

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 18, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu – ranked at 17th position in learning outcomes, 4th position in infrastructure and facilities and among the top 5 in the governance process – in the first-ever nationwide performance index for school education**

MAKING THE GRADE		Where the data sourced from?	Learning outcome and quality
<p>What is PGI?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developed by the MHRD, PGI is a tool to provide insights into quality of school education of states, UTs ➤ It has 70 indicators with a weightage of 1000 points ➤ As opposed to ranking, it grades states and UTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unified District Information System for Education ➤ National Achievement Survey of NCERT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Info uploaded by states on Shagun portal of department of school education and literacy, MHRD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rajasthan leads in the domain with 168 points ➤ TN gets 17th position with 132 points ➤ TN gets first position in access to schools with 79 points and in equity with 218 points
	<p>GRADE-WISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gujarat and Kerala get grade I with 801-850 points ➤ TN along with Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan secure grade II with 751-800 points 		

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has secured the top position in the domain of equity, considering the marginal difference among scheduled caste (SC) students and those in the general category in rural and urban areas
- ✓ Kerala and Gujarat got Grade I (801-850 points), Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan managed Grade II (751-800), while Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland were in Grade VI, the lowest.
- ✓ In the 70-indicator performance grading index (PGI) prepared by the Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) for the 29 states for 2017-18, the total weightage is 1,000 points with each of the 70 indicators assigned 10-20 points.

◆ **Greater Chennai Corporation - is likely to get Rs 100 crore funds from the Union government's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) soon - for restoring around 59 lakes under its jurisdiction**

- ✓ Nesavalar and Kadapakkam lakes, for which the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust has prepared a detailed project report (DPR), would benefit the most from this fund
- ✓ Around ₹25 crore will be spent for these lakes and the rest of the fund will be spent for the rejuvenation of another 57, for which the Tamil Nadu Water Investment Corporation is preparing a DPR currently
- ✓ These 57 water bodies include lakes in Perungudi, Sholinganallur and Madhavaram zones
- ✓ Of the 210 water bodies identified in Chennai, five were restored at ₹5.95 crore from the corporation's capital funds.
- ✓ Villivakkam lake was restored under the smart city project at ₹16 crore.
- ✓ About 50 lakes are being restored under the smart city project at a cost of ₹18 crore.
- ✓ The restoration process usually involves formation of bunds, de-silting, fencing and clearing the inlet, outlet and channels of the lakes.

NATIONAL

◆ **Jet Airways, India's longest-serving private carrier - shut down operations after a 26-year journey, during which it flew 650 flights a day at its peak with over 120 planes**



- ✓ Jet will take to the skies again only if it finds a new buyer who revives it.
- ✓ Jet Airways is compelled to cancel all international and domestic flights immediately with the last flight operating on April 17 at 10.30 pm
- ✓ The airline had sent a final SOS to lenders for ₹983-crore emergency funding to remain afloat on April 16

- ✓ The journey of Jet Airways began on May 5, 1993, with its maiden Mumbai-Ahmedabad 9W321 flight
- ✓ The plane was a Boeing 737 of Jetlite — the name Naresh Goyal gave to Air Sahara after buying it in 2007 for ₹1,450 crore
- ✓ The carrier operated on 380 international routes including flights to London, Amsterdam and Paris.
- ✓ Jet's last flight — Amritsar-Mumbai, finished in Mumbai, where it all started
- ✓ Various factors including the increasing cost of aviation turbine fuel, low-cost model leading to rising operational cost and the decline in operations contributed to the downfall of the Jet empire

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **The Donald Trump administration - has decided to stop the US government practice of disclosing the current size of the nuclear weapons stockpile**

- ✓ The Obama administration, in May 2010, had declassified for the first time the full history of the US nuclear weapons stockpile from its beginning in 1945
- ✓ Last year, the Trump administration had disclosed that the stockpile consisted of 3,822 nuclear warheads, down 196 warheads from the year before

