



02-01-2025 NEWS

School Enrollment Drops by 3.7 Million in 2023-24

- ◆ During the 2023-24 academic year, school enrollments decreased by 3.7 million, bringing the total to 248 million. Male enrollment dropped by 2.1 million, while female enrollment decreased by 1.6 million.
- ◆ Minority students constituted 20% of total enrollment, with Muslims making up 79.6%, Christians 10%, Sikhs 6.9%, Jains 1.3%, Parsis 0.1%, and Buddhists 2.2%.
- ◆ Data from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) revealed that 26.9% of students belonged to the general category, 18% were Scheduled Castes, 9.9% were Scheduled Tribes, and 45.2% were from Other Backward Classes.

What Is the 'Blue Flag Certificate'?

- ◆ The Blue Flag certificate is awarded to beaches worldwide for maintaining environmental standards, provided by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
- ◆ India, along with 77 countries and 65 organizations, is part of this initiative. Beaches must meet 33 criteria, including cleanliness, environmental management, and tourist facilities, to receive the certification.
- ◆ In Tamil Nadu, including Kovalam, 13 beaches across the country have received the Blue Flag certification.

Beaches certified under this program gain international attention, attracting more tourists.

Conditions for Certification:

- ◆ No development should occur beyond the roads near the beach.
- ◆ No interference should occur in areas where sea turtles lay eggs.
- ◆ Only eco-friendly materials can be used for development activities.
- ◆ Beaches should be cleaned regularly.