

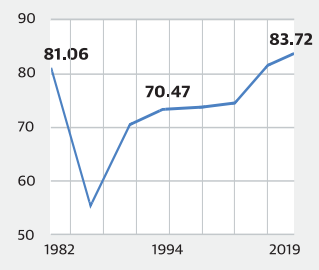


Decisive win

Rajapaksa secured 52.25% of votes, about 10% points more than Sajith Premadasa, a housing Minister in the current government

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA	52.25
SAJITH PREMADASA	41.99
ANURA DISSANAYAKA	3.16
OTHERS	3

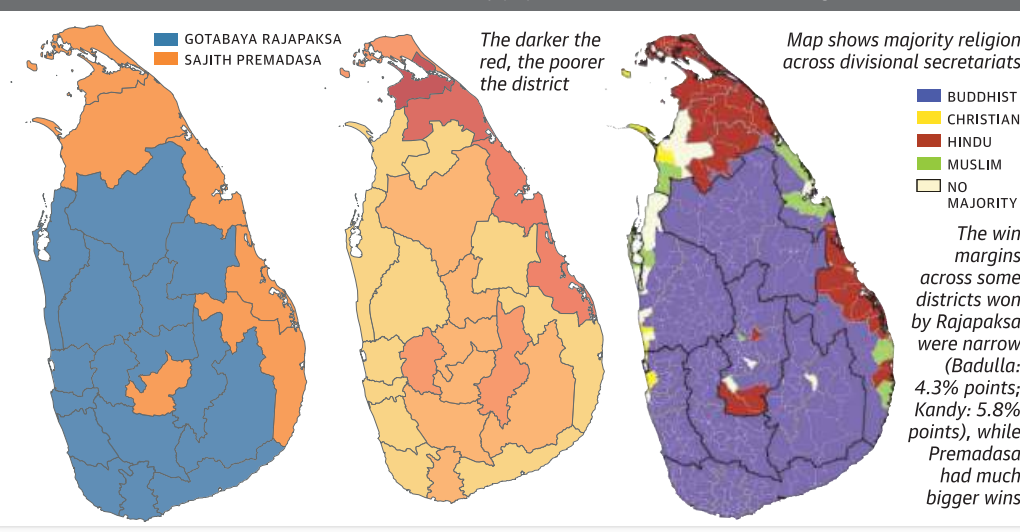
High turnout: The 2019 elections recorded 83.72% vote turnout, the highest ever in Sri Lankan presidential election



High margin: The win margin of 10.26% points secured by Rajapaksa over Premadasa was the fourth highest ever. Chandrika Kumaratunga's 1994 margin is the highest ever

District-wise winner: Map shows district-wise leading candidate in the 2019 election. While Premadasa won in most of the northern and eastern districts, Rajapaksa won the rest

Voting patterns: Premadasa secured a high vote share (Jaffna: 83.9%; Vanni: 82.12%) in regions where poverty levels are high and with a majority Tamil or Muslim population. While Rajapaksa's highest vote share was achieved in Matara (67.25%), he won narrowly in some of the densely populated western and southern regions



Compiled by Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Graphic by Karthick S.T. | Source: Election Commission of Sri Lanka, Reuters, Household Income and Expenditure Survey - 2016, Census 2011

Who is Gotabaya Rajapaksa?

Former soldier makes political debut, clinches presidency

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Addressing Colombo-based foreign correspondents in March 2017, Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he was not sure if he would enter politics, since he had never been a politician unlike his seasoned brothers. "But Donald Trump has come from [business]. We have to see," he said, keeping open what seemed like a small window then.

In less than three years, the former soldier-turned bureaucrat has made his political debut, clinching Presidency. On Monday, the wartime defence secretary will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's 7th Executive President, bringing back the Rajapaksa clan - his brother former President Mahinda Rajapaksa was unseated in 2015 - to power once again.

'Saviour' who ended war
To many in Sri Lanka's majority Sinhala-Buddhist community, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 70, is a "saviour" who spearheaded the military victory over the rebel LTTE a



A supporter of Gotabaya Rajapaksa carrying a party flag in Colombo. • AFP

mily sought civil action against Mr. Rajapaksa - rejected it citing his "foreign official immunity".

Like many Sri Lankans, Mr. Rajapaksa held dual citizenship but had to give up his American citizenship in order to run for President. However, critics continue to question his claim of renouncing it, citing U.S. Federal register. Meanwhile, two Colombo-based activists are legally challenging the validity of his Sri Lankan citizenship as well.