◆ **Sony - has launched a taxi-hailing service in Tokyo, named S.Ride**

- ✓ Sony S.Ride uses artificial intelligence (AI) technology to predict where demand will be highest and dispatch drivers accordingly
- ✓ The S in S.Ride stand for simple, smart, and speedy
- ✓ Everybody's taxi is a joint venture of Sony and Sony payment service with five taxi companies in Tokyo
- ✓ The taxi vehicles owned by these five taxi companies currently exceed 10,000, the largest in Tokyo.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) 2019 Congress – concluded in New Delhi between April 15 to 17, 2019**



- ✓ It was organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation

- ✓ It offered cities and regions from Asia-Pacific a variety of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the sub-national level
- ✓ The United Nations session at the event brought together representatives from various UN agencies like UNDP-GEF, UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT and UNISDR for technical sessions on the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the New Urban Agenda of 2016.
- ✓ RCAP was launched in 2010.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

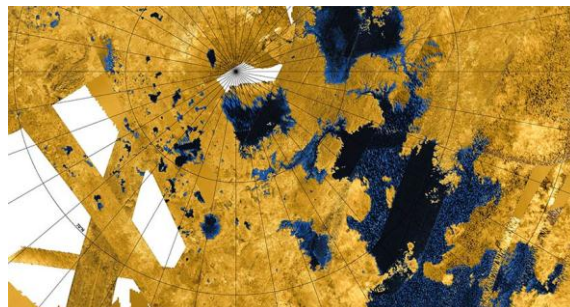
◆ Sri Lanka - launched its first satellite 'Raavana-1' into space from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's East Shore



- ✓ The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.
- ✓ Weighing around 1.05 kg, it will have the lifespan of around one and a half years, orbiting at 400 kilometers away from the earth
- ✓ Its 'camera mission' will undertake pictures of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries.
- ✓ Its 'Lora Demonstration Mission' aims to validate the module to be used to data download next satellites.
- ✓ The 'Attitude Determination and Control Mission' of 'Ravaana 1' will involve the team trying to reduce the angular velocity of the satellite using magnetic torquers.

◆ NASA's Cassini - found lakes of liquid methane on Saturn's moon 'Titan'

- ✓ Titan is the only planetary body in our solar system other than Earth known to have stable liquid on its surface



- ✓ As per the new findings published in Nature Astronomy, Saturn's largest moon, Titan, hosts liquid hydrocarbon lakes and seas on its surface
- ✓ This composition differs significantly from that of Ontario Lacus, the only major lake in Titan's southern hemisphere, which is more ethane rich
- ✓ Cassini, arrived in the Saturn system in 2004 and ended its mission in 2017 by deliberately plunging into Saturn's atmosphere
- ✓ The crucial data for the new research were gathered on Cassini's final close flyby of Titan, on April 22, 2017
- ✓ Titan has a diameter of 5,150 km and is the solar system's second largest moon, behind only Jupiter's Ganymede
- ✓ It is bigger than the planet Mercury and is the most Earth-like body in the solar system

◆ **Astronomers from San Diego State University - has discovered a third planet in a two-star system named Kepler-47**

- ✓ It is seven times the size of the Earth and the largest in its system
- ✓ In order to study this system, team used NASA's Kepler space telescope to find the Neptune-to-Saturn-size planet orbiting between two previously known planets.
- ✓ The new planet, called Kepler-47d, was not detected earlier due to weak transit signals.
- ✓ Kepler-47b and Kepler-47c, both having two Suns in their skies were discovered in 2012

◆ **Scientists from Ocean University in Qingdao, China and the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England - have discovered a bacteria that eats oil**

- ✓ The oil eating bacteria was discovered in the western Pacific Ocean's 10,994-meter-deep Mariana Trench
- ✓ The expedition was organised by marine explorer and film director James Cameron

DEFENCE

◆ **“Varuna” naval exercise – to commence between India and France off Goa and Karwar from May 1**


