

PFC Becomes India's 2nd Largest State-Owned Financial Firm

After acquiring a majority stake in REC Ltd (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), center backed **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** become **India's second largest Govt-owned Financial Firm** after State Bank of India (SBI), based on market capitalization.

- PFC has bought the 52.63% controlling stake in REC through Rs 14,500 crore deal with Union government.
- **Zuzana Caputova has been appointed as the first female president of Slovakia**
On 30th March 2019, lawyer **Zuzana Caputova(45)** won **Slovakia's presidential election** and become Slovakia's **first female president**. She will succeed **Andrej Kiska**. She has defeated high-profile diplomat **Maros Sevcovic** by winning 58% votes.



Key

Points:

- i. She was born on 21st June 1973 in Bratislava.
- ii. She was honoured with the **Goldman Environmental Award in 2016** for her strong and resolute leadership regarding the Pezinok landfill affair, Caputova.

About Slovakia

- ◆ **Capital:** Bratislava
- ◆ **Currency:** Euro
- ◆ **Prime Minister:** Peter Pellegrini

Filmmaker Rima Das appointed as the ambassador of TIFF's 'Share Her Journey'

On 29th March 2019, Assam filmmaker **Rima Das** has been appointed as the official ambassador of **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**'s **'Share Her Journey'** campaign.

Key Points:

- i. TIFF launched the five years 'Share Her Journey' campaign in **2017** with an aim to increase participation, skills, and opportunities for women behind and in front of the camera.
- ii. She has won several national and international awards for her film '**Village Rockstars**', which

is India's official entry to Oscars 2019 and Dublin Film Critics Circle Jury Award for Best Director of her film 'Bulbul Can Sing'.

iii. Recently Rima Das was honoured with ICC NE Excellence Award by Indian Chamber of Commerce at North East Business Summit at Hotel Le Meridien in New Delhi.

iv. The other Indian ambassadors of the campaign include Filmmakers Mira Nair, Deepa Mehta, and Actress Priyanka Chopra.

About Assam

◆ **Capital:** Dispur

◆ **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal

◆ **National Park:** Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Orang National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

Rear Admiral Suraj Berry to be designated as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet

On 30th March 2019, Rear Admiral Suraj Berry has been appointed as the **Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet**. He will succeed Rear Admiral **Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM**, who will be the next (24th) chief of naval staff.



Key Points:

- i. He was commissioned on 1st January 1987 and is a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Warfare.
- ii. He has experience as a Commanding officer in the missile vessel **INS Nirbhik**, missile corvette **INS Karmuk**, stealth frigate **INS Talwar**, and the aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya**.
- iii. Also, He is a recipient of the **Vishisht Seva Medal** in 2006 for the Tsunami Relief operations in Sri Lanka/ Maldives and the **Nau Sena Medal** in 2015.
- iv. Under his supervision, Eastern Fleet participated in various bilateral exercises, like **INDRA-18** with the Russian Navy, the **25th edition of SIMBEX** with the Singapore Navy and **JIMEX-18** with the Japanese Navy.

Air Marshal NS Dhillon to be designated as new Strategic Forces Command (SFC) Chief

On 30th March 2019, Fighter pilot **Air Marshal Navkaranjit Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the **new commander-in-chief Strategic Forces Command**. He will succeed **Jasbir Walia**.

Key Points:

- i. He was born in 1961 in Amritsar.
- ii. He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force on December **1981**.
- iii. He has experience as a Commanding officer in **MiG-21 Sqn** and as a Chief Operational

Officer of a premier flying base.

iv. The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) was created on **4th January 2003**, by the **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government** to look after the strategic nuclear arsenal of the country and it is a part of **India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)** which is headed by **PM Narendra Modi**.



Shangai becomes 1st district with 5G coverage

On 30th March, 2019, China's Shanghai claimed to have the world's first district with 5G coverage and a broadband gigabit network. It has conducted trial runs of the 5G network in Shanghai's Hongkou district.



i. The trial runs of the 5G network started in Shanghai's Hongkou district.

