

International

Italy drops tax investigation after Google agrees to 326 million Euro settlement.

Italian prosecutors said they will seek to drop a tax evasion investigation against Google after the tech giant agreed to pay a 326 million Euro settlement. Milan prosecutors had opened an investigation against Google for failure to pay taxes on earnings in Italy from 2015-2019. The investigation focused on revenues from the sale of advertising, and cited the presence of servers and other infrastructure in Italy. Google previously paid over one billion US dollar to French authorities to settle a years' long dispute over allegations of tax fraud.

National

India, Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in Lithium exploration and mining.

India and Argentina signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in Lithium exploration and mining. This collaboration is expected to accelerate lithium exploration projects, enhance resource security, and create new opportunities for Indian companies in the Latin American mining landscape.

Both sides engaged in discussions on policy frameworks, regulatory aspects, and sustainable mining practices to ensure a mutually beneficial partnership. Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on knowledge exchange and infrastructure support.

Rekha Gupta to be sworn in as Delhi Chief Minister.

BJP leader Rekha Gupta will be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Delhi at the iconic Ramlila Maidan in the national capital. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena will administer the oath of office and secrecy. The name of Mrs Gupta was announced as the new Chief Minister following the Delhi BJP legislative party meeting in New Delhi. The new government in Delhi will have six cabinet ministers.

PM Modi lauds inauguration of Inland Waterways Terminal in Assam.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded the inauguration of the Inland Waterways Transport, IWT Terminal on the Brahmaputra, National Waterway-2 at Jogighopa in Assam. The state-of-the-art terminal, connected to the Multi-Modal Logistics Park and strategically located in Jogighopa, will serve as an international port of call for Bhutan and Bangladesh.

MSDE, NSDC & Intel India Launch 'AI for Entrepreneurship' to train 1 lakh youth by 2025.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Intel India have joined hands to launch the "AI for Entrepreneurship" micro-learning module. This programme aims to make artificial intelligence (AI) easy to understand while encouraging young minds to think like entrepreneurs. The goal is to train 1,00,000 learners across India by 2025.

This initiative is part of India's larger plan to boost innovation, encourage inclusivity, and drive economic growth by equipping the next generation with essential skills for the digital age.

Centre approves ₹1,554 crore additional assistance to 5 states affected by natural calamities.

The High-Level Committee, under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved additional Central assistance of over one thousand 554 crore rupees from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five states affected by natural calamities such as floods, flash floods, landslides, and cyclonic storms during the past year.

According to the Home Ministry, 608 crore rupees has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, over 170 crore for Nagaland, over 255 crore for Odisha, more than 231 crore for Telangana and over 288 crore rupees for Tripura.

During the financial year 2024-25, the Central government released more than 18 thousand 322 crore rupees to 27 states under the SDRF

and over four thousand 808 crore rupees from the NDRF to 18 states

Business and Economy

Reliance secures no. 2 spot in global FutureBrand Index 2024.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has been ranked No. 2 in the FutureBrand Index 2024, surpassing global technology giant Apple. This marks the first time an Indian company has entered the top three of this prestigious global rankings.

Samsung secured the No. 1 position, climbing from No. 5 in 2023.

Google opens Ananta in Bengaluru, one of its largest offices outside America.

Google, the California-headquartered tech major, announced the opening of Ananta, one of Google's largest offices globally, at Mahadevapura, in the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The 1.6-million-sq-ft building, Ananta (infinite or limitless in Sanskrit) is built by Bagmane Tech Park over six years. And it was styled and readied for Google in another 11 months.

The new facility can seat upwards of 5,000 techies and the company currently has around 10,000 employees in India

UAE's NMDC Group plans to invest ₹21,000 crore at Vadhvan Port.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NMDC Group PJSC (Formerly National Marine Dredging Company PJSC) for the construction of the Vadhvan Port Project Ltd. in Maharashtra. As per the MoU NMDC Group PJSC has proposed to invest an estimated ₹21,000 crore for the development of the Land Offshore of Vadhvan Coast by Dredging, Reclamation and Shore Protection of Vadhvan Port.

Tesla picks showroom sites in New Delhi, Mumbai to start India sales.

Tesla has selected locations for two showrooms in the Indian cities of New Delhi and Mumbai,

moving closer to its long-delayed plans to sell its electric cars in the country. The U.S. carmaker has been looking for showroom space in India since late last year in order to start sales in the world's third biggest auto market, after putting market entry plans on hold in 2022.

Mahindra ties up with U.S. firm Anduril to develop autonomous maritime systems.

Mahindra Group and Anduril Industries, an American technology company that specialises in autonomous systems, have entered into an alliance for co-developing and co-producing Autonomous Maritime Systems, advanced AI-enabled Counter Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS) technologies and Command and Control (C2) software.

Sports

Bhaker named BBC Indian Sports woman of the Year.

Olympic shooter Manu Bhaker has been named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2024 after a global public vote. She was recognised for her historic achievement in becoming the first Indian woman to win two medals at a single Olympic Games.

Her fellow shooter Avani Lekhara was presented with the BBC ISWOTY Para-sportswoman of the Year award.

Archer Sheetal Devi won the Emerging Athlete Award after becoming India's youngest Paralympic medallist.

Mithali Raj was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for her record 18-year captaincy of the Indian women's cricket team.

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 60 runs in ICC Champions Trophy.

New Zealand defeated defending champions Pakistan by a commanding 60 runs in Karachi in the ninth edition of the ICC Champions Trophy. Opting to field after winning the toss, Pakistan struggled to contain the Kiwis, who posted a formidable total of 320 for 5 in their 50 overs. In response, Pakistan were bundled out for 260 runs in 47.2 overs.