

Press Release

**Analysis of NOTA Votes (2013-2017)**

**Association for Democratic Reforms**

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NOTA (None of the above) was introduced in India through the Supreme Court's judgment dated 27th September 2013 in WP (C) No. 161 of 2004, (People's Union for Civil Liberties and another Vs. the Union of India and another). The SC directed the Election Commission to make necessary provision in the ballot papers/EVMs and provide a button for 'None of the Above' (NOTA) in EVMs so that the voters who come to the polling booth and decide not to vote for any of the candidates in the fray, are able to exercise their right not to vote while maintaining their right to secrecy. The provision of NOTA button was first implemented in the State Assembly Elections of Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh in 2013. **ADR and National Election Watch (NEW)** have analysed the number of votes secured by NOTA in various elections since 2013.

### Summary and Highlights

- In last 5 years, NOTA has secured **1,33,09,577 (1.33 crores)** votes in **State Assemblies and Lok Sabha Election combined**.
- In last 5 years, on an **average** NOTA has secured **2, 70,616 votes (2.70 lakhs)** in the **State Assembly Elections**.
- In the bye- elections in Goa, NCT of Delhi and Andhra Pradesh, a large number of people voted for NOTA, making its vote share the third or fourth highest in the respective constituencies.
  - In the **2017 Goa Bye-election in Panaji and Valpoi constituencies**, NOTA secured the third position with **301(1.94%)** and **458(1.99%)** votes, respectively.
  - In the **2017 NCT of Delhi Bye-election in Bawana constituency**, NOTA secured the fourth position with **1,413 (1.07%)** votes.
  - In the **2017 Andhra Pradesh Bye election in Nandyal constituency**, NOTA secured the fourth position with **1,231(0.71%)** votes. **It secured more votes than 12 other candidates contesting from the constituency.**
- In 2014, NOTA was first introduced in Lok Sabha Elections. Overall, NOTA secured **60,02,942 (1.08%)** votes. Among the NOTA votes in Lok Sabha elections, the **highest** number of votes i.e. **46,559 was in Nilgris constituency in Tamil Nadu**. The **lowest** number of votes NOTA secured i.e. **123 votes was in Lakshadweep**.
- Among state assemblies elections, NOTA has secured the **highest** percentage of votes in **2015**, i.e. **2.08% (9, 83,176 votes)** in 2 states assembly elections of **Bihar (9, 47,279 votes), NCT Delhi (35,897 votes)**.
- NOTA has secured **lowest** percentage of votes in **2014**, i.e. **0.91% ( 14,10,644 votes)** in **8** states assembly elections (combined) of **Andhra Pradesh (3,08,286 votes), Arunachal Pradesh (5,322 votes), Haryana (53,613 votes), Jammu and Kashmir (49,129 votes), Jharkhand (2,35,039 votes), Maharashtra (4,83,459 votes), Odisha (2,71,336 votes) and Sikkim (4,460 votes)**.

- Since its implementation in 2013, NOTA has secured the **highest number of votes in Bihar (9, 47,279 votes)** State Assembly Elections, 2015 and secured the **lowest number of votes in Mizoram (3,810 votes)** State Assembly Elections, 2013.
- NOTA secured the **highest percentage** of vote share i.e. **3.06% in Chhattisgarh** State Assembly, 2013.
- NOTA secured the **lowest percentage** of vote share i.e. **0.40% in Delhi** State Assembly Elections, 2015.
- **Constituency wise**, NOTA has secured as **high** as **17,510 votes in Gadchiroli constituency of Maharashtra** and as **low** as **7 votes in Mariyang Geku constituency of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **In few constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh such as Mukto, Dirang, Seppa West, Pakke Kessang, Doimukh, Sagalee, Palin, Nyapin, Nacho, Taliha and Mebo, NOTA has secured no votes.**
- Red Alert Constituencies are those which have 3 or more candidates with criminal cases contesting elections. NOTA has secured **22, 94,904 votes (22.94 lakhs) in the red alert constituencies in State assembly elections since 2013.**
- NOTA has secured the highest percentage of votes in red alert constituencies of Chhattisgarh. NOTA secured 2.68% votes (39,896) in 10 red alert constituencies of Chhattisgarh.
- Among the **Municipal Corporations elections of Delhi and Maharashtra**, NOTA secured the **highest percentage of vote share** i.e., **4.58% in Ulhasnagar** and the **lowest** percentage of vote share i.e. **0.58% in the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.**
- NOTA secured **49,235 votes in Delhi Municipal Elections, 2017.** In the **northern** region, NOTA secured the **highest** number of votes, i.e. **19762 votes.**
- **In each of the Municipal Corporations of Maharashtra, NOTA has secured more than 1.5% votes.**

