

89  
people still missing after Typhoon Yagi  
triggered floods and landslidesTDS: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain  
CL: Light Cloud • SNY: SunnyBeijing 29 23 SNY Los Angeles 29 18 LC  
Colombo 28 26 TDS Melbourne 19 12 LR  
Dhaka 29 26 TDS Moscow 27 14 HR  
Dubai 42 32 SNY New York 26 22 SONY  
Houston 37 27 TDS Singapore 29 26 TDS  
Istanbul 32 22 LC Toronto 24 17 LC  
London 24 12 LC Washington 29 21 LC

# Sri Lanka holds first vote since 2022 economic crisis

Voter turnout at 75%, lower than 2019's 83%; no violence reported

## COLOMBO

POLLING concluded in Sri Lanka on Saturday with no violence or security breaches reported anywhere from all 22 electoral districts in the crucial presidential elections, the nation's first since its worst economic meltdown in 2022.

The election officials said everyone who had entered the polling station by 4 pm was allowed to vote beyond the deadline. The voter turnout is estimated to be around 75%, according to an official, lower than the 83% voter turnout recorded in the previous presidential election held in November 2019.

Observers said voting in the northern district of Jaffna was on a slow trickle by mid day. A Tamil minority hardline group had discouraged people from voting in the run up to the election. The counting of postal votes commenced immediately after the voting closed at 4 pm, officials said.

Postal votes were cast by government employees mostly election officials, military and police. The postal voting was conducted four days earlier.

After postal votes are counted, "at 6 pm, we would like to start normal counting," Colombo City Deputy Election Commissioner MKSKK Bandara said earlier in the day.

The election saw the deployment of nearly 8,000 polls observers local and foreign. This included 116 international observers from the EU, Commonwealth, Asian network of elections and seven from the south Asian countries.



Voters arrive to cast their ballots at a polling station during voting in Sri Lanka's presidential election in Colombo | AFP

The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections, the leading local group, deployed 4,000 local observers. The election will be a test for incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe who has claimed credit for putting the country on the road to economic recovery.

Analysts said this election is the most keenly contested of all presidential elections since 1982 with 38 candidates in the fray. Some 17 million people were eligible to vote at over 13,400 polling stations. Over 2,00,000 officials were deployed to conduct the election. Buddhist temple halls, schools and community centres were converted into polling stations.

The three-cornered electoral

battle saw Wickremesinghe facing stiff competition from Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 56, of the National People's Power, and Sajith Premadasa, 57, of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya and the main Opposition leader.

Wickremesinghe, 75, is seeking re-election for a five-year term as an independent candidate, riding on the success of his efforts to pull the country out of the economic crisis, which many experts hailed as one of the quickest recoveries.

Sri Lanka had plunged into an economic crisis when the island nation declared sovereign default in mid-April of 2022, its first since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. PTI

## HARRIS SLAMS TRUMP FOR HYPOCRISY ON ABORTION

## MADISON

KAMALA Harris on Friday attacked Republican rival Donald Trump and his party as "hypocrites" over abortion, as the first voters cast their ballots for November's US election.

The Democrat unleashed one

of the most forceful speeches of her campaign so far as she blamed Trump for an abortion ban in the battleground state of Georgia that she said had caused the deaths of two women.

"And these hypocrites want to start talking about how this

is in the best interest of women and children," the vice president told a rally in Atlanta, Georgia to cheers from a mainly female audience.

"Well, where have you been? Where have you been when it comes to taking care of the women and children of Ameri-

ca, where have you been? How dare they." Since replacing President Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket two months ago, Harris has repeatedly focused on what she calls "Trump abortion bans."

Trump has frequently bragged on the campaign trail

that his three Supreme Court picks paved the way for the 2022 overturning of the national right to abortion.

At least 20 states have since brought in full or partial restrictions, with Georgia banning most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. AFP



Smoke billowing over an ammunition depot in Toropets, Russia on Saturday | AFP

## Massive fire in Russian village after Ukrainian strike

## MOSCOW

RUSSIA on Saturday evacuated 1,200 people from a southern village after a Ukrainian drone strike caused a huge explosion, following a similar attack in the west of the country.

Ukraine regularly hits Russian infrastructure with drone strikes as Moscow's offensive drags on for more than two and a half years.

The governor of the Krasnodar region, Veniamin Kondratyev, announced the evacuation of hundreds of people after a drone attack had

caused a fire that "spread to explosive objects" near the city of Tikhoretsk.

Videos on social media showed a massive explosion in the dark resembling fireworks at first before blowing up loudly, with online reports that an ammunition depot was struck.

Kondratyev called it a "terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime" and said an unnamed village near the fire had been evacuated, with most people staying with relatives but others placed in temporary accommodation in Tikhoretsk. AFP

### Zelenskyy says no U.K., U.S. go-ahead to use long-range missiles to hit Russia

Kiev: The United States and Britain have not authorised Ukraine to use long-range missiles on targets inside Russia possibly fearing an "escalation," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that firing long-range weapons into Russia would signify that NATO countries were at war with Moscow. Delays in the supply of weapons due to political divisions between allies left Ukrainian forces short of supplies early this year.

## MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

## GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/10/2024 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

CANNANORE (KANNUR), CHAKKARAKKAL, 105660700024999, 5038, 105660730007701, CHERUKUNNU, 105010700022940, IRITTY, 100670700762759, KATHIROOR, 10537070021467, 1482, KUTHUPARAMBA, 104690750000013, MATTANNUR, 104640700736584, 6671, 10464075000020, PANORO, 105410700039240, 9270, 9287, 9299, 9312, 10541070009114, 10541075000012, PAYYANNUR, 100580730011353, 1396, PAZHAYANGADI, 105550700018845, SREEKANDAPURAM, 104560700724728, 104560730005647, 5653, 5657, 5673, 5678, 5686, TALAP, 105090730013149, TALIPARAMBA, 103460700014677, 130460730007644, THALASSERY, 100130701172260, 100130750000007, VALAPATTANAM, 104520730008188, KASARAGOD, BANDADUKKA, 131200700020816, KERAKALAM, 105820730006166, CHERUVATHUR, 105770730008668, 8679, HANAFI BAZAR UPPALA, 10443070074583, 4800, 4809, 4844, 4882, 104430730011791, 1793, 1880, 1882, 104430780000110, KANHANGAD, 100120701373434, 100120730010363, 0367, 10012075000007, KASARGOD, 1001607030012346, 100160750000017, KUMBLA, 104920700044935, 4944, 5042, 104920730013650, MANJESHWAR, 100560700762895, 100560730010666, MULLERIYA, 11150700039488, 9495, 9574, 9614, 9620, 104920750000007, PANATHUR, 127510700022064, 127510730009255, 9256, ULIYATHADUKA, 10572070031857, 105720750000012, KOZHIKODE, ARABINHDGHOSH ROAD, KOZHIKODE, 103550730005998, ATHOLY, 106100700049321, 9345, 106100730015469, 5489, 106100750000022, BALUSERRY, 104110700744795, 4805, 4830, 4876, 10411073006481, CHERUVANUR, 103820700039755, 9780, CHINTHAPALUAPPAL, 112600700042947, 2967, 2984, 2998, 112600730012201, EAST NADAKKAVU, 114180700034974, 4981, 4986, FEROKE, 104070730010501, 0505, 0574, KADALUNDI, 104590700737015, KAKKATTIL, 111130700045499, 5609, 111130730008912, 8954, KAKKODI, 105420700758930, 8958, 9079, 9119, 105420730008838, 8853, 8858, 105420700023062, 112360730002665, 2671, KATTANGAL, 106030700055124, 5191, 5211, 5220, 5227, 106030730013014, 3037, 106030730000010, KOYILANDI, 101505700741963, 1964, 101505730006123, 6149, KOZHIKODE VAIKOM, 100050701917355, KUNDOOPARAMBU, 113140700043133, 3176, 113140730007719, 7785, KUNNAMANGALAM, 120240700030670, 0675, 0680, 0757, 0765, 120240730022814, 2839, KUTTIADI, 113140730008291, 111340750000019, MATHOTTAM, 106220700029934, 9983, 106220730004673, 106220750000002, MAVOOR, 104930700044607, 4631, 4635, 4653, 4660, 4703, 4747, 104930730006656, 6709, MAVOOR RD CALICUT, 100190730016356, MEDICAL COLLEGE CLT, 104550700783607, 3610, 3644, 3778, 3807, 3808, 104550730013891, 3914, 3935, 104550750000011, MEENCHANDA, 103770700025660, 5691, 10377073001124, MEPPAYUR, 128310700019272, MUKKAM, 105470700741181, 1196, 1230, 1237, 1257, NARIKUNI, 105570730006411, OMASSEY, 111440730006256, PANTHEERANKAVU, 106270700032574, 2584, 106270730009062, PERAMBRA, 100680700823722, 3729, 3751, 3807, 100680730008723, 100680750000013, POOVATTAMARBU, 111890700026154, 111890730005519, 5545, 5594, POTTAMMAL, 112650700049102, 9121, 9132, 9143, 9197, 112650730012737, 2767, 2858, 2859, PUTHIYANGADI, 112100730008336, 8385, RAMANATTUKARA, 100180730009534, 9535, THAMARASSERY, 1001700239590, THIRUVAMBADI, 103530700038126, VADAKKARA, 10014070011904, VEILAMADEKUNNU, 104160700767734, 7735, 7795, 7807, 7808, WESTHILL, 100600700817624, 7656, 7699, 7715, 7722, 7780, 100600730008845, MALAPURAM, ANGADIPURAM, 102040700743967, 102040730010164, 0173, 0214, BY PASS TUNMANI, 11659073001528, 5029, 5078, CHANGARAMKULAM CENTRE, 102420700776240, 6241, 6245, 102420730013676, 3683, 3710, 3718, 3729, 3741, 3759, CHELARI, 105330700047274, 7296, CHEMMAD, 117620730009290, CHUNGATHARA, 106180730011224, 1317, DOWNHILL, MALAPPURAM TIRUPUR ROAD, 104480730008965, 8985, 8996, 9022, EDAKARA, 105260700056245, 6276, 6277, 6308, PONNANI EDAPPAL ROAD, 105260730010780, EDAPPAL, 10075070020457, 0488, 0493, 0591, 0593, 0605, KALIKAVU, 102470700741747, 1728, 102470730005626, KARINKALLATHANI MALAPPURAM, 118150700018801, 8827, 8832, 8864, 118150730007870, 7912, 7914, 7927, KARUVAKUNNU, 128210700014394, KARUVAKUNNU, 102500730006292, KONDOTTI, 101950700746735, 6748, 6755, 6756, 6787, 6815, 6816, 6818, 6833, 6834, 101950730019894, 9898, 9914, 101950750000004, KOTTAKKAL, 13030700025176, 5185, 5203, KUTTIPURAM, 101970700758304, 8402, 101970730019640, 9641, MANJERI, 100090701429305, 9333, 9404, 9416, PERINTHALMANNA, 130260730009546, 9631, 9632, PONNANI, 123560700056245, 6276, 6277, 6308, PONNANI EDAPPAL ROAD, 101660700791452, 101660730013290, 3298, POKKOTTUPADAM, 128780730005335, 5347, PUTTHANATHAN, 105180730016544, 6610, TANUR, 102380730015072, TIRUR, 100080701186488, 6514, 6667, 100080730021157, 1177, UPHILLS MALAPPURAM, 116800700025720, 5745, 5798, 116800730011933, 1935, 1945, VALLANCHERY, 130270700014877, VAZHIKADAVU, 106020700029784, VELIYANKODE, 132730700032400, 2439, 2474, 2483, 2511, VENGARA, 113150730014674, 4675, 4713, 4719, WANDUR, 102330700736433, 102330730008870, WAYANAD, KALPATTI, 100100700292379, 2406, 100100730013459, KAMBALAKKAD, 12997070002324, 129970730007682, MEENANGADI, 128860700019000, 9020, PANAMARAM, 122400700022058, 122400730002659, PULPALLY, 104960700042073, SULTHANBATHERI, 102910700043083, 102910730007493, 7494, 7547.

Persons wishing to participate in the above