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NATIONAL NEWS

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- The famous 11-day long ‘Dhanu Jatra’, considered as the largest open-air theatre of the world begins at Bargarh in western Odisha today. The Jatra is based on the mythological story of Lord Krishna and his demon uncle King Kansa.
- It is about the episode of Krishna and Balaram's visit to Mathura to witness the Dhanu ceremony organized by their (maternal) uncle King Kansa

GoM constituted to expedite implementation of Rs 69,000 crore revival plan of BSNL, MTNL, say sources

- A seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to fast-track and oversees the implementation of the Rs 69,000 crore revival plan for state-owned telecom corporations BSNL and MTNL.
- The high-level group will expedite smooth implementation of recent decisions taken on the revival of BSNL and MTNL that includes crucial elements like allocation of 4G spectrum and asset monetisation.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Rs 1, 12,000 crore paid as IGST refunds to exporters- CBIC

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC has said that over 1, 12,000 crore rupees have been paid as Integrated Goods and Services Tax-IGST refunds to exporters.
- In a statement, CBIC said, over 83,000 exporters have been benefited by these refunds. It said, this shows the government’s efforts to fast track refunds under GST especially to exporters. As of now, refunds of only 3,604 crores are pending with Customs.
- CBIC said that it is using data analytics to identify risky exporter entities that take input tax credit fraudulently and monetize it by paying IGST and taking refund. Such exporters are being subject to KYC and verification process before the grant of refund.

APPOINTMENT

Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane to take over as new Army chief

- · Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane will take over as the next chief of Army staff leading the 1.3 million-strong force. He is currently serving as vice-chief of the army. Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat is due to retire on December 31 after a three-year stint as the Army chief.
- · Before taking charge as vice-chief of the Army staff in September, Lt Gen Naravane was

heading the Eastern Command of the Army which takes care of India's nearly 4,000-km border with China.

SPORTS

IOA withdraws boycott call for 2022 Commonwealth Games

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has withdrawn its threat to boycott the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham over Shooting's exclusion. It also announced that the country will bid to host either the 2026 or the 2030 edition.
- During its Annual General Meeting in New Delhi, the IOA, on the advice of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), also decided to submit a formal proposal to host a Commonwealth Shooting Championships before the main Games, an idea mooted by both the national and international shooting bodies to make up for the sport's exclusion from 2022 CWG. CGF President Dame Louise Martin welcomed India confirming participation at the Birmingham Games.
- The country's apex body for Olympic sports will next approach the government for the necessary clearances to host the multi-sport event. The country hosted the 2010 edition in the national capital.

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