

## Webinar by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

on

**“Is it time to give NOTA more teeth?”**

**Date and Time:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Tuesday, 4 PM (IST)

### Agenda

Time	Session
16:00- 16:10	<b>Welcome Address   Introduction of the topic and speakers</b> Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)
16:10- 17:00  Speaker Allotted Time: 10-12 minutes per speaker	<p>Panel Discussion on <b>“Is it time to give NOTA more teeth?”</b></p> <p><b>The focus points for the webinar are as follows:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is NOTA useful/successful as a tool for decriminalisation of Indian politics?</li> <li>2. Relevance of NOTA as People's Right to Reject</li> <li>3. Opting NOTA option when a candidate stands unopposed</li> <li>4. The legal framework of NOTA</li> <li>5. In 2018, the Maharashtra and Haryana State Election Commissioners ordered that re-elections would be held in case NOTA secured more votes than the candidates in the local body elections. Can the ECI use its power under Article 324 of the Constitution on similar lines?</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Ajit Ranade</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Shri Ashok Lavasa</b> (former Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India)</li> <li>2. <b>Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari</b> (National Spokesperson, Samajwadi Party)</li> <li>3. <b>Ms Anjali Bhardwaj</b> (Social Activist)</li> <li>4. <b>Shri Manu Sebastian</b> (Managing Editor, Live Law)</li> </ol>
17:00- 17:20	<b>Question and Answer Session</b>
17:20- 17:25	<b>Concluding Remarks &amp; Vote of Thanks</b> Dr Ajit Ranade