safe Highway Launched on NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ NHAH has introduced India's first wildlife-safe highway on NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Features include table-top red road markings, wildlife underpasses, and eco-sensitive design to reduce animal-vehicle collisions.
- ✓ The road is on the 11.96 km Hiran Sindoor section of NH-45, connecting Bhopal and Jabalpur.
- ✓ Located about 60 km from Jabalpur, passing through a dense forest between Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ Implemented under the Green Highways Policy, 2015.
- ✓ Project cost: ₹ 122 crore; completion expected in 2025.



ASEAN-India Tourism Exchange Programme 2025 Kicks Off in Guwahati

- ✓ **ASEAN-India Tourism Professionals Exchange Programme 2025** launched in **Guwahati**.
- ✓ Brings together tourism professionals from **India** and **10 ASEAN member countries** for a **week-long engagement** (December 12-17).
- ✓ Hosted by **Assam Tourism Development Corporation Ltd** under the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- ✓ Locations include **Guwahati, Kaziranga, and New Delhi**.
- ✓ Focuses on **building partnerships** through **business meetings, trade interactions**, and **on-ground exposure** to tourism products.
- ✓ Emphasizes **community-led and sustainable tourism models**.
- ✓ Follows India's participation at **MATTA Fair 2025 in Kuala Lumpur**, promoting Assam and the North East as **emerging tourism destinations**.
- ✓ Aims to give ASEAN stakeholders **first-hand experience** of the region's **tourism infrastructure, heritage, and natural assets**.



Shafali Verma and Simon Harmer Clinch ICC Player of the Month Awards for November 2025

- ✓ **Shafali Verma has been named ICC Women's Player of the Month for November.**
- ✓ This is her **first-ever Player of the Month award.**
- ✓ She joined the **World Cup squad as a late replacement** for injured Pratika Rawal and played a **key role in India's Women's Cricket World Cup victory.**

Performance in World Cup Final vs South Africa:

- ✓ Scored 87 runs off 78 balls, the highest by an Indian opener in a Women's World Cup Final.
- ✓ Helped India post 298/7, setting a strong total.
- ✓ **Simon Harmer (South Africa) has been named ICC Men's Player of the Month for November 2025.**
- ✓ This is his first-ever ICC Men's Player of the Month award.
- ✓ Award decided through combined voting by global fans and an expert panel of former players and media.
- ✓ Harmer outperformed Taijul Islam (Bangladesh) and Mohammad Nawaz (Pakistan).



Historic Test Series in India:

- ✓ Played a key role in South Africa's 2-0 Test series win in India, their first since 2000.
- ✓ Series held in Kolkata and Guwahati.
- ✓ Harmer was Player of the Series for his outstanding bowling performances.