## Recommendations

- If in any constituency the vote polled for NOTA are higher than all the contesting candidates then the following steps should be taken:
  - No candidates should be declared as elected,
  - Fresh election should be conducted, in which none of the earlier candidates should be allowed to contest, and
  - In the fresh elections, only a candidate who gets at least 50%+1 of the votes cast should be declared elected

## Analysis of Votes Polled for NOTA in Lok Sabha Elections in 2014

- In 2014, NOTA was first introduced in Lok Sabha Elections. Overall, NOTA secured 60,02,942 (1.08%) votes. Among the NOTA votes in Lok Sabha elections, the highest number of votes i.e. 46,559 was in Nilgiris constituency in Tamil Nadu. The lowest number of votes NOTA secured i.e. 123 votes was in Lakshadweep.

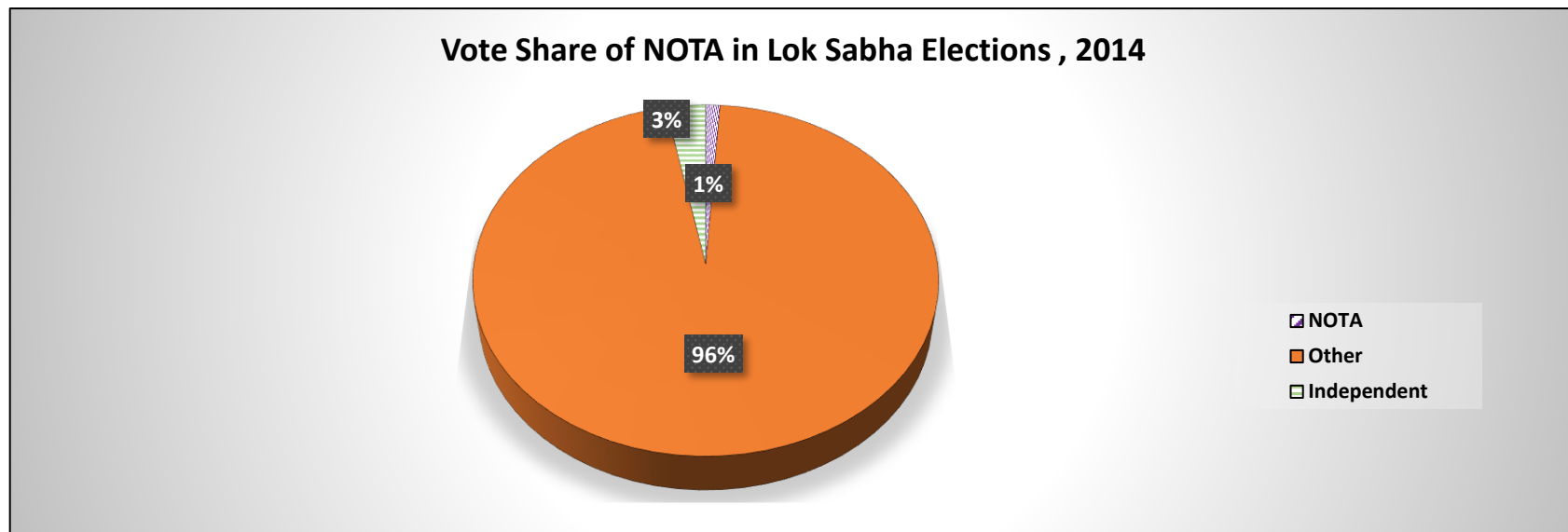


Figure 1: Vote share of NOTA in Lok Sabha Elections, 2014

