

**Globalized Election  
Weekly Report  
April 08, 2010 to April 13, 2010**

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**Week # 114**

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The **2010 Sri Lankan parliamentary election** was held on April 8, 2010, to elect 225 members to Sri Lanka's 14th Parliament. 14,088,500 Sri Lankans were eligible to vote in the election at 11,102 polling stations. It was the first general election held in Sri Lanka following the conclusion of the 30 year long civil war.

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**SRILANKA**

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## Sri Lanka

<b>Capital</b>	Sri Jayawardenapura-Kotte 6°54'N 79°54'E
<b>Largest city</b>	Colombo
<b>Official language(s)</b>	Sinhala, Tamil ≈73.9% Sinhalese, ≈12.6% Tamil,
<b>Ethnic groups (2001)</b>	≈7.4% Moors, ≈5.2% Indian Tamil, ≈0.5% Others.
<b>Demonym</b>	Sri Lankan
<b>Government</b>	Democratic Socialist Republic
- President	Mahinda Rajapaksa
- Prime Minister	Ratnasiri Wickremanayake
<b>Establishment</b>	
- Landing of Vijaya	543 BC
- Kandyan Convention	March 2–18, 1815
- Independence from the United Kingdom	February 4, 1948

- Republic May 22, 1972

**Area**

- Total 65,610 km<sup>2</sup>  
25,332 sq mi

- Water (%) 4.4

**Population**

- 2009 estimate 20,238,000

- July 2008 census 21,324,791

- Density 308.4/km<sup>2</sup>  
798.9/sq mi

**GDP (PPP)** 2008 estimate

- Total \$92.168 billion

- Per capita \$4,589

**GDP (nominal)** 2008 estimate

- Total \$39.604 billion

- Per capita \$1,972

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

**Sri Lanka** officially the **Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** and known as **Ceylon** before 1972, is an island country in South Asia, located about 31 kilometres (19.3 mi) off the southern coast of India.

As a result of its location in the path of major sea routes, Sri Lanka is a strategic naval link between West Asia and South East Asia. It has also been a center of the Buddhist religion and culture from ancient times as well as being a bastion of Hinduism. The Sinhalese community forms the majority of the population; Tamils, who are concentrated in the north and east of the island, form the largest ethnic minority. Other communities include Moors, Burghers, Kaffirs, Malays and the indigenous Vedda people.

The country is famous for the production and export of tea, coffee, coconuts, rubber and cinnamon - which is native to the country. The natural beauty of Sri Lanka's tropical forests, beaches and landscape, as well as its rich cultural heritage, make it a world famous tourist destination. The island also boasts the first female Prime Minister in the world, Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

After over two thousand years of rule by local kingdoms, parts of Sri Lanka were colonized by Portugal and the Netherlands beginning in the 16th century, before control of the entire country was ceded to the British Empire in 1815. During World War II, Sri Lanka served as an important base for Allied forces in the fight against the Japanese Empire. A nationalist political movement arose in the country in the early 20th century with the aim of obtaining political independence, which was eventually granted by the British after peaceful negotiations in 1948.

## **2. History**

Sri Lanka had always been an important port and trading post in the ancient world, and was increasingly frequented by merchant ships from the Middle East, Persia, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia. The islands were known

to the first European explorers of South Asia and settled by many groups of Arab and Malay merchants.

A Portuguese colonial mission arrived on the island in 1505 headed by Lourenço de Almeida the son of Francisco de Almeida. At that point the island consisted of three kingdoms, namely Kandy in the central hills, Kotte at the Western coast, and Yarlpanam (Anglicised Jaffna) in the north. The Dutch arrived in the 17th century. Although much of the island came under the domain of European powers, the interior, hilly region of the island remained independent, with its capital in Kandy.

The British East India Company established control of the island in 1796, declaring it a crown colony in 1802, although the island would not be officially connected with British India. The fall of the kingdom of Kandy in 1815 unified the island under British rule.

### **20th Century and the World Wars**

European colonists established a series of tea, cinnamon, rubber, sugar, coffee and indigo plantations. The British also brought a large number of indentured workers from Tamil Nadu to work in the plantation economy. The city of Colombo was established as the administrative centre, and the British established modern schools, colleges, roads and churches that brought Western-style education and culture to the native people.

