

**PRESS RELEASE**

Based on the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, in Writ Petition (C) No. 161 of 2004 (People's Union for Civil Liberties & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Anr), the Election Commission of India has directed that the Commission should make necessary provision in the ballot papers / EVMs for "None of the Above (NOTA)" option so that the electors who do not wish to vote for any of the candidates can exercise their right not to vote for any candidate without violation of the secrecy of their decision.

The Election Commission of India has informed that the depiction of the "None of the Above" option in the ballot paper and the design of the said depiction has been approved by the Commission. The depiction approved is a rectangular depiction with rounded corners, with black background and "NOTA" written in capital letters in English. In the case of Assembly Elections, as the ballot paper is in pink colour, the word "NOTA" will be written in pink colour in capital letters, and in the case of Parliamentary Elections for which ballot papers are white in colour, the word "NOTA" will be written in white, in capital letters in English. In Tamil version of "None of the Above" as "மேற்காணும் நபர்களில் எவருமில்லை" is to be printed in Tamil Version in the Ballot Papers, during elections as directed by the Election Commission of India. This should be followed by the depiction  immediately after the words in Tamil.

The Election Commission of India has directed that the words "None of the Above" in the languages in which ballot paper is printed and rectangular depiction with rounded corners in black background is to be printed in the name panel itself after the name of last candidate i.e. both have to be written one after the another where normally the candidate's name is mentioned and the space where symbol is to be there is to be left blank".

People are requested to come to the polling station on the polling day to vote. Even if, they do not have a candidate whom they would like to support, they can vote for NOTA and not allow their vote to go waste.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
TAMIL NADU