## Analysis of Votes Polled for NOTA in State Assembly Elections (2013-2017)

- Among state assemblies elections, NOTA has secured the highest percentage of votes in 2015, i.e. 2.08% (9,83,176 votes) in 2 states assembly elections of Bihar (9,47,279 votes), NCT Delhi (35,897 votes).
- NOTA has secured lowest percentage of votes in 2014, i.e. 0.91% (14,10,644 votes) in 8 states assembly elections (combined) of Andhra Pradesh (3,08,286 votes), Arunachal Pradesh (5,322 votes), Haryana (53,613 votes), Jammu and Kashmir (49,129 votes), Jharkhand (2,35,039 votes), Maharashtra (4,83,459 votes), Odisha (2,71,336 votes) and Sikkim (4,460 votes).

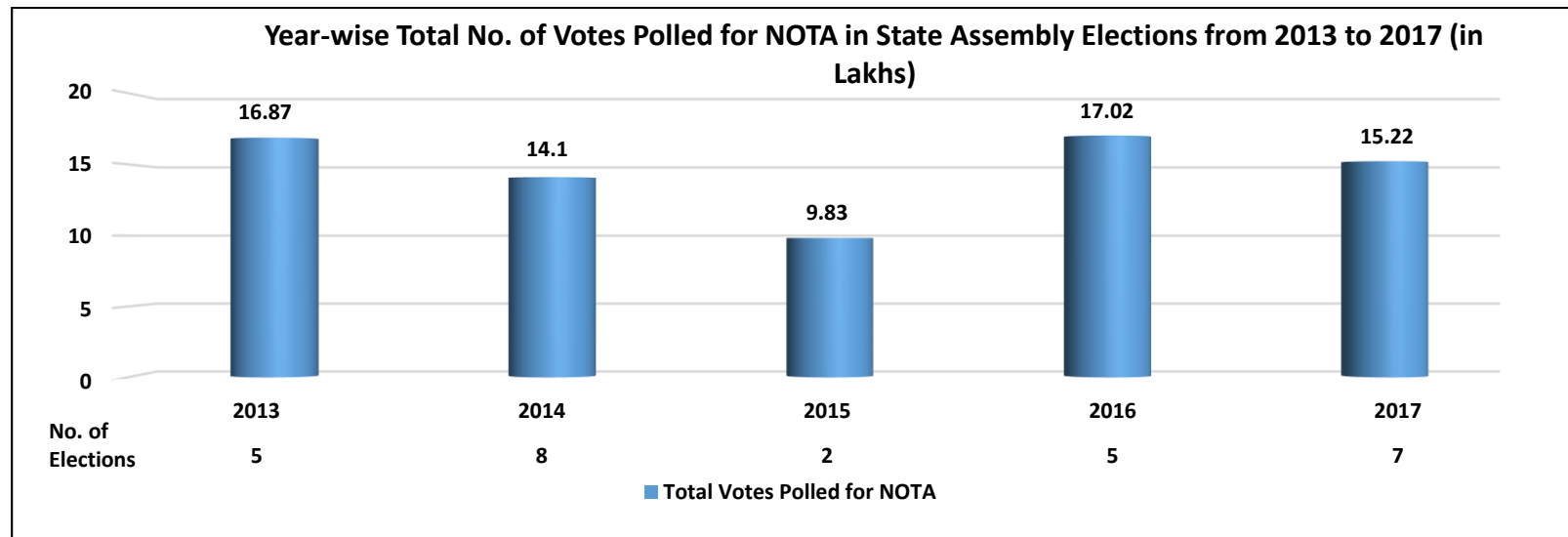


Figure 2: Year-wise Total No. of Votes Polled for NOTA in State Assembly Elections from 2013 to 2017 (in Lakhs)

- Since its implementation in 2013, NOTA has secured the highest number of votes in Bihar (9,47,279 votes) State Assembly Elections, 2015 and secured the lowest number of votes in Mizoram (3,810 votes) State Assembly Elections, 2013.
- NOTA secured the highest percentage of vote share i.e. 3.06% in Chhattisgarh State Assembly, 2013.