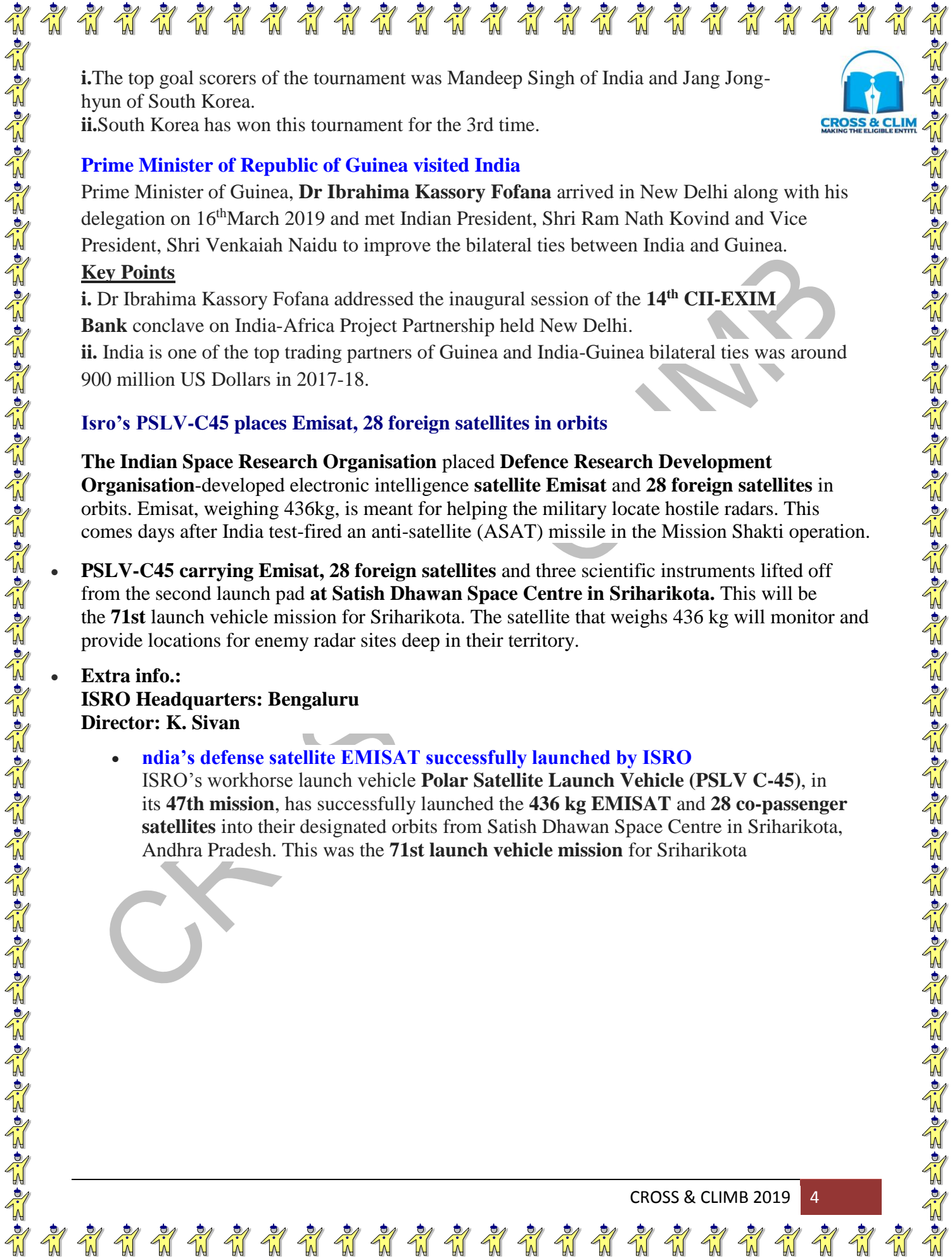

ii. 5G base stations had been deployed over the last three months to ensure full coverage in Hongkou.

iii. Shangai's 5G network is backed by state-run telecom carrier China Mobile.

South Korea won Azlan Shah Hockey Cup by defeating India

On 30th March, **India** was defeated by the **South Korea** in the penalty shootout of the final 28th edition of **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019**. 17th Ranked South Korea defeated World number 5, India to win the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup which was held at Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia.



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- i. The top goal scorers of the tournament was Mandeep Singh of India and Jang Jong-hyun of South Korea.
 - ii. South Korea has won this tournament for the 3rd time.

Prime Minister of Republic of Guinea visited India

Prime Minister of Guinea, **Dr Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** arrived in New Delhi along with his delegation on 16th March 2019 and met Indian President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu to improve the bilateral ties between India and Guinea.