- ✓ It is the largest-ever naval exercise with aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighters
- ✓ Both the countries will be deploying their aircraft carriers, INS Vikramaditya with its MiG-29K fighters and FNS Charles de Gaulle with its Rafale-M naval jets, and other warships
- ✓ India and France are also working to implement their action-oriented joint strategic vision for cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which was finalized in March 2018
- ✓ French anti-aircraft destroyer FNS Cassard was docking at the Mumbai naval port in January, according to the reciprocal military logistics support agreement signed between both the countries
- ✓ Under the pact, the second such one after India signed the first with the US in 2016, Indian warships can similarly access French bases like the Reunion Islands near Madagascar and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa

ECONOMY

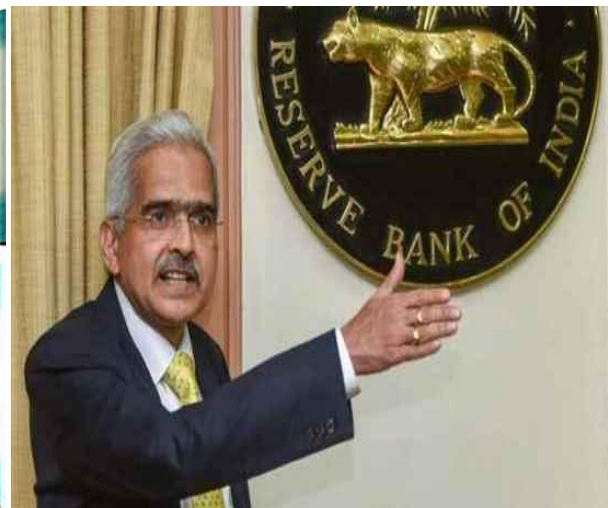
- ◆ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - issued Rs 50 denomination banknotes signed by the Governor Shaktikanta Das on April 17, 2019**

THE FRENCH MILITARY KISS

<p>SCORPENE: 6 submarines being built at Mazagon Docks (Mumbai) under ₹23,562 crore 'Project-75' inked in 2005. First INS Kalvari commissioned in Dec 2017, now INS Khanderi is ready. All 6 by 2021-22, four years behind schedule</p>	<p>MIRAGE-2000: 49 fighters being upgraded under ₹17,547 crore project, which includes 490 MICA missile systems for ₹6,600 crore, inked in 2011-2012. Running two years behind schedule, with only about a dozen jets upgraded till now</p>	<p>RAFALE: ₹59,000 crore deal for 36 fighters inked in Sept 2016. Delivery of the jets, with 13 India-specific enhancements, slated in the Nov 2019-April 2022 timeframe</p>
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France also in contention for over ₹50,000 cr 'Project-75 India' to build 6 stealth submarines in India as well as the multi-billion project to acquire 57 multi-role fighters to operate from aircraft carriers



- ✓ The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs 50 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi new series
- ✓ The fluorescent blue note bears the motif of 'Hampi with Chariot' on the reverse that depicts India's cultural heritage.
- ✓ It has the Ashoka pillar emblem on the right side of the obverse and bears the year of printing on the reverse side.
- ✓ It also features a Swachh Bharat logo with slogan besides the language panel.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Cricketer Mithali Raj - has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup**



- ✓ She will join former captain Saurav Ganguly and IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals in supporting the team India for the Street Child Cricket World Cup
- ✓ The first ever Cricket World Cup for street children will take place ahead of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup in England and Wales
- ✓ The Street Child Cricket World Cup aims to unite street children from around the world to play in their own international cricket tournament

AWARDS

- ◆ **150 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) - were bestowed with medals of honour by the United Nations for their dedicated service and sacrifice**



- ✓ Currently, India is the second largest contributor of peacekeepers to UNMISS with more than 2,400 military and police personnel deployed in the mission

SPORTS

- ◆ **Wrestler Bajrang Punia - regained the world No. 1 spot in men's 65kg freestyle category in the latest rankings issued by United World Wrestling on April 17**

- ✓ The 25-year-old Punia secured 58 ranking points ahead of Akhmed Chakaev of Russia, who has 21 points in his kitty.
- ✓ Punia won gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships last year



- ✓ Punia had first reached the world number one spot in November 2018

- ◆ **The International Hockey Federation (FIH) - has imposed a hefty fine of 170,000 Euros on Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for not honouring the Pro League commitments**