- NOTA secured the lowest percentage of vote share i.e. 0.40% in Delhi State Assembly Elections, 2015.
- In last 5 years, on an average NOTA has secured 2, 70,616 votes (2.70 lakhs) in the State Assembly Elections.

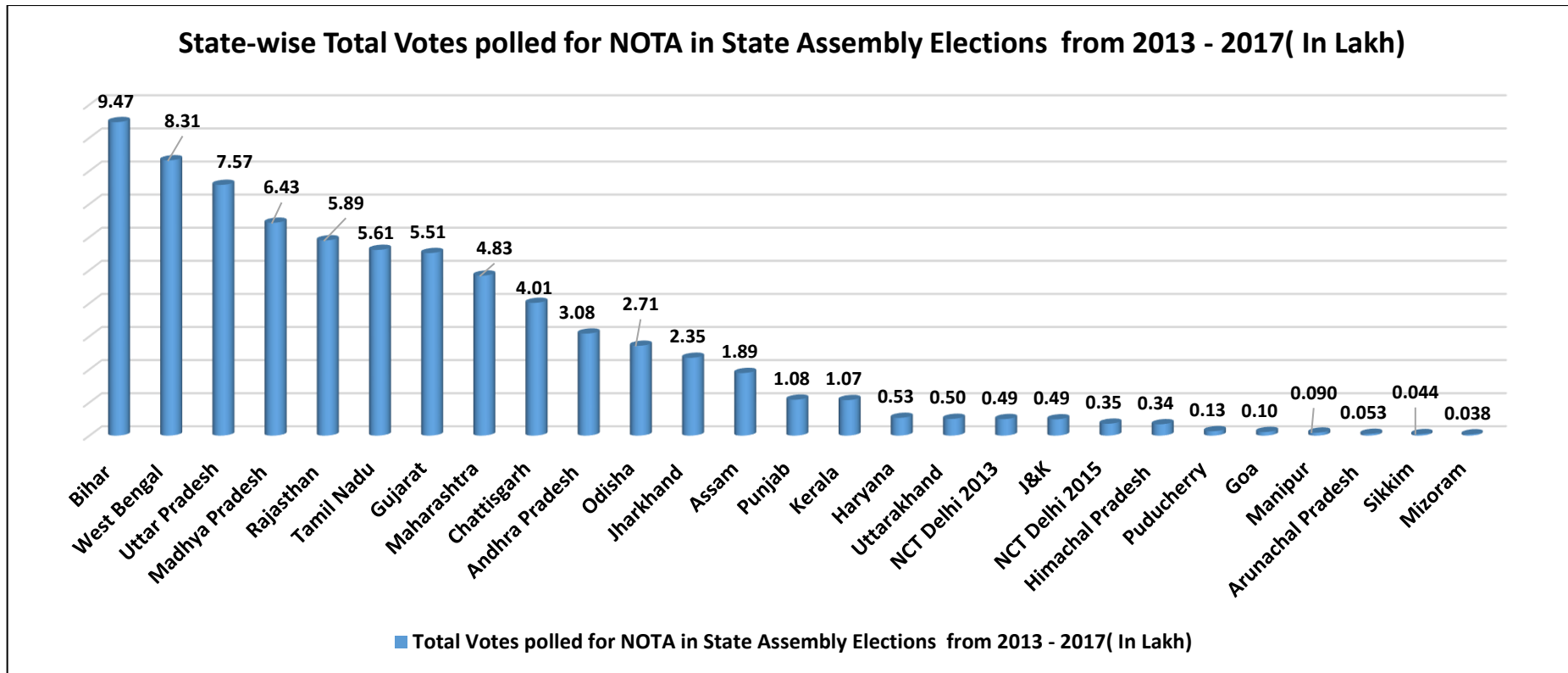


Figure 3: State-wise Total Votes polled for NOTA in State Assembly Elections from 2013 - 2017(In Lakh)

- Constituency wise, NOTA has secured as high as 17,510 votes in Gadchiroli constituency of Maharashtra and as low as 7 votes in Mariyang Geku constituency of Arunachal Pradesh .

