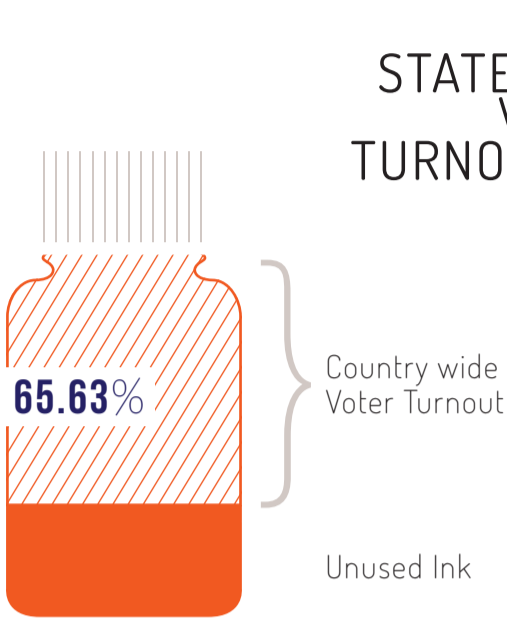


THE BLACK INK OF DEMOCRACY

During the General Elections 2014, proud voters stepped out of polling booths keen to show off their index finger, marked with the voting ink. What they probably didn't know is that the ink used to mark balloters comes from a factory close to them in Mysore. The Karnataka government - owned Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.

exclusively manufactures indelible ink used in all elections held in this country. The firm's Mysore unit is the only facility in the country that makes and supplies indelible ink for every civic body, assembly or parliamentary election in the country. With the country adding millions of first-time voters to the electoral rolls

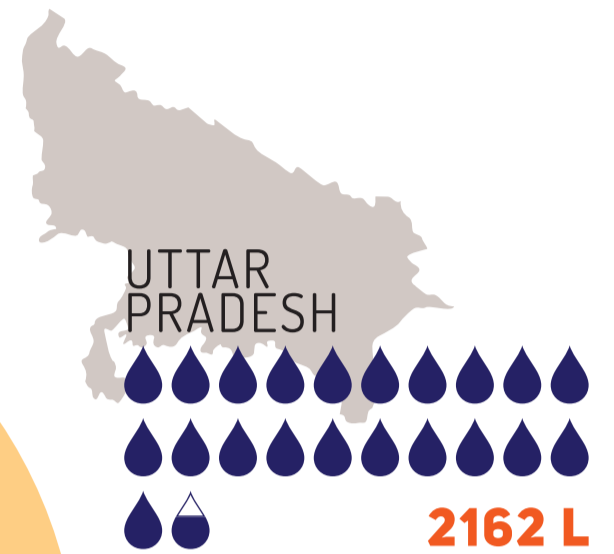
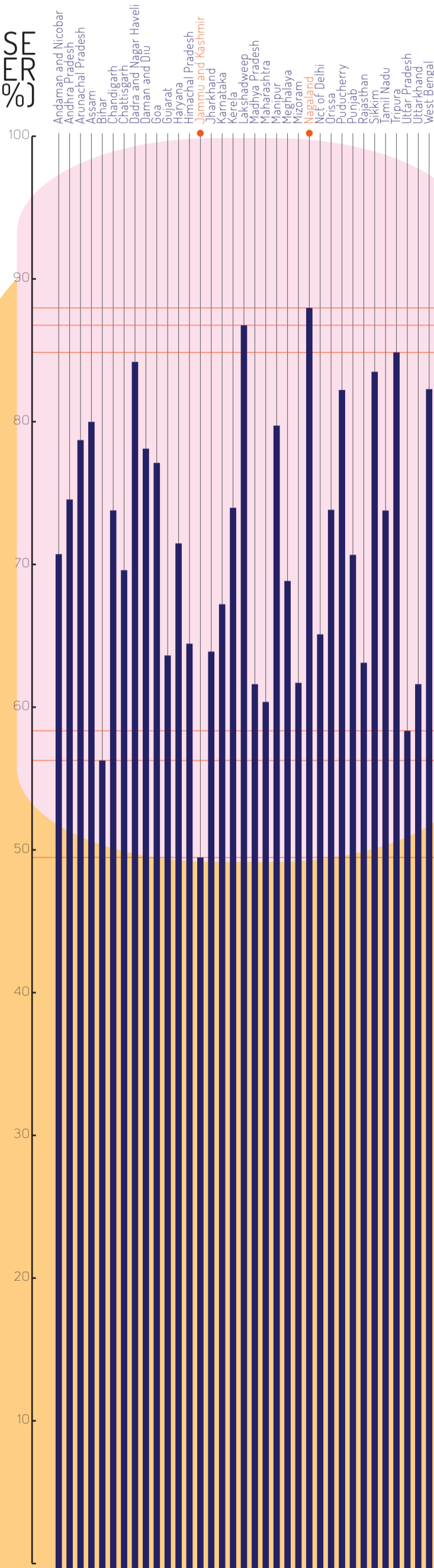
every election, and with turnouts going up, the demand for this ink has been rising voluminosly. Five years ago, the unit dispatched 1.9 million bottles to the EC. In 2014, the demand was up by almost 20 per cent. Let us take a look at a few facts every Indian should know about this black ink of democracy...



A PHIAL OF 10 ML CAN INK APPROX. **375** PERSONS

OUT OF **22,200 L** (2.22 MILLION PHIALS CONTAINING 10 ML OF INK) WHICH WERE ORDERED **14,770 L** WERE USED

STATE WISE VOTER TURNOUT (%)



State with the most usage of ink but ranks **third** among states with the **least voter turnout**






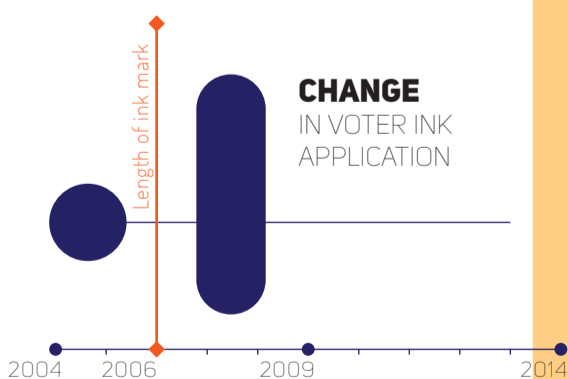
State with the least usage of ink but has the **second highest voter turnout**

28 COUNTRIES

Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd exports indelible ink to 28 countries across the world including Turkey, South Africa, Nigeria, Nepal, Ghana, Papua-New Guinea, Burkina Faso, Canada, Togo, Sierra Leone, Malaysia, Cambodia.

While in India, the ink is dabbed with a stick, it is applied differently across the world :

-  AFGHANISTAN
PENS
-  BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
BRUSH
-  CAMBODIA
MALDIVES
DIP FINGER IN INK
-  TURKEY
NOZZLES



Earlier, the ink was applied on the joint of nail and skin.

The ink is now applied on the voter's finger as a line from the top end of the nail to the bottom of the first joint of the left forefinger with effect from 1/2/2006.