

Sri Lanka local polls: Prez Dissanayake's party bags first official result

PTI, COLOMBO: The National People's Power (NPP) led by Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake won the first official result declared by the Elections Commission in the local council election.

A total of 339 local councils on Tuesday went to the polls, which were postponed in 2023 following the island's economic crisis. The counting of votes commenced soon after voting ended at 4 pm. The voter turnout was 70.23 per cent.

According to the latest details, the NPP secured 46 per cent of the votes, winning 9 seats in the Tangalle Urban Council in the Deep South district of Hambantota, the stronghold of the Rajapaksa family.

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), the main opposition party, secured 28 per cent of votes and won 5 seats while Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) received 16 per cent of votes and won 3 seats.

UK, India strike free trade deal amid US tariff blitz

AFP, LONDON: Britain on Tuesday struck a free trade agreement with India, its biggest such deal since leaving the European Union, after negotiations relaunched in February following US tariff threats.

Britain has sought to bolster trade ties across the world since it left the EU at the start of the decade under Brexit, a need that became more pressing after the United States unleashed tariffs that risk causing weaker economic growth.

"Today we have agreed a landmark deal with India - one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, which will grow the economy and deliver for British people and business," UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a statement.

His Labour government said it is "the biggest and

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— Keir Starmer, UK prime minister



most economically significant bilateral trade deal the UK has done since leaving the EU".

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the deal as "ambitious and mutually" beneficial.

The pact will help "catalyse trade, investment, growth, job creation, and innovation in both our economies", Modi said in a post on social media platform X.

His office said in a statement that the deal will "unlock new potential for the

10 percent.

In exchange, the UK will cut tariffs on imports of clothes, footwear and food products, including frozen prawns, from India.

The deal comes after US President Donald Trump hiked tariffs on trading partners and launched sector-specific levies on steel, aluminium and cars.

The UK and India are the sixth and fifth largest global economies respectively, with a trade relationship worth around £41 billion (\$54.8 billion) and investment supporting more than 600,000 jobs across both countries.

The sides hope the free-trade agreement will increase trade between the two countries by £25.5 billion, as well as boosting the British economy and wages.

It added that Modi had invited Starmer to visit India at an unspecified date.

Whisky and shoes - The accord will slash tariffs on imports of UK goods into India, including whisky, cosmetics and medical devices.

Whisky and gin tariffs will be halved to 75 per cent, while automotive tariffs will be slashed from more than 100 per cent to

Providing assistance to 3 Indians on death row in Indonesia: Centre to Delhi HC

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that the Indian embassy in Indonesia is providing assistance, including legal aid, to the three Indians on death row in the foreign country.

Justice Sachin Datta was assured by the Centre's counsel that the authorities would continue with the assistance. The court, hearing a petition by the spouses of three Indians convicted in Indonesia, asked for a status report and posted the hearing on August 4.

Raju Muthukumar, Selvadurai Dinakaran and Govindasamy Vimalkandhan, all hailing from Tamil Nadu, were arrested in July 2024 for allegedly smuggling 106 kilogram of crystal meth aboard the Legend Aquarius cargo vessel.

The wives of the three men said their spouses were bread winners who worked at the shipping company in Singapore and they were of limited means.

They pointed out the limitation period for pursuing the appellate remedy was very stringent and requisite steps were required to be taken immediately in addition to appropriate assistance to the death row convicts.

took steps towards availing the legal remedies and adequate assistance to the convicts.

The vice consul of the Indian embassy in Indonesia on his own filed the "intent to appeal" against the conviction of the petitioners' spouses on May 2 as the families were unable to do so, and the appeal would also be filed in a few days, the counsel added.

"The embassy is in the process of engaging a lawyer. In a few days, we will give details. We are in touch with the authorities diplomatically also," the lawyer said.

The Centre's lawyer further revealed that consular access was granted and the embassy was in touch with the Indonesian authorities since July 2024.

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Two arrested for kidnapping, raping Class 10 student in Haryana

PTI, FARIDABAD: Two people were arrested on Tuesday for kidnapping a Class 10 student and raping her in a moving car here, a police official said.

The accused were identified as Intezar and his accomplice Vikas, residents of Chandpur village in Haryana's Faridabad, he said.

Furnishing details of the case, Ballabgarh Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajkumar Walia said the 15-year-old girl on her way to school was forcibly pulled into a car by the accused at Tigaon area. The main accused, Intezar, raped her twice inside the moving

car by threatening to kill her. Both the accused then pushed her out of the car near their village and sped away.