- In few constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh such as Mukto, Dirang, Seppa West, Pakke Kessang, Doimukh, Sagalee, Palin, Nyapin, Nacho, Taliha and Mebo, NOTA has secured no votes.

S.No	State	Total No. of Votes polled for NOTA	% of votes polled for NOTA	Constituency with the highest NOTA votes	No. of NOTA Votes	Constituency with the lowest NOTA votes	No. of NOTA Votes
<b>2013</b>							
1	Chhattisgarh	4,01,058	3.06%	Chitrakot	10,848	Kota	1,074
2	Madhya Pradesh	6,43,171	1.90%	Junnardeo	9,412	Mehgaon	245
3	Mizoram	3,810	0.66%	Hachhek	183	Lunglei North	36
4	NCT of Delhi	49,884	0.63%	Vikaspuri	1,426	Matia Mahal	296
5	Rajasthan	5,89,923	1.91%	Bagidora	7259	Kaman	352
<b>Total No. of Votes Polled for NOTA in 2013</b>		<b>16,87,846</b>			--		
<b>2014</b>							
1	Jammu and Kashmir	49,129	1.02%	Banihal	2,405	Nubra	49
2	Jharkhand	2,35,039	1.69%	Chatra	7,724	Ranchi	717
3	Haryana	53,613	0.43%	Dabwali	1,549	Bawani Khera (SC)	169
4	Maharashtra	4,83,459	0.91%	Gadchiroli	17,510	Indapur	437
5	Andhra Pradesh	3,08,286	0.64%	Araku Valley	4,933	Kanigiri	361
6	Arunachal Pradesh*	5,322	1.05%	Namsai	406	Mariyang Geku	7
7	Odisha	2,71,336	1.26%	Jharigam	9,498	Bhograi	531



S.No	State	Total No. of Votes polled for NOTA	% of votes polled for NOTA	Constituency with the highest NOTA votes	No. of NOTA Votes	Constituency with the lowest NOTA votes	No. of NOTA Votes
8	Sikkim	4,460	1.44%	Martam-rumtek	239	Sangha	23
<b>Total No. of Votes Polled for NOTA in 2014</b>		<b>14,10,644</b>			--		
<b>2015</b>							
1	NCT of Delhi	35,897	0.40%	Matiala	1,102	Matia Mahal	203
2	Bihar	9,47,279	2.48%	Wasirnagar	9,551	Bhabua	642
<b>Total no. of Votes polled for NOTA in 2015</b>		<b>9,83,176</b>			--		
<b>2016</b>							
1	Assam	1,89,085	1.12%	Doom Dooma	3,317	Karimganj South	173
2	Kerala	1,07,245	0.53%	KADUTHURUTHY	1,533	POONJAR	313
3	Puducherry	13,240	1.65%	Thattanchavady	922	Mahe	109
4	Tamil Nadu*	5,61,174	1.30%	Shozhinganallur	7,332	Melur	757
5	West Bengal	8,31,848	1.52%	Chhatna	7,709	Howrah Uttar	1,070
<b>Total no. of votes polled for NOTA in 2016</b>		<b>17,02,592</b>			--		
<b>2017</b>							
1	Goa	10,919	1.19%	Poriem	552	Mormugao	151
2	Manipur	9,062	0.55%	Thongju	398	Tipaimukh (st)	25
3	Punjab	1,08,467	0.70%	Sunam	1,718	Bholath	379
4	Uttar Pradesh	7,57,643	0.87%	Duddhi	8,522	Bhojpur	299