- ✓ The PHF was fined for not sending the national team for the Pro League matches in Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.
- ✓ PHF Secretary General Shahbaz Ahmed stated that the country is in no position to pay penalty and has requested the FIH to reduce the fine and allow it to be paid in instalments

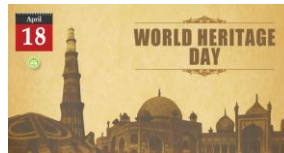
◆ **M Senthilnathan - was named chairman of the TNCA senior state selection committee for the 2019-20 season**

- ✓ He replaces S Sharath who was the chief selection of the state since 2016
- ✓ This is Senthilnathan's third term as the state selector

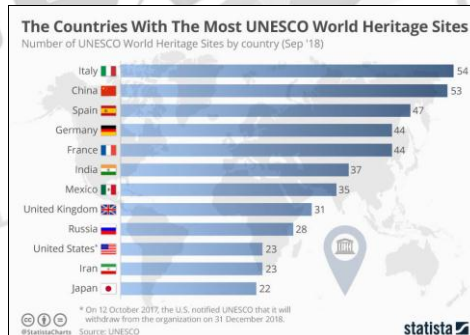
INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ **World Heritage Day - April 18**

- ✓ UNESCO approved of this day in the year 1983 during its 22nd General Conference
- ✓ World heritage day also aims to seek recognition for the people involved in preserving these sites

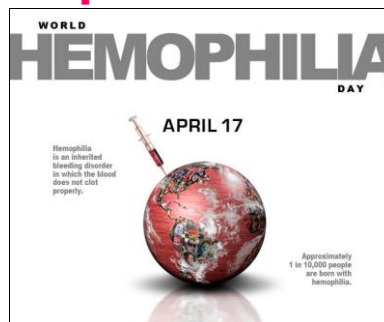


- ✓ The day is also known as the 'International Day for Monuments and Sites'
- ✓ Theme 2019 – 'Rural landscapes'
- ✓ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has recognised 35 World Heritage Sites in India, of which 27 are cultural sites and the other 8 are natural sites.



- ✓ In a first, UNESCO had inscribed Nalanda Mahavihara or old Nalanda University of Bihar as World Heritage Site on July 15, 2016.

◆ **World Haemophilia Day – April 17**



- ✓ The day commemorates the birthday of Frank Schnabel who established the World Federation of Haemophilia in 1963

- ✓ Haemophilia is a medical condition in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced, leading to severe bleeding even for a minor injury
- ✓ Britain's Queen Victoria is the world's most widely known carrier of haemophilia, giving it a name of the 'Royal disease'
- ✓ It is mostly inherited and is attributed to the defect in the X chromosome, due to which it is more common among men
- ✓ Haemophilia A, occurs in about 1 in 5,000 births, while Haemophilia B is even rarer at about 1 in about 20,000 births
- ✓ According to the World Federation of Haemophilia's Annual Global Survey 2017, there were over 1.96 lakh persons living with haemophilia across the world and India tops the list with nearly 19,000 persons

