



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

India Flags Off First International Cruise Liner

Recently, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways flagged off the maiden voyage of the vessel **Costa Serena**, the first International Cruise Liner in India from Mumbai.

- The initiative aligns with the **"Dekho Apna Desh" campaign**, reflecting the government's emphasis on promoting tourism.
- The development of **cruise and lighthouse tourism** is part of the **Sagarmala Programme**, which aims to establish India as the premier cruise hub in the **Asia Pacific region by 2030**.
 - The goal is to increase the **annual number of cruise passengers in India to 18 lakhs by 2030**, up from the current figure of 4.72 lakhs.
- India plans to have **25 operational cruise terminals by 2047**, with an estimated annual passenger count of 5 million.

Read more: [Ganga Vilas Cruise](#)

ATL Marathon 2023-24

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog**, opened applications for the **'Atal Tinkering Lab(ATL) Marathon 2023-24,'** a **national-level innovation challenge** in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, **YuWaah** and **UNICEF**.

- The 2023-24 ATL Marathon is themed around **"India's 75th Republic Day(26th January 2024)"**, with several problem statements on which student teams can build projects like Space, Agriculture, Inclusivity, **Disaster management**, Mobility, Health, Education & Skill Development.
 - Students across India can participate and develop innovative solutions for community problems.
- Aims to create an ecosystem of innovation in schools and expose students to innovation.

Read more: [Atal New India Challenge 2.0](#)

Inaugural AIESC Meeting

The inaugural **Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting**, hosted at IIT Gandhinagar, represents a pivotal moment in the bilateral education and skill development collaboration between **Australia and India**.

- Established in **2011** as the **Australian India Education Council (AIEC)**, this bi-national body strategically guides the educational, training, and research partnerships between the two countries.
- By focusing on themes like **shaping future workforces, bolstering institutional partnerships, and driving research impact through internationalization**, the council seeks to pave the way for the future of education and skilling in both nations.

Read more: [India-Australia Relations](#)

Neeraj Chopra Nominated for 2023 World Athlete of the Year Award

[Neeraj Chopra](#), the Olympic and World Champion Javelin Thrower, stands among the **11 nominees for the 2023 Men's World Athlete of the Year award given by the World Athletics.**

- The selection process involves a **three-way voting system**, incorporating votes from the **World Athletics Council, the [World Athletics Family](#)**, and the public.
 - While the **council's vote carries 50% weight, the remaining 50% is divided equally between the World Athletics Family and public votes.**

Read more: [World Athletics](#)

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