During the final years of the war, Mr. Rajapaksa - along with his other brother Basil Rajapaksa and a senior bureaucrat - was part of a "troika" that held frequent meetings in New Delhi, with senior officials there.

Last year, an influential Buddhist monk called Mr. Rajapaksa a "Hitler" who would discipline society. Later, his brother Mr. Basil said he would be a "Terminator", who would end corruption. But after his win on Sunday, Mr. Gotabaya promised, "I will be President for all Sri Lankans".

Sri Lanka elections: how did the minorities vote, and why?

The fact that Sajith Premadasa secured 80% vote share in the Northern and Eastern Provinces shows that Tamils and Muslims of the regions rejected Gotabaya

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

As the outcome of Saturday's presidential polls in Sri Lanka became clear, some voters' message to the winner Gotabaya Rajapaksa was even clearer.

The island's minority Tamils and Muslims, most of whom live in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, had voted decisively for ruling party candidate Sajith Premadasa, giving him over a million votes - about 80% of the vote share in the regions. In effect, they had rejected Mr. Rajapaksa, a powerful

former defence secretary accused of war-crimes - which he has denied - and linked to reactionary anti-Muslim groups.

"We respect the mandate of the people of the country and congratulate Mr. Rajapaksa, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that he polled so low in the two provinces. This is an issue we must address, and he must engage with elected representatives of the minorities," Jaffna legislator and Tamil National Alliance (TNA) spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran said.

According to Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Leader Rauff Hakeem, a Minister in the incumbent government, the voting pattern demonstrated "a deeper polarisation" of communities. Pointing to "many challenges" and "hard decisions" ahead, he said the most urgent priority was to maintain law and order, respect rule of law and nurture the country's pluralistic and democratic values.

"We fervently hope for peace and amity, restoration of harmony and lasting goodwill among all communities under your administration,"



Sri Lankan Tamils at a rally in Jaffna, demanding international probe into the alleged atrocities during the civil war. • AP/FILE

he said in a letter to President-elect Mr. Rajapaksa. For Tamils, Mr. Rajapak-

sa's former avatar brings back disturbing memories of stifling military surveillance

We respect the mandate... but we cannot lose sight of the fact that he [Gotabaya] polled so low in the two provinces

M.A. SUMANTHIRAN
Tamil National Alliance Spokesman

and many enforced disappearances - for which families are still seeking answers. The brutal finish to the war with the Tamil Tigers in 2009, took away lives of tens of thousands of civilians and the wounds have hardly healed in the last decade.

For Muslims, on the other hand, it is fear, according to N.M. Ameen, President of the Sri Lanka Muslim Council. The post-war years saw frequent attacks on Muslims and the Easter bombings in April made the community a target of hate and violence unleashed by hard-line groups.

Anti-Muslim attacks

"Even if people don't associate Mr. Rajapaksa with the anti-Muslim attacks that followed Easter, they fear that forces behind them might feel emboldened under his

presidency," he said.

Mr. Rajapaksa knows this, as his tweet on Sunday indicated.

"I am the President of not only those who voted for me but also those who voted against me and irrespective of which race or religion they belong to," the newly-elected leader said.

"That is a very welcome message and shows his willingness to reach out," Mr. Ameen noted. "National leadership in a plural country like ours only grows stronger with the support of all communities."

ELSEWHERE



At least 7 killed in gas explosion in Bangladesh

At least seven people were killed and eight injured on Sunday after a gas pipeline exploded in the Bangladeshi port city of Chittagong, a police official said. The pipeline exploded in front of a five-storey building, blowing some of the building's walls off, Mohammad Mohsin said, citing witnesses. The injured were taken to hospital, he said, adding the death toll could rise as some were in critical condition. REUTERS

Leaked papers give details of Xinjiang clampdown

'1 mn from minority groups detained'

REUTERS
BEIJING

A trove of leaked Chinese government documents reveals details of its clampdown on Uighurs and other Muslims in the country's western Xinjiang region under President Xi Jinping, the *New York Times* reported on Saturday. United Nations experts and activists say at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other Muslim minority groups have been detained in camps in Xinjiang. The documents show how Mr. Xi gave a series of

internal speeches to officials during and after a 2014 visit to Xinjiang following a stabbing attack by Uighur militants at a train station that killed 31 people.