REPORT

◆ TIME's 100 Most Influential People-2019 list - released on April 17, 2019

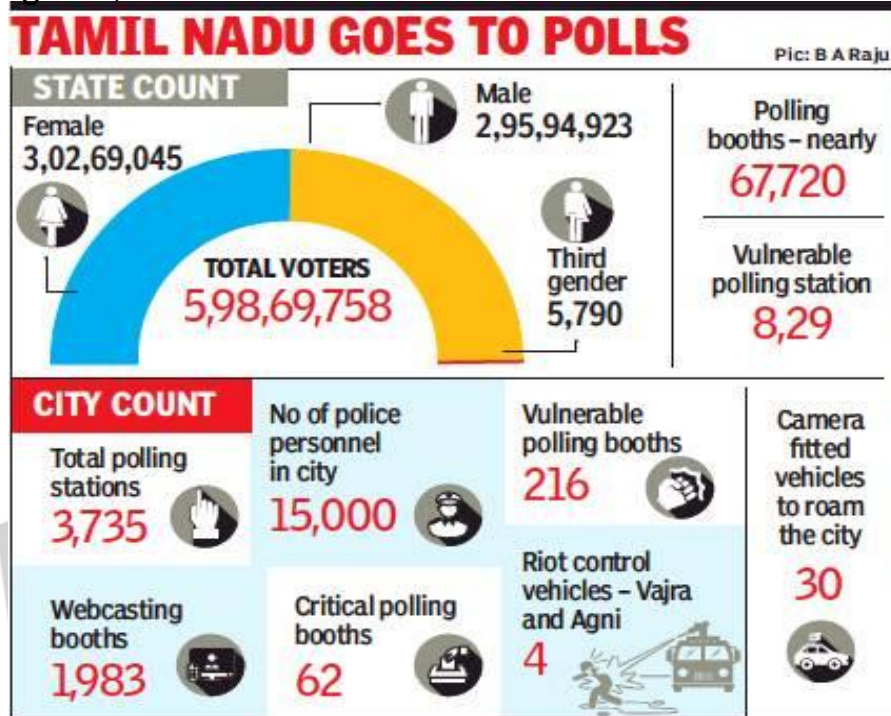


- ✓ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy, who spearheaded a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are among the Indians who have been included in the list
- ✓ Anand Mahindra, chairman of business conglomerate the Mahindra Group has written the profile of Mukesh Ambani and Priyanka Chopra wrote a profile for Arundhati Katju and Guruswamy
- ✓ Indian origin but American comedian Hasan Minhaj is also a part of 100 most influential people list
- ✓ The TIME 100 list also includes US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, iconic golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, US Open winner Naomi Osaka, actor Mahershala Ali, Oscar-winning actor Rami Malek, former first lady Michelle Obama, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, Oscar-winning singer and actor Lady Gaga and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed

TAMILNADU POLLS – A REPORT

◆ **Tamil Nadu and Puducherry - are going to polls on April 18 to elect 40 Lok Sabha MPs. Alongside, 18 assembly segments in TN will have by-elections.**

✓ In Chennai, 38 booths were named as 'all-women' polling booths and 61 booths named as 'Model' polling booths with sophisticated facilities including air-conditioning etc.,



➤ Total no. of police personnel deployed for poll duty in city | **15,000**

➤ No. of central industrial security force personnel deployed | **400**

➤ No. of Andhra Pradesh armed police personnel deployed | **160**

➤ Tamil Nadu state police battalion | **400 personnel**

➤ Swift Action Group | **3 special**

teams, each comprising 20 personnel

➤ Commando force | **3 teams**

➤ Rapid Action Force | **2 teams**

➤ No. of riot control vehicles (Vajra and Agni) deployed | **4**

➤ No. of camera-fitted vehicles to roam city | **30**

➤ Women-only polling booths | **10 (one each in 10 assembly constituencies)**

PHASE 2 OF LOK SABHA POLLS – A REPORT

◆ **The voting for the Second Phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2019 - was held on April 18, 2019 in 95 Lok Sabha Constituencies across 12 States and 1 Union Territory**

- ✓ The polling for Vellore Parliamentary Constituency and Tripura East Parliamentary Constituency stands deferred
- ✓ The first phase of General Elections 2019 began on April 11, 2019 for 91 Parliamentary constituencies, out of the total 543 constituencies, spread over 18 States and 2 Union Territories.

Off to the hustings: Phase Two

Polling in the second phase of the 2019 general election will be held across 11 States and one Union Territory today

