

**❖ Hero MotoCorp appoints Niranjana Gupta as new CEO**

- The Board of Hero MotoCorp has appointed Niranjana Gupta as the new chief executive officer of the company, effective from May 1, 2023.
- He has been elevated from his current position as chief financial officer (CFO). Dr. Pawan Munjal will continue as executive chairman and whole-time director on the Board. The company will announce a new CFO in due course.
- Gupta has over 25 years of rich leadership experience in finance, mergers and acquisition, supply chain and strategy roles across business sectors, including Consumer Goods, Metals & Mining and Automobiles. He also serves as a director on the Board of Ather Energy, HMC MM Auto Private Limited, and HMCL Colombia.
- Prior to Hero MotoCorp, Niranjana spent three years at Vedanta Limited and 20 years at Unilever across global roles.

**❖ BharatPe ties up with NITI Aayog's WEP to support women entrepreneurs**

- Fintech company BharatPe under its corporate social responsibility initiative BharatPe Cares has partnered with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support women entrepreneurs in the country.
- The core focus area will be to facilitate the development of a first-of-its-kind aggregator platform that gives access to peer support, mentorship, networking channels and learning resources to women entrepreneurs.
- The initiative is under BharatPe's company PAYBACK's CSR programme. BharatPe had acquired PAYBACK – a multi-brand loyalty programme in 2021 from American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund.

➤ According to the sixth economic census by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, women comprise only 13.76 per cent of the total entrepreneurs in India, which is 8.05 million out of the total 58.5 million entrepreneurs.

➤ CFO and interim CEO of BharatPe: Nalin Negi

### ❖ **PNGRB approves unified tariff for natural gas pipeline**

➤ Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) (on March 29) approved levelised unified tariff for natural gas pipeline of Rs. 73.93 per metric million British thermal unit (MMBtu).

➤ The unified tariff would be effective from April 1, 2023.

➤ By “One Nation, One Grid and One tariff”, the Indian government aims to boost the consumption of natural gas in the country and increase its share in India’s energy basket from current 6.2 percent to 15 percent by 2030.

➤ PNGRB also defined three zones for unified tariff, wherein the First zone is up to the distance of 300 km from the source, Second zone is more than 300 km and up to 1,200 km while the Third zone is the remaining length of the national gas grid system.

### ❖ **Finland Becomes 31st NATO Member After Turkey’s Approval**

➤ Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has announced that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey’s unanimous vote.

➤ Russia’s opposition to Finland’s membership, Turkey’s approval has allowed the extension of NATO. Finland shares a long border of over 1,300 kilometers with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

➤ However, Sweden’s application to join NATO has been declined by Turkey and Hungary.

➤ NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an intergovernmental military alliance established in 1949. It was formed as a collective defense pact between North American and European nations to deter Soviet expansion and protect member states from potential Soviet aggression during the Cold War.

➤ The founding members of NATO were the United States, Canada, and ten European nations including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Since then, the alliance has expanded to include 31 member countries.

### ❖ **U.K. to join trans-Pacific partnership trade treaty**

➤ Britain has reached an agreement to join a major free trade bloc in the Pacific region.

➤ The country will become the first new member, and the first in Europe, to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) since it came into force in 2018.

➤ Although the government called the agreement its “biggest trade deal since Brexit,” its own estimates show that joining the CPTPP will increase UK economic output by less than 0.1% in the long run, or over approximately 15 years.

➤ The CPTPP is a free trade agreement with 11 members: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam. It succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership after the United States withdrew under former President Donald Trump in 2017.

### ❖ **Sahitya Akademi winner Sarah Thomas passes away**

➤ Writer Sarah Thomas, who passed away at the age of 89, was someone who let only her writing do the talking. A quiet observer of life around her, she weaved in all that she imbibed into her seventeen novels and more than hundred short stories, some of which were potent enough to stir the conscience of the oppressing classes.

➤ As a girl growing up in a conservative household, an early passion for writing closed many doors for her, rather than opened them. She had to wait till the age of

34, to get her first work **Jeevitham Oru Nadhi** published. In later years, she would talk about how her wings were clipped earlier on, in her childhood. Yet, within those limitations, she soared high with the sheer quality of her prose and the relevance of the subjects she chose to weave her stories around.

➤ Thomas is a two-time recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.

### ❖ **T-Works signs pact with Qualcomm to set up unique multilayer PCB**

➤ T-Works, India's largest prototyping centre, signed a pact with Qualcomm India Private Limited to set up a unique multilayer Printed Circuit Board (PCB) fabrication facility at T-Works.

➤ Qualcomm India is assisting with the endeavour as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy.

➤ This facility will help with the quick manufacture of up to 12-layer boards, which will speed up electrical device prototypes and development.

➤ This new facility will help with the development of a variety of items, including electric cars, medical gadgets, industrial automation products, consumer electronics, and others.

➤ T-Works is India's largest prototyping centre. T-Works is an initiative of the Government of Telangana that is aimed to create and celebrate a culture of hobbyists, makers, and innovators in India; who explore and experiment without the fear of failure.

➤ Founded: 3 March 2023

➤ Headquarters: Rai Durg

### ❖ **Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea gets European GI tag**

➤ The European Commission (EC) has awarded protected geographical indication (PGI) status to **Kangra tea**, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.

- The PGI will be effective from April 11, 2023.
- The tag will help Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market.
- Himachal Pradesh capital: Shimla(summer) , Dharamshala (winter)
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla