

CHINMAYA ACADEMY FOR CIVIL SERVICES

CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 14



TAMILNADU

1. Tamil Nadu Cancels Class XI Public Examinations (2025)

Announcement and Implementation

- Issued by: Tamil Nadu Government
- Via: Government Order (G.O.)
- Effective from: Academic Year 2025–26
- Linked to: Implementation of the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy (SEP)

Provisions



- Class XI public examinations cancelled from the academic year 2025– 26.
- Students will follow the system that existed before 2017–18.
- Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) will continue to conduct Class XI exams only for failed or reappearance candidates up to March 2030.
- Integrated mark certificates for Classes XI and XII will be discontinued.
- From 2025–26 onwards, separate mark certificates will be issued only for Class XII public examinations.

Background

- Class XI board examinations were first introduced in 2017–18.
- Purpose: To ensure uniform teaching of the Class XI syllabus across schools.

- Schools and teachers' associations had long demanded cancellation due to academic pressure and syllabus redundancy between Class XI and XII.
- The change was recommended in the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy released in August 2025.

Objectives

- To reduce examination stress on students.
- To streamline the evaluation process under the new State Education Policy.
- To promote continuous assessment instead of multiple board examinations.
- To align the State education system with student-centric learning goals.

Significance

- A major step in implementing the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy.
- Reflects the government's focus on flexibility and holistic learning.
- Reduces student stress and simplifies the exam structure.
- Marks a return to the pre-2017 system, reversing the earlier reform.

INDIA

2.India's Maitri II Antarctic Research Station (2025)

- The Government of India has approved the establishment of a new Antarctic research base called Maitri II.
- The project has been allotted a budget of approximately ₹2,000 crore by the Finance Ministry.
- It will be implemented by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

- Maitri II will be located in eastern Antarctica, replacing the old Maitri station in the Schirmacher Oasis region.
- The new base is targeted to become **operational by January 2029**.
- This will be India's fourth Antarctic research facility after Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1989), and Bharati (2012).
- The existing **Maitri station** is aging and facing problems related to **infrastructure and waste management**.
- Maitri II will be designed as an eco-friendly, energy-efficient station using solar and wind power.
- It will enable advanced scientific research in climate change,
 glaciology, atmospheric sciences, and biodiversity.
- The station will include automated instruments capable of remote data transmission and unmanned operation.
- A German company has been selected to prepare the Detailed Project
 Report (DPR) and environmental assessment.
- **Prefabricated materials** will be built in India and transported to Antarctica **via South Africa**.
- Construction activities will only take place during the Antarctic summer (October to March) due to harsh weather.
- The project aims to enhance India's long-term scientific and strategic presence in Antarctica.

3. Vital Statistics of India 2023 - CRS Report:

- Report: Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System (CRS)
 2023
- Released by: Registrar-General of India (RGI)
- Year of data: 2023
- Released: October 2025

Birth Statistics

- Total registered births in 2023: 2.52 crore
- Decrease from 2022: 2.32 lakh fewer births

- Birth registration coverage: 98.4%
- Institutional births: 74.7% of total registered births
- Sikkim's data not included

Death Statistics

Year	Deaths Registered	Remarks
2020	81.2 lakh	Pre-pandemic baseline
2021	102.2 lakh	Excess of about 21 lakh deaths (COVID-19 impact)
2022	86.5 lakh	Decline after pandemic
2023	86.6 lakh	Marginal increase of 0.1 lakh

- No major rise in deaths during 2022–2023.
- Health Ministry's COVID-19 death toll (as of May 2023): 5.33 lakh.

Sex Ratio at Birth (Females per 1,000 Males)

Lowest Sex Ratio States (2023):

- 1. Jharkhand 899
- 2. Bihar 900
- 3. Telangana 906
- 4. Maharashtra 909
- 5. Gujarat 910
- 6. Haryana 911
- 7. Mizoram 911
- Bihar has recorded the lowest sex ratio consistently since 2020.

Highest Sex Ratio States/UTs (2023):

- 1. Arunachal Pradesh 1,085
- 2. Nagaland 1,007
- 3. Goa 973
- 4. Ladakh 972

- 5. Tripura 972
- 6. Kerala 967

Timely Registration of Births (Within 21 Days)

States/UTs with over 90% timely registration:

Gujarat, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Punjab.

States with 80–90% timely registration:

Odisha, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh.

States with 50–80% timely registration:

Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh.

CHINIMAYA ACADEMY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3. Fisher Friend Mobile Application (FFMA) – Tech4Nature Award 2025 Recognition

- **Award:** Tech4Nature Award 2025
- **By:** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi
- **Developed by:** M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

About the App

• **Name:** Fisher Friend Mobile Application (FFMA)

- **Purpose:** To assist fishermen with safety, weather, and conservation alerts.
- Launch background: Developed after the 2004 Indian Ocean
 Tsunami.
- **Supported by:** Qualcomm and INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services).

Impact

- **Protects:** Olive Ridley turtles (endangered species).
- **Main feature:** No-Fishing Zone Alert System
 - Uses geolocation + geo-fencing technology.
 - Warns fishermen in **real time** when boats approach protected turtle nesting zones.
 - o Works **offline**, crucial for deep-sea operations.
 - o Has triggered **7,000+ alerts**, preventing accidental violations.

Conservation Areas Covered

- 1. Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary (Odisha)
- 2. **Three river mouths** identified as turtle nesting sites.
- 3. Covers zones with 200-metre geofenced boundaries.

App Features

- Real-time info on:
 - Weather and ocean conditions
 - Potential fishing zones
 - Disaster alerts
 - o Government schemes
 - o **Navigation hazards** (rocks, coral reefs, sunken ships)
- Languages supported: 9 Indian languages
- Coverage: 1,22,000 registered users across 9 coastal states + 1 Union
 Territory

People

- Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF
 - o Described the app as a *model of participatory technology*.
- Velvizhi S. Area Director, MSSRF Coastal and Marine Resources
 Programme
 - Led the *No-Fishing Zone* feature development with Odisha's Fisheries Department.

Future Plans

- Expand app model to other coastal regions in **South Asia**.
- Integrate **AI and microclimate data** for precise ocean analytics.
- Extend conservation efforts to dugongs (sea cows).

Significance

- Balances marine biodiversity conservation with fishermen's livelihoods.
- Example of community-led, tech-driven environmental protection.
- Strengthens India's global leadership in blue economy and sustainable fisheries.

4.New Begonia Species - Arunachal Pradesh (2025)

- A new Begonia species with sparkling red leaves was discovered in Basar, Lepa-Rada district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The discovery was made by the State Horticulture Research and Development Institute (SHRDI).
- Identification was confirmed by Botanical Survey of India (BSI)
 experts Dr. Dipoo Dipankar Borah, Dr. Momang Taram, and Dr. Krishna Chowlu.
- The plant is named "Chowna Buku Chulu" (meaning noble red) and "Aryarakta" in Sanskrit.

- It is named in honour of **Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein** for his contribution to horticulture research.
- The species has high ornamental and commercial potential due to its red foliage.
- The discovery highlights Arunachal Pradesh's biodiversity richness and promotes sustainable horticulture and agricultural innovation.

AWARDS / PRIZES

5. Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025:

Basic Details



- Award: Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2025
- Announced by: Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Prize amount: 11 million Swedish Kronor (approx. 1.2 million USD)
- Date of announcement: October 2025
- Nature of award: Final Nobel Prize announced for the year

Winners

- 1. **Joel Mokyr** Professor, Northwestern University, United States
- Philippe Aghion Professor, Collège de France and INSEAD (Paris), and London School of Economics (UK)
- 3. **Peter Howitt** Professor, Brown University, United States
- Prize division:
 - Half of the award to Joel Mokyr
 - o The other half jointly to **Philippe Aghion** and **Peter Howitt**

Awarded For

- **Contribution:** "For having explained innovation-driven economic growth."
- Their combined work explains how technological innovation acts as the central driver of sustained long-term economic growth.
- Emphasizes that **economic stagnation**, not growth, was historically the norm — and growth must be continuously nurtured through innovation and policy support.

Individual Contributions

Joel Mokyr:

- Used historical economic data to identify factors that enabled sustained growth through **technological innovations**.
- Demonstrated how ideas, culture, and knowledge diffusion shaped the Industrial Revolution and modern growth patterns.

Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt:

- Developed the "Creative Destruction" model a mathematical framework showing that:
 - o Innovation is a continuous process of replacement.
 - New and better products, firms, and technologies destroy older,
 less efficient ones, driving productivity and income growth.

Concept: Creative Destruction

- Originates from Joseph Schumpeter's economic theory.
- Describes the process of **innovation-led transformation** in which older industries and technologies are replaced by new ones.
- Central to **endogenous growth theory**, where innovation comes from within the economy rather than from external forces.

Broader Context

- The Economics Nobel is not part of Alfred Nobel's original will.
- Established later in 1968 by Sweden's central bank (Sveriges Riksbank).
- First awarded in 1969 to Ragnar Frisch (Norway) and Jan Tinbergen (Netherlands) for dynamic economic modeling.

Historical Note

- Nobel Prizes for Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Peace, and Literature were first awarded in 1901 (as per Alfred Nobel's will).
- Economics Prize added in 1969 as an additional category.

Recent Nobel Economics Laureates

- **2024:** Simon Johnson, James Robinson, Daron Acemoglu for linking colonisation, institutional quality, and long-term poverty.
- Earlier well-known laureates: Milton Friedman, Paul Krugman, Ben Bernanke.

Significance

- CHINMAYA ACADEMY CIVIL SERVICES
- Reinforces the role of innovation, research, and technological
 progress as the core engines of modern economic growth.
- Offers policy insights for **sustaining growth** and avoiding stagnation through continuous innovation and education.
- Highlights the need to protect innovation ecosystems for long-term prosperity.



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