The report said Mr. Xi called for an "all-out 'struggle against terrorism, infiltration, and separatism' using the 'organs of dictatorship,' and showing 'absolutely no mercy.'" The documents show that the Chinese leadership's fears were heightened by terrorist attacks in other countries and the U.S. drawdown of troops from Afghanistan.

Khamenei backs petrol price hike, blames enemies for 'sabotage'

Iran curbs Internet access after agitators clash with police

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday backed petrol price increases that have sparked protests across Iran, blaming opponents of the Islamic Republic and foreign enemies for "sabotage", State television reported.

"Some people are no doubt worried by this decision... but sabotage and arson is done by hooligans not our people. The counter-revolution and Iran's enemies have always supported sa-



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

botage and breaches of security and continue to do so," Mr. Khamenei said.

Riot police and security forces clashed with demonstrators on Saturday in Teh-

ran and dozens of cities across the country, .

Internet access in Iran was curbed after the protests at the order of a state security council, the semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

Mr. Khamenei said the increase in gasoline prices was based on expert opinion and should be implemented.

The price of petrol was raised to 15,000 rials (\$0.13) a litre from 10,000 rials and rationed. Additional purchases would cost 30,000 rials per litre.

Ahead of IPO, Aramco values itself at \$1.71 trillion

It plans to sell 1.5% stake to raise \$24 bn

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Sunday put a value of up to \$1.71 trillion on energy giant Aramco in what could be the world's biggest IPO, but missed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's initial target of \$2 trillion.

Aramco said it would sell 1.5% of the firm in a blockbuster initial public offering worth at least \$24 billion.

"The base offer size will be 1.5% of the company's outstanding shares," the state-owned energy giant said in a statement that set

the price range at 30-32 Saudi riyals per share (\$8-8.5).

The much-delayed offering is scaled down from original plans, but it still rivals the world's biggest listing so far - the \$25 billion float of Chinese retail giant Alibaba in 2014.

Aramco had initially been expected to sell a total of 5% on two exchanges.

But the firm has said there are no current plans for an international stock sale, indicating that the long-discussed goal had been shelved for the time being.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12783

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles

- (set by Afterdark)
- 13 Tolerant with a primarily nice, but almost boring man (9)
 - 14 Dirty-looking husband inside a small boat (6)
 - 16 Delivers some rum in casks... (5)
 - 19 ...to doctor in shack at the rear to have (5)
 - 20 Angry Malaysians, many out on strike (6)
 - 25 Somehow make up, gain custody of child and take across country (9)
 - 26 Sterile catheters first added to list (5)
 - 27 Leaf is tender, right inside (5)
 - 28 Replace it, make a copy (9)
 - 29 Appliance needs very little current, close to zero volt energy; novel to begin with (9,4)
 - 5 Awful Andrea leaves one daughter stuffed almost (8)
 - 6 Good suggestion to have large gin mixed with some salt and fish (9)
 - 7 A school has charges for children (6)
 - 8 Proof of a degree needed to get a vehicle (2,4)
 - 9 Leave my pet off (5)
 - 15 As per terms of agreement, Nehru was forced to accept ceasefire at the end; embarrassed in retreat (9)
 - 17 Paint her awesome attributes in nude (2,3,3)
 - 18 Graduates are changing by midterm, maybe related to interest (4,4)
 - 21 Maybe Vikram's fifty plus and superhot essentially (6)
 - 22 Ask if frigate is holding a boat (5)
 - 23 Perhaps air bubbles are mobile; will burst (6)
 - 24 Setback on round five for chess champion (6)
 - 26 Fabric is fashionable, almost new and old (5)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12782 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

P	E	T	A	L	S	P	L	A	T	E	S	
K	I	L	I	N	A	N	N	O	C	I	A	T
S	G	A	I	S	E	C	H					
P	L	E	A	T	S	U	N	L	O	S	E	
E	A	R	O	B	E	Y	L	O	R	E		
T	Y	R	A	N	N	I	S	E	F	O	R	
P	R	O	W	T	H	U						
B	R	O	W	H	A	N	D	C	R	E	A	M
U	G	S	N	I	T	E	U					
P	R	U	R	I	E	N	T	P	A	L	E	S
G	Y	P	E	N	I	T	I	E				
P	E	R	P	E	T	U	A	T	E	G	O	R
S	H	A	L	R	H	O	R	A				
S	T	A	P	L	E	P	A	S	T	E	L	

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