After receiving a complaint, Tigaon Police registered an FIR under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on Sunday.

"A joint team of Tigaon Police and Crime Branch Sector 65 arrested the accused on Tuesday after identifying them based on CCTV footage and secret information. The accused have confessed to the crime," DCP Walia said.

SC warns contempt action if States fail to implement curb on crackers in NCR

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana to ensure a "scrupulous" ban on firecrackers in areas falling under the NCR region and warned any failure would attract contempt.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan asked the governments to issue a direction under the Environment Protection Act (EPA) imposing a complete ban on manufacture, sale and storage, including online delivery, on all types of firecrackers in the areas which fall under the NCR region.

Not only the orders of this court but directions issued under Section 5 of the EPA must be strictly implemented through all the law enforcement machinery of the states, it added.

Section 5 of the Act states the Central Government may, in exercise of its powers, issue directions to any officer or any authority to regulate environmental pollution.

RETURNED TO THE LORD
Isabel Barreto
 (Sandeul-Curtorim)
 Born: 30-07-1942 Died: 06-05-2025

Wife of late Jose Mario Barreto. Loving mother/mother-in-law of Peter Barreto/Christalina Darcia Fernandes, late Victor Barreto/Secunda Emilia Fernandes, Josefa Barreto/Joaquim Fernandes, Celina Leonides Barreto/late Loyola Gomes. Most caring grandmother of Vanessa Barreto, Bryce Barreto, Chelsea Gomes, Lersa Gomes, Nikita Fernandes, Nisha Fernandes, Mavisa Barreto, Adroy Barreto. Loving great-grandmother of Lucas Fernandes.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence TODAY, 07.05.2025 at 3:45pm for Eucharistic celebration at 4:00pm at St. Alex Church, Curtorim followed by burial.

Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation

RETURNED TO THE LORD
ANTONIO MAXIMIANO BARRETO (PARKOT)
 MASCARENHAS WADDO, GOA-VELHA
 Born: 21-02-1943 Died: 04-05-25

A beautiful soul is never forgotten, your memory will always remain in our hearts forever

Beloved husband of Margarida F. Rodrigues. Affectionate father & father in law of Jenifer Barreto/Derick Mendes and Ekima Barreto. Loving son of late Caitano Barreto/late Guilmermina Vas. Loving son in law of late Joao Baptista Rodrigues/Late Joquina Dsilva.

Adorable brother/brother-in-law of Theresa Barreto/Rosario Fernandes. Loving grand father of Troy Mendes, Trisha Mendes, Riya Mendes, Neshwin Dias & Pearl Dias.

Funeral Cortege will leave his residence on 10th May, 2025 (Saturday) at 3.00 pm to St Andrew Church Goa - Velha for Eucharistic celebration followed by burial.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

DEATH
 "I have called you by name, you are mine" - Is 43:1

Theresa Eufemiana D'Souza
 Donwaddo, Saligao

Born: 07-03-1942
 Died: 06-05-2025

Beloved wife of Franklin D'Souza. Loving mother of Savio and Ramona. Loving sister / sister-in-law of Teotonio / Charmaine, late Sebastian, late Anton Duarte / late Angela, late John / late Ancelina & late Recard. Aunty of Trevor, Charles, Stanley & Mark.

Funeral will leave her residence on 7th May 2025 (today) at 3:30 p.m. to Mae De Deus Church, Saligao for Eucharistic celebration at 4:00 p.m., followed by burial.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

RETURNED TO THE LORD

MICHAEL D'SOUZA
 (St Jerome Vaddo, Duler)

Beloved husband of Late Cecilia D'Souza
 Loving father / father-in-law of John / Amanda, Rosa / Victor, Louisa / Malcolm.

Loving grandfather of Mark, Vivienne, Leah and Lucas.

Eucharistic Celebration will be held on 07-05-2025 at 4:00 p.m., followed by burial at St. Francis Xavier Church, Duler.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

DEATH

JOSEFINA ESTEFANIA FERNANDES
 MERCES-VADY

Born: 5-8-1931
 Death: 5-5-2025

Beloved daughter of Late Jose Fernandes And Late Conceicao Gracias.
 Beloved wife of Late Domingos Joao Joaquim Cruz Desouza and Late Antonio P. Fernandes. Sister of Late John/Constantine (Sunny)/Ludwin Fernandes. Loving Mother/Mother-in-Law of Joaquim (King/Raza) /Maria Isabel Desouza, Jorge Desouza/ Espertina Monteiro, Pauline(Rani)/Francis DeMello.