S.No	State	Total No. of Votes polled for NOTA	% of votes polled for NOTA	Constituency with the highest NOTA votes	No. of NOTA Votes	Constituency with the lowest NOTA votes	No. of NOTA Votes
5	Uttarakhand	50,439	1.01%	Tharali	1,761	Chaubattakhal	210
6.	Himachal Pradesh	34232	0.90%	Jogindernagar	1162	Lahual & Spiti	70
7.	Gujarat	551615	1.84%	Danta	6461	Mahesana	686
<b>Total no. of votes polled for NOTA in 2017</b>		<b>15,22,377</b>			--		

**Table 1: Analysis of Votes Polled for NOTA in State Assembly Elections (2013-2017)**

### Performance of NOTA in Red Alert Constituencies in State Assembly Elections

- Red Alert Constituencies are those which have 3 or more candidates with criminal cases contesting elections. **NOTA has secured 22, 94,904 votes (22.94 lakhs) in the red alert constituencies in State assembly elections since 2013.**
- NOTA has secured the highest percentage of votes in red alert constituencies of Chhattisgarh. **NOTA secured 2.68% votes (39,896) in 10 red alert constituencies of Chhattisgarh.**

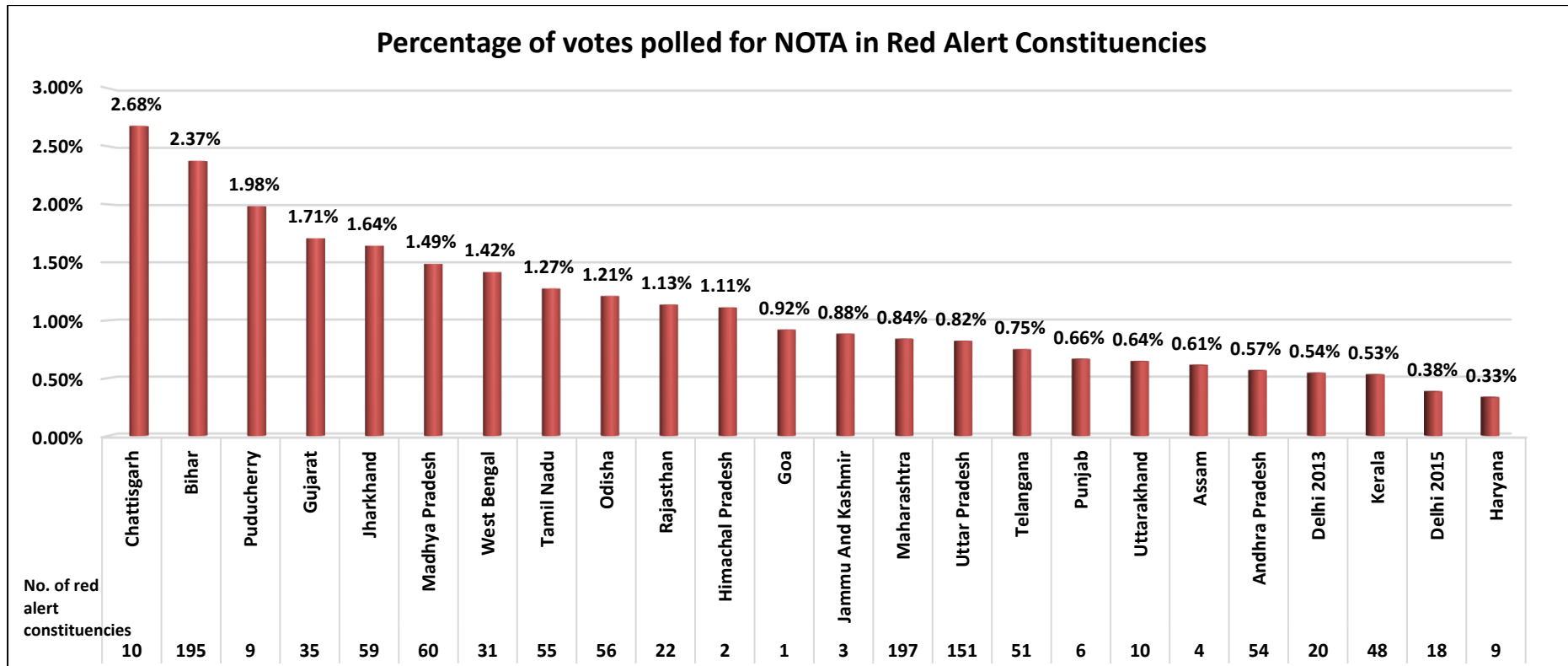


Figure 3: Percentage of votes polled for NOTA in Red Alert Constituencies

State	Total Number of Constituencies	Number of Red Alert Constituency	Percentage of Red Alert Constituencies	Total votes polled in Red Alert Constituency	Total Votes polled for NOTA in red alert constituency	Percentage of votes polled for NOTA in red alert constituencies
Andhra Pradesh	175	54	31%	9259116	52428	0.57%
Assam	126	4	3%	508531	3117	0.61%
Bihar	243	195	80%	30828216	731918	2.37%

State	Total Number of Constituencies	Number of Red Alert Constituency	Percentage of Red Alert Constituencies	Total votes polled in Red Alert Constituency	Total Votes polled for NOTA in red alert constituency	Percentage of votes polled for NOTA in red alert constituencies