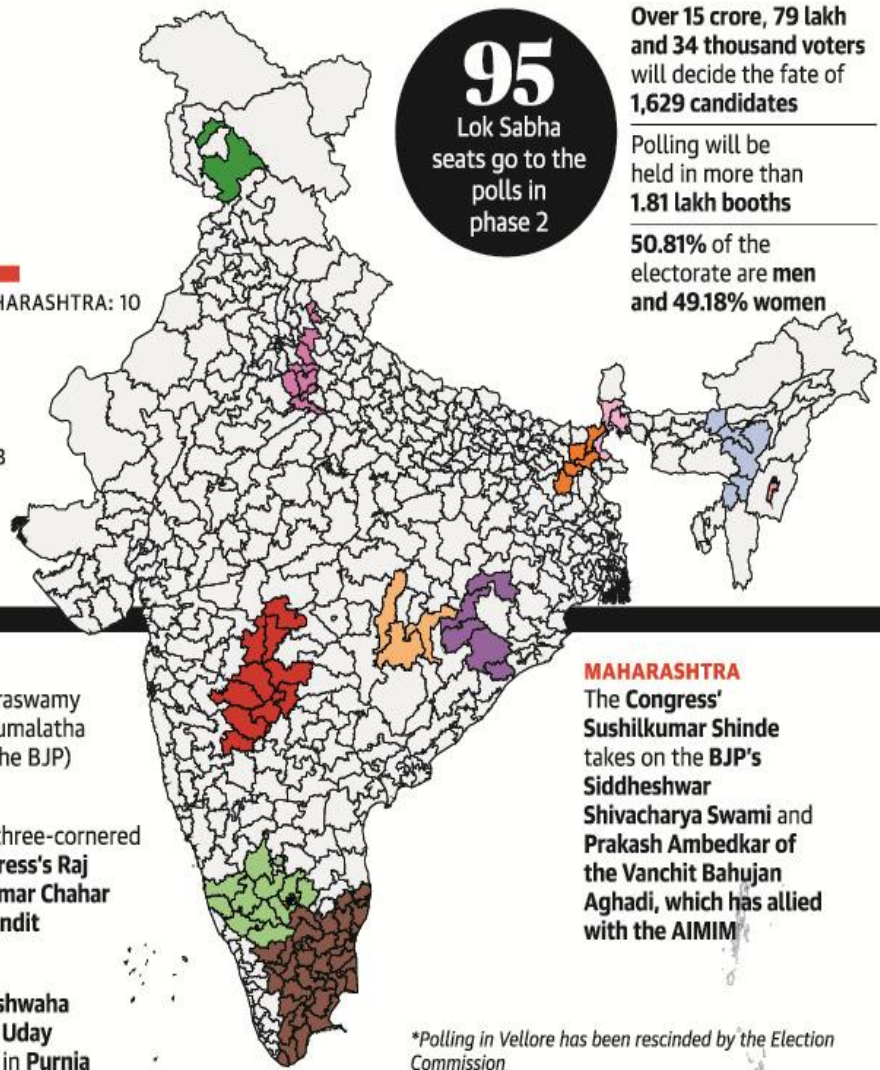
 TAMIL NADU*: 38 SEATS	 KARNATAKA: 14	 MAHARASHTRA: 10
 UTTAR PRADESH: 8	 ODISHA: 5	 BIHAR: 5
 ASSAM: 5	 WEST BENGAL: 3	 CHHATTISGARH: 3
 J&K: 2	 MANIPUR: 1	 PUDUCHERRY: 1

95
Lok Sabha seats go to the polls in phase 2

Over 15 crore, 79 lakh and 34 thousand voters will decide the fate of 1,629 candidates

Polling will be held in more than 1.81 lakh booths

50.81% of the electorate are men and 49.18% women



SOME KEY CONTESTS

TAMIL NADU

In **Thoothukudi**, DMK women's wing leader Kanimozhi is pitted against BJP State president Tamilisai Soundararajan

In **Sivaganga**, the Congress's Karti Chidambaram is facing off against the BJP's national secretary H. Raja

KARNATAKA

The JD(S)'s Nikhil Kumaraswamy takes on independent Sumalatha Ambareesh (backed by the BJP)

UTTAR PRADESH

In Fatehpur Sikri, it is a three-cornered fight between the Congress's Raj Babbar, the BJP's Rajkumar Chahar and the BSP's Guddu Pandit

BIHAR

The JD(U)'s Santosh Kushwaha takes on the Congress's Uday Singh alias Pappu Singh in Purnia

MAHARASHTRA

The Congress' Sushilkumar Shinde takes on the BJP's Siddheshwar Shivacharya Swami and Prakash Ambedkar of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, which has allied with the AIMIM

*Polling in Vellore has been rescinded by the Election Commission