Caring Grandmother of Peona/Curtis, Gregory/Danielle, Quincy/Ryan, Polanska/Jonathan, Rosary and Late Kenneth Desouza.

Great Grandmother of Brenna, Eita, Riana, Rylee, Zaylen, Zave and Rowan.

Funeral cortege will leave their residence TODAY, 7 May 2025 at 9:15 a.m. to Our Lady of Mercers Church, Mercers for Eucharistic celebration at 9:30 a.m. followed by burial.

Relatives, Neighbours & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

No Condolence Visits Please

India plans manned space flight by 2027

AP, NEW DELHI: India's space agency said Tuesday it planned to launch an uncrewed orbital mission later this year before its first human spaceflight in early 2027.

"It represents India's rise as a global space power", Jitendra Singh, the country's science and technology minister, said in a statement.

The world's most populous country has flexed its space ambitions in the last decade with its space programme growing considerably in size and momentum.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced plans to send a man to the Moon by 2040.

"The uncrewed orbital Gaganyaan ("space craft") mission is on track for launch later this year, with recovery trials already conducted with the Indian Navy, and more sea recovery simulations planned," the Department of Space said in a statement.

Along with other tests, this will lead to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sending astronauts into space.

"These milestones will culminate in India's maiden human spaceflight in

2027, launching Indian astronauts into orbit aboard an Indian rocket from Indian soil," it added.

ISRO said the spaceflight was scheduled for "the first quarter" of 2027.

"Training of astronauts is also progressing steadily," the statement added.

"Four Indian Air Force pilots, selected as astronaut-designates, have completed training in Russia and are undergoing further mission-specific training in India."

India has matched the achievements of established powers at a much cheaper price tag.

In August 2023, it became just the fourth nation to land an unmanned craft on the Moon after Russia, the United States and China.

This month, Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, 39, is expected to fly to the International Space Station -- becoming the first Indian astronaut to do so and the second in orbit ever.

The mission, which is jointly being undertaken by NASA and the ISRO, will be launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Shukla, who is set to pilot the Axiom Mission 4, is

MONTH'S MIND
 In ever loving memory of

NEVES ANTHONY REBELLO
 Copelvado- Deussua ,Chinchinim

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Neves Rebello at 8.00 a.m. on Thursday, 8th May 2025 at Our lady of Hope Church, Chinchinim, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave.

Fondly remembered by his wife Maria Felinda Rebello (Vincy) Children, Grandchildren and family

Costy's Ads, Chinchinim 9850473904

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 In ever loving memory of

WILSON ANTHONY FERNANDES
 (Prop & Ex-Caterer of Little Goa Rest Colva Residency) Canacona -Colva- Margao

Your life was full of loving deeds
 Forever thoughtful of our needs
 The memories of you will never forget.
 You always worked & settled for the best
 Now in God's arm you are taking rest.

There will be Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Wilson at 8.00 am on Thursday, 8th May 2025 at St. Theresa of Jesus Church, Chaudi-Canacona followed by prayers and blessing of the grave.

Offered by his sorrowful wife Lizeith, children Giles, Gioval and Giohan.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Costy's Ads, Chinchinim 9850473904

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Maybe you died 3 years ago,
 But your memory will forever live in my Heart and in the hearts Of those who knew you.

In Loving Memory of
Joseph Ignatius D'Souza
 Born: April 14, 1948 Died: May 8, 2022

There will be Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Joseph Ignatius D'souza at 7:30 am on Thursday, 8th May 2025 at St. Michael's Church, Anjuna, followed by prayers and blessing at his grave, Offered by his daughter, Karen/Ernesto and grandchildren Rosaria, Manuela & Deanna Pires.

MONTHS MIND
 In ever loving memory of

Sergie Dias
 Unjirim-Curtorim /Mumbai

"One month has passed, yet your absence feels like yesterday. Your memory continues to live in our hearts, and your love guides us each day. You are gone but never forgotten."

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Sergie at St. Alex Church Curtorim on THURSDAY, 8th May 2025 at 8.30am, followed by prayers at the grave, offered by his sorrowful wife Loretta Dias, Children Jude & Natasha, Michelle, family & friends.

Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 In ever loving memory of,

MARIA ESPERDIANA NORONHA
 --NaikaVaddo--

"The beautiful moments you shared With us will never be forgotten"

There will be a eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved MAI on Thursday, 8th May 2025 at 7 am at St. Anne's Church, Parra. Followed by prayers and blessings of the grave offered by her sorrowful family.

Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.