Chhattisgarh	90	10	11%	1491086	39896	2.68%
Delhi 2013	70	20	29%	2226789	12106	0.54%
Delhi 2015	70	18	26%	2328598	8921	0.38%
Goa	40	1	3%	16554	152	0.92%
Gujarat	182	35	19%	5684786	97043	1.71%
Haryana	90	9	10%	1211321	4039	0.33%
Himachal Pradesh	68	2	3%	103494	1149	1.11%
Jammu And Kashmir	87	3	3%	181787	1605	0.88%
Jharkhand	81	59	73%	10473267	172122	1.64%
Kerala	140	48	34%	6946894	36822	0.53%
Madhya Pradesh	230	60	26%	8867732	131791	1.49%
Maharashtra	288	197	68%	36202803	303754	0.84%
Odisha	147	56	38%	8183173	98956	1.21%
Puducherry	30	9	30%	236276	4687	1.98%
Punjab	117	6	5%	730124	4852	0.66%
Rajasthan	200	22	11%	3538660	40152	1.13%
Tamil Nadu	234	55	24%	10244509	130499	1.27%
Telangana	119	51	43%	8354685	62473	0.75%
Uttar Pradesh	403	151	37%	32739604	268548	0.82%
Uttarakhand	70	10	14%	939502	6057	0.64%
West Bengal	294	31	11%	5779546	81817	1.42%
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>187077053</b>	<b>2294904</b>	<b>1.23%</b>

Table 2: Performance of NOTA in Red Alert Constituencies in State Assembly Elections

## Analysis of Votes Polled for NOTA in Municipal Corporation Elections of Delhi and Maharashtra

- Among the Municipal Corporations elections of Delhi and Maharashtra, NOTA secured the highest percentage of vote share i.e., 4.58% in Ulhasnagar and the lowest percentage of vote share i.e. 0.58% in the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- NOTA secured 49,235 votes in Delhi Municipal Elections, 2017. In the northern region, NOTA secured the highest number of votes, i.e. 19762 votes.
- In each of the Municipal Corporations of Maharashtra, NOTA has secured more than 1.5% votes.