Increasing grievances over the denial of civil rights, mistreatment and abuse of natives by colonial authorities gave rise to a struggle for independence in the 1930s, when the Youth Leagues opposed the "Ministers' Memorandum," which asked the colonial authority to increase the powers of the board of ministers without granting popular representation or civil freedoms. Buddhist scholars and the Teetotalist Movement also played a vital role in this time.

During World War II, the island served as an important Allied military base. A large segment of the British and American fleet were deployed on the island, as were tens of thousands of soldiers committed to the war against Japan in Southeast Asia.

## **Independence**

Following the war, popular pressure for independence intensified. The office of Prime Minister of Ceylon was created in advance of independence on 14 October 1947, Don Stephen Senanayake being the first prime minister. On February 4, 1948 the country won its independence as the Dominion of Ceylon.

On July 21, 1960 Sirimavo Bandaranaike took office as prime minister, and became the world's first female prime minister and the first female head of government in post-colonial Asia. In 1972, during Sirimavo Bandaranaike's second term as prime minister, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth, and the name was changed to Sri Lanka. The island enjoyed good relations with the United Kingdom and had the British Royal Navy stationed at Trincomalee.

## **Civil war**

One of the aspects of the independence movement was that it was very much a Sinhalese movement. As a result, the Sinhalese majority attempted to remodel Sri Lanka as a Sinhalese nation-state. The lion in the national flag is derived from the banner of the last Sinhalese Kingdom, which, to the Sinhalese majority, is a symbol of their fight against British colonialism. One single strip of orange on the left part of the flag represents the Tamil population, and it is seen by many Tamil as a symbol of their marginalisation.

In 1956, the Official Language Act (commonly known as The Sinhala Only Act) was enacted. The law mandated Sinhala, the language of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community, which is spoken by over 70% of Sri Lanka's population, as the sole official language of Sri Lanka. Supporters of the law saw it as an attempt by a community that had just gained independence to distance themselves from their colonial masters.

The immediate (and intended) consequence of this act was to force large numbers of Tamil who worked in the civil service, and who could not meet this language requirement, to resign. An attempt to make Buddhism the national religion, to the exclusion of Hindu and Islam, was also made. Affirmative action in favour of Sinhalese

was also instituted, ostensibly to reverse colonial discrimination against Sinhalese in favour of Tamil. Many Tamil, in response to this deliberate marginalisation, came to believe that they deserved a separate nation-state for themselves.

From 1983 to 2009, there was an on-and-off civil war against the government by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a separatist militant organization who fought to create an independent state named Tamil Eelam in the North and East of the island. Both the Sri Lankan government and LTTE have been accused of various human rights violations.

On May 19, 2009, the President of Sri Lanka officially claimed an end to the insurgency and the defeat of the LTTE, following the death of Velupillai Prabhakaran and much of the LTTE's other senior leadership.

### **Post War**

After the civil war was over, the government of Sri Lanka called for redevelopment of the nation. There are 300,000 Tamils who need to be resettled.

### ***Government and politics***

.The Constitution of Sri Lanka establishes a democratic, socialist republic in Sri Lanka, which is also a unitary state. The government is a mixture of the presidential system and the parliamentary system. The President of Sri Lanka is the head of state, the commander in chief of the armed forces, as well as head of government, and is popularly elected for a six-year term.

In the exercise of duties, the President is responsible to the Parliament of Sri Lanka, which is a unicameral 225-member legislature. The President appoints and heads a cabinet of ministers composed of elected members of parliament. The President's deputy is the Prime Minister, who leads the ruling party in parliament and shares many executive responsibilities, mainly in domestic affairs.

Members of parliament are elected by universal (adult) suffrage based on a modified proportional representation system by district to a six-year term. The primary modification is that, the party that receives the largest number of valid votes in each constituency gains a unique "bonus seat." The president may summon, suspend, or end a legislative session and dissolve Parliament any time after it has served for one year. The parliament reserves the power to make all laws.