Key Points

- i. Dr Ibrahima Kassory Fofana addressed the inaugural session of the **14th CII-EXIM Bank** conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held New Delhi.
- ii. India is one of the top trading partners of Guinea and India-Guinea bilateral ties was around 900 million US Dollars in 2017-18.

Isro's PSLV-C45 places Emisat, 28 foreign satellites in orbits

The Indian Space Research Organisation placed Defence Research Development Organisation-developed electronic intelligence **satellite Emisat** and **28 foreign satellites** in orbits. Emisat, weighing 436kg, is meant for helping the military locate hostile radars. This comes days after India test-fired an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile in the Mission Shakti operation.

- **PSLV-C45 carrying Emisat, 28 foreign satellites** and three scientific instruments lifted off from the second launch pad at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**. This will be the **71st** launch vehicle mission for Sriharikota. The satellite that weighs 436 kg will monitor and provide locations for enemy radar sites deep in their territory.
- **Extra info.:**
ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru
Director: K. Sivan
 - **India's defense satellite EMISAT successfully launched by ISRO**
ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-45)**, in its **47th mission**, has successfully launched the **436 kg EMISAT** and **28 co-passenger satellites** into their designated orbits from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This was the **71st launch vehicle mission** for Sriharikota

CLIMB

ISRO launches
PSLV C-45
Carrying EMISAT and 28 Satellites

28 International Customer Satellites		
Country	Satellite Name	No. of Satellites
Lithuania	BlueWalker1	1
	M6P	1
Spain	Aistechsat-3	1
Switzerland	Astrocast-2	1
USA	Flock-4A	20
	LEMUR	4

- i. The military satellite, EMISAT, was successfully injected into intended sun-synchronous polar orbit of **748 km height**.
 - ii. The foreign satellites have been launched under an agreement with **theAntrix Corporation**, the commercial arm of ISRO, consisting of **24** from the **US**, **two** from **Lithuania** and **one** each from **Spain** and **Switzerland**.

iii. Emisat is a satellite based on ISRO's **Indian Mini Satellite -2 (IMS-2)** bus platform. The satellite is aimed at **electromagnetic spectrum measurement**.



- **China launched its 2nd Generational data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01**

On 31st March 2019, **China** successfully launched its first second generational data relay satellite named **Tianlian II-01** with the help of a Long March-3B Carrier rocket from **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in Sichuan Province. It was the 301st mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.



Key

Points

i. The Satellite will provide, data relay, transmission services, measurement and control for China's manned spacecraft, satellites and carrier rockets along with other non-spacecraft users.

ii. China Academy of Space Technology which is under China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation has developed this satellite.

About China

- ◆ Capital: Beijing
- ◆ Currency: Renminbi
- ◆ President: Xi Jinping

India's 'Hump-backed mahseer', freshwater fish added in "Critically Endangered" list

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species added **hump-backed mahseer**, also known as 'Tor remadevii' or 'tiger of water' in critically endangered species list.

i. It is freshwater fish endemic to the Western Ghats of South India and only found in Kaveri River basins including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers. The maximum length of this fish can reach upto 150 cm and maximum weight till 90 kg.

ii. The fish is considered as one of the 229 species from recent Red List which updated in November 2018 and also disclose the threat status of 12 other Indian species, including great hornbill.

iii. The headquarters of ICUN Red List is in United Kingdom

iv. The headquarters of ICUN is in Gland, Switzerland.

2019 Miami Open held in Florida from 18th March to 31st March 2019

2019 Miami Open which was the 35th edition of Miami Open, held at Miami Gardens in **Florida, USA** from 18th March to 31st March 2019. It was a part of Masters 1000 category of **2019 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour** and Premier mandatory Category of **2019 WTA (Women Tennis Association) Tour**.



Highlights

- i. For the first time the tournament took place on the **hard Rock Stadium**.
- ii. **Roger Federer** won his 4th ATP Miami title in Men's Single Category.
- iii. Former Australian Cricketer, **Ashleigh Barty** became the first ever Australian winner of the tournament in Women's Singles category.

List of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Single	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	John Isner (USA)
Women's Single	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
Men's Double	Bob Bryan (USA) and Mike Bryan (USA)	Wasley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) and Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Samantha Stosur (Australia) and Zhang Shuai (China)