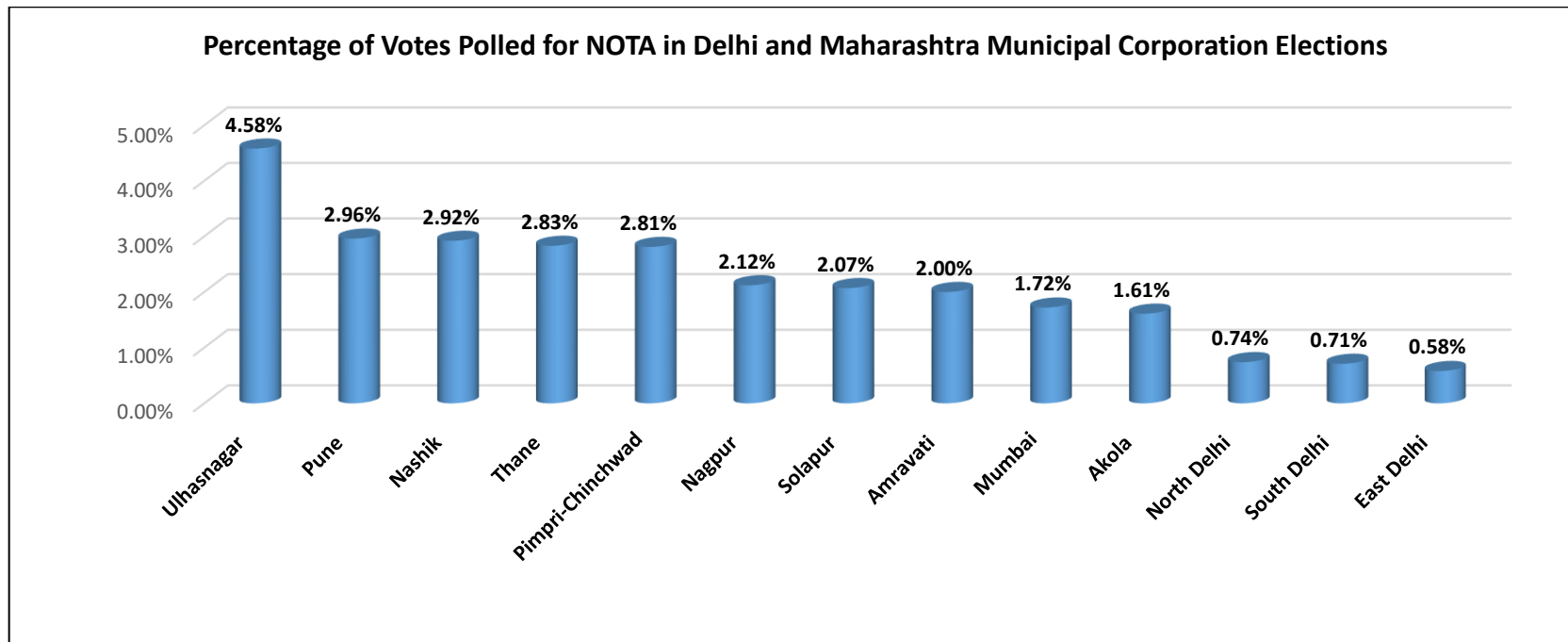


Figure 4: Percentage of Votes Polled for NOTA in Delhi and Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Elections

S.NO	Municipal Corporation	Total Votes Polled	Votes Polled for NOTA	% of Votes Polled for NOTA
<b>Delhi</b>				
1	North Delhi Municipal Corporation	26,81,433	19,762	0.74%
2	South Delhi Municipal Corporation	26,84,767	19,190	0.71%
3	East Delhi Municipal Corporation	17,70,663	10,283	0.58%
<b>Total</b>		<b>71,36,863</b>	<b>49,235</b>	<b>0.69%</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>				
1	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai	51,04,006	87,623	1.72%
2	Akola Municipal Corporation	10,67,204	17,138	1.61%
3	Amravati Municipal Corporation	12,39,544	24,816	2.00%
4	Nagpur Municipal Corporation	44,83,398	94,865	2.12%
5	Nashik Municipal Corporation	26,13,088	76,300	2.92%
6	Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	31,33,398	87,938	2.81%
7	Pune Municipal Corporation	58,04,698	1,71,633	2.96%
8	Solapur Municipal Corporation	15,84,152	32,865	2.07%
9	Thane Municipal Corporation	28,85,228	81,721	2.83%
10	Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation	7,90,194	36,183	4.58%
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,87,04,910</b>	<b>7,11,082</b>	<b>2.48%</b>

**Table 3: Analysis of Votes Polled for NOTA in Municipal Corporation Elections of Delhi and Maharashtra**

## Contact Details

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