On July 1, 1960 the people of Sri Lanka elected the first-ever female head of government in Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Her daughter Chandrika Kumaratunga served for a short period as the prime minister between August and December 1994 before being elected as president from 1994 to 2005 for 2 consecutive terms. The current president and prime minister, both of whom took office on November 21, 2005, are Mahinda Rajapaksa and Ratnasiri Wickremanayake respectively.

Sri Lanka has enjoyed democracy with universal suffrage since 1931. Politics in Sri Lanka are controlled by rival coalitions led by the left-wing Sri Lanka Freedom Party, headed by President Rajapaksa, the comparatively right-wing United National Party led by former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and JVP. There are also many smaller Buddhist, socialist and Tamil nationalist political parties that oppose the separatism of the LTTE but demand regional autonomy and increased civil rights. Since 1948, Sri Lanka has been a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations.

It is also a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Colombo Plan, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Through the Cold War-era, Sri Lanka followed a foreign policy of non-alignment but has remained closer to the United States and Western Europe.

The military of Sri Lanka comprises the Sri Lankan Army, the Sri Lankan Navy and the Sri Lankan Air Force. These are administered by the Ministry of Defence. During 1971 and 1989 the army assisted the police in government response against the Marxist militants of the JVP and fought the LTTE from 1983 to 2009. Sri Lanka receives considerable military assistance from Pakistan and China.



## *Administrative divisions*

*Bay of Bengal*

Palk Strait

Northern Province

*Gulf of*

*Mannar*

North Central Province

North Western

Province

Eastern

Province

Central

Province

Uva Province

Western

Province

Sabaragamuwa

Province

Southern Province

*Indian Ocean*

## **Provinces**

The **Provinces of Sri Lanka** have existed since the 19th century but they didn't have any legal status until 1987 when the 13th Amendment to the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka established provincial councils following several decades of increasing demand for a decentralization of the Government of Sri Lanka. Between 1988 and 2006 the Northern and Eastern provinces were temporarily merged to form the North-East Province. Prior to 1987, all administration was handled by a district-based civil service which had been in place since colonial times.

Sri Lanka is divided into 9 provinces and 25 districts. Each province is administered by a directly elected provincial council:

<b>Administrative Divisions of Sri Lanka</b>			
<b>province</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Population</b>
Central	Kandy	5,674	2,423,966
Eastern	Trincomalee	9,996	1,460,939
North Central	Anuradhapura	10,714	1,104,664
Northern	Jaffna	8,884	1,311,776
North Western	Kurunegala	7,812	2,169,892
Sabaragamuwa	Ratnapura	4,902	1,801,331
Southern	Galle	5,559	2,278,271
Uva	Badulla	8,488	1,177,358
Western	Colombo	3,709	5,361,200

## **Districts**

The provinces of Sri Lanka are divided into 25 districts. Each district is administered under a District Secretariat. The districts are further subdivided into divisional secretariats, and these in turn to *Grama Sevaka* divisions.

The Districts are known in Sinhala as *Disa* and in Tamil as *Maawaddam*. Originally a Disa (usually rendered into English as Dissavony) was a duchy, notably Matale and Uva. The Government Agent, who is known as **District Secretary**, administers a district.

These were originally based on the feudal counties, the *korales* and *ratas*. They were formerly known as 'D.R.O. Divisions' after the 'Divisional Revenue Officer'. Later the D.R.O.s became 'Assistant Government Agents' and the Divisions were known as 'A.G.A. Divisions'. Currently, the Divisions are administered by a 'Divisional Secretary', and are known as a 'D.S. Divisions'. Rural D.S. Divisions are also administered by a

'Pradeshiya Sabha' and 'Pradesha Sabhai' (Sinhala and Tamil for 'Regional Council'), which is elected.

## **Elections in Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. The president is elected for a six year term by the people. The **Parliament** has 225 members, elected for a six year term, 196 members elected in multi-seat constituencies through proportional representation system where each party is allocated a number of seats from the quota for each district according to the proportion of the total vote that party obtains in the district. The other 29 which is called the national list are appointed by each party secretary according to the island wide proportional vote the party obtains.

Sri Lanka has a multi party system, with two dominant political parties, and with extreme difficulty for anybody to achieve electoral success under the banner of any other party.

### **2010 Presidential election**

#### **Summary of the 26 January 2010 Sri Lankan presidential election results**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>
Mahinda Rajapaksa	United People's Freedom Alliance	6,015,934	57.88%
Sarath Fonseka	New Democratic Front	4,173,185	40.15%
Mohomad Cassim Mohomad Ismail	Democratic United National Front	39,226	0.38%

Achala Ashoka Suraweera	Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna	26,266	0.25%
Channa Janaka Sugathsiri Gamage	United Democratic Front	23,290	0.22%
W.V. Mahiman Ranjith	<i>Independent</i>	18,747	0.18%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	Sri Lanka Labour Party	14,220	0.14%
Sarath Manamendra	Nawa Sihala Urumaya	9,684	0.09%
M.K. Sivajilingam	<i>Independent</i>	9,662	0.09%
Ukkubanda Wijekoon	<i>Independent</i>	9,381	0.09%
Lal Perera	Our National Front	9,353	0.09%
Siritunga Jayasuriya	United Socialist Party	8,352	0.08%
Vickramabahu Karunaratna	Left Front	7,055	0.07%

Idroos Mohomad Ilyas	<i>Independent</i>	6,131	0.06%
Wije Dias	Socialist Equality Party	4,195	0.04%
Sanath Pinnaduwa	National Alliance	3,523	0.03%
Mohamed Musthaffa	<i>Independent</i>	3,134	0.03%
Battaramulle Seelarathana Thero	Jana Setha Peramuna	2,770	0.03%
Senaratna de Silva	Patriotic National Front	2,620	0.03%
Aruna de Zoyza	Ruhunu Janatha Party	2,618	0.03%
Upali Sarath Kongahage	United National Alternative Front	2,260	0.02%
Muthu Bandara Theminiimulla	Okkoma Vesiyo – Okkoma Rajavaru Sanvidhanaya	2,007	0.02%
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,393,613</b>	
Registered Voters		14,088,500	

Total Votes cast	10,495,451 (74.50%)	
Invalid Votes	101,838	
Valid Votes cast	10,393,613	

### **Sri Lankan parliamentary election, 2010**

Just days after the presidential election, Rajapaksa's main contender, Sarath Fonseka—the former army general credited with ending a civil war by defeating the Tamil Tigers last year—was arrested by military police.

Government spokesman Lucien Rajakarunanayake denied any connection between Fonseka's bid to defeat Rajapaksa in the ballot and the detention, saying, "He was arrested by the military, it has nothing to do with the election." Fonseka is facing charges of corruption and illegally engaging in politics before retiring from the military last November.

Before and during the presidential campaign, Fonseka was accused several times of trying to stage a coup against Rajapaksa or plotting to assassinate the president.

On Mar. 6, Rajapaksa rejected plans laid by United Nations (UN) secretary general Ban Ki-moon to appoint an experts' panel to investigate alleged human rights abuses during Sri Lanka's civil war, saying that the panel is "totally uncalled for and unwarranted."

The UN has said that over 7,000 civilians died last year in the crossfire between Tamil Tigers' militias and government forces in what would be the last battle of the country's 25-year-long civil war.

On Mar. 16, Fonseka's court martial began. On that same day, Britain's Channel 4 News obtained a piece of paper smuggled from Fonseka's detention centre with answers to questions posed by reporters. Fonseka called the charges against him "bogus," and accused Rajapaksa of rigging the January election, and acting like a "rogue president" who "behaves exactly" like Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.

### **2010 National Assembly Election**

Sri Lankans will vote in legislative elections on Apr. 8. Rajapaksa's United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) is expected to be the strongest contender in the ballot.

The United National Front (UNF) and the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) are the main opposition parties contesting the legislative election.

The opposition alliance UNF advocates for electoral reform, reducing the legislative term to five years and holding both general and provincial elections on the same day. The party has also promised to raise the salaries of public employees and to release Fonseka from military prison.

The DNA—led by Fonseka—is running on a platform of zero tolerance with corruption, working towards national reconciliation, and boosting economic development.

On Mar. 17, UNF co-chairman Mangala Samaraweera urged election authorities to allow election observers to oversee the upcoming ballot, saying, "We have reliable information that the international election monitors have not yet been given permission to monitor the general elections by the Elections Commissioner. (...) After the presidential election, people have asked to safeguard their votes and we have informed the Elections Commissioner that we needed more foreign monitors."

Voting took place on Apr. 8. Government minister Keheliya Rambukwella celebrated the UPFA's apparent good showing, calling it a "clear manifestation of the people's confidence in the president and the government."

Preliminary results released on Apr. 9 showed Rajapaksa's UPFA winning 117 of the 225 contested seats. The United Front was second with 46 seats, followed by the DNA with five seats.

The electoral authority said the release of final results would be delayed until Apr. 19 because tallies from several polling stations were annulled following allegations of corruption. Some districts will be polled again.

Official reports tabled turnout at a low 50 per cent.

Rajapaksa's spokesman Chandrapala Liyanage commented of the results, saying, "This is a huge endorsement of the work of the president."

UNF official Tissa Attanayake said the election had been marred by violence and fraud, incited by the Rajapaksa government, declaring, "This has not been a fair poll. We will hold discussions soon to decide on what steps should be taken."

Also on Apr. 9, The Independent Centre for Monitoring Election Violence announced it received close to 280 complaints of violence and intimidation during voting day.

### **Political Players**

President: Mahinda Rajapaksa - SLNP

Prime minister: Ratnasiri Wickremanayake - SLNP

The president is elected to a six-year term by popular vote.

Legislative Branch: The National Assembly has 225 members, elected to six-year terms; 196 members are elected in multi-seat constituencies, and 29 are elected by proportional representation.

### Results of Last Election:

President - Jan. 26, 2010

	Vote%
Mahinda Rajapaksa - United People's Freedom Alliance	57.88%



Sarath Fonseka - New Democratic Front	40.15%
Mohomad Cassim Mohomad Ismail - Democratic United National Front	0.38%
Achala Ashoka Suraweera - Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna	0.25%
Channa Janaka Sugathsiri Gamage - United Democratic Front	0.22%
W.V. Mahiman Ranjith - Independent	0.18%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage - Sri Lanka Labour Party	0.14%
Sarath Manamendra - Nawa Sihala Urumaya	0.09%
M.K. Sivajilingam - Independent	0.09%
Ukkubanda Wijekoon - Independent	0.09%
Lal Perera - Our National Front	0.09%
Siritunga Jayasuriya - United Socialist Party	0.08%
Vickramabahu Karunaratna - Left Front	0.07%
Idroos Mohomad Ilyas - Independent	0.06%
Wije Dias - Socialist Equality Party	0.04%
Sanath Pinnaduwa - National Alliance	0.03%
Mohamed Musthaffa - Independent	0.03%
Battaramulle Seelarathana Thero - Jana Setha Peramuna	0.03%
Senaratna de Silva - Patriotic National Front	0.03%
Aruna de Zoyza - Ruhunu Janatha Party	0.03%
Upali Sarath Kongahage - United National Alternative Front	0.02%
Muthu Bandara Theminiyulla - Okkoma Vesiyi	0.02%

National Assembly - Apr. 2, 2004

	<b>Vote%</b>	<b>Seats</b>
United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA)	45.60%	105
United National Party (UNP)	37.83%	82
Tamil National Alliance (TNA)	6.84%	22
Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU)	5.97%	9
Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC)	2.02%	5
Up-Country People's Front (UCPF)	0.54%	1
Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP)	0.27%	1
Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna (JSP)	0.16%	--
United Socialist Party (USP)	0.16%	--
Ceylon Democratic Unity Alliance (CDUA)	0.12%	--
New Left Front (NLF)	0.09%	--
Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF)	0.08%	--
United Muslim People's Alliance (UMPA)	0.04%	--
United Lalith Front (ULF)	0.04%	--
National People's Party (NPP)	0.02%	--
Sinhalaye Bhoomiputra Pakshaya (SMBP)	Mahasammatha 0.02%	--

Swarajya (SR)	0.01%	--
Sri Lanka Progressive Front (SLPF)	0.01%	--
Ruhunu Janatha Party (RJP)	0.01%	--
Sri Lanka National Front (SLNF)	0.01%	--
The Liberal Party (LP)	0.00%	--
Sri Lanka Muslim Katchi (SLMK)	0.00%	--
Socialist Equality Party (SEP)	0.00%	--
Democratic United National Front (DUNF)	0.00%	--

### 14th Sri Lankan parliamentary election

All 225 seats to the Parliament of Sri Lanka

8 April 2010



<b>Leader</b>	Mahinda Rajapaksa	Ranil Wickremasinghe
<b>Party</b>	United People's Freedom Alliance	United National Front
<b>Leader's seat</b>	n/a	Colombo District
<b>Last election</b>	105 seats,	82 seats,

45.60%

37.83%



<b>Leader</b>	Sarath Fonseka	Rajavarthiam Sampanthan
<b>Party</b>	Democratic National Alliance	Tamil National Alliance
<b>Leader's seat</b>	Colombo District	Trincomalee District
<b>Last election</b>	-	22 seats, 6.84%

Winners of polling divisions. UPFA in blue, UNF in green and TNA in yellow.

<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Prime</b>	<b>Minister</b>
Ratnasiri		Wickremanayake
United People's Freedom Alliance		

<b>Prime</b>	<b>Minister-designate</b>
TBD	

The **2010 Sri Lankan parliamentary election** was held on April 8, 2010, to elect 225 members to Sri Lanka's 14th Parliament. 14,088,500 Sri Lankans were eligible to vote in the election at 11,102 polling stations. It was the first general election held in Sri Lanka following the conclusion of the 30 year long civil war.

The main parties contesting in the election were the party of Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapakse, the ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), the main opposition United National Party (UNP) and the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) of Sarath Fonseka. President Rajapakse was previously reelected as President in January 2010.

As expected, the UPFA secured a landslide victory in the elections, buoyed by its achievement of ending the 30 year Sri Lankan Civil War by annihilating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in May 2009. With 163 seats declared out of 225, the UPFA has won a majority with 117 seats, and is projected to win 144 seats. The UNP is projected to win 60, the DNA 6 and the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi 15. This is however short of the two-thirds supermajority needed by the UPFA to change the constitution on its own.

### ***Background***

The last parliamentary election was held on 2 April 2004. The newly formed United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) became the largest group in Parliament by winning 105 of the 225 seats, allowing it to form a minority government with the support of the sole Eelam People's Democratic Party MP. On 6 April 2004 President Kumaratunga appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa, the leader of the UPFA, as the new Prime Minister. The rest of the government were sworn in on 10 April 2004. The new parliament was sworn in on 22 April 2004.

Since then a number of defections and counter-defections from the opposition have increased the number of government MPs to 129, most of whom have been rewarded with ministerial posts:

- 9 August 2004: Three Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) MPs join UPFA.
- 3 September 2004: Ceylon Workers' Congress (8 MPs) joins UPFA, giving it a majority in parliament.
- 16 June 2005: Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) (39 MPs) quits UPFA.
- 25 January 2006: Four United National Party MPs join UPFA.
- 28 January 2007: 18 UNP MPs and 6 SLMC MPs join UPFA.

- 30 January 2007: Jathika Hela Urumaya (8 MPs) joins UPFA.
- 12 December 2007: Four SLMC MPs quit the UPFA.
- 28 December 2008: 12 MPs, who had left the JVP in May 2008 to form the National Freedom Front, join the UPFA.

Mahinda Rajapakse went on to defeat the leader of the United National Party and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe in the 2005 Presidential election. He was succeeded as Prime Minister by Ratnasiri Wickremanayake.

### *Details*

The 13th Parliament (also known as the 6th Parliament) was dissolved by President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 9 February 2010. Nominations took place between 19 February and 26 February, with the election due to be held on 8 April 2010. 14,088,500 Sri Lankans are eligible to vote in the election, for which 11,102 polling stations have been setup. 415,432 people are eligible to cast their vote via postal voting. Final votes will be counted at 1,387 counting centers around the country.

There have been four changes to number of seats allocated to each electoral district. Anuradhapura and Gampaha gain one seat each while Colombo and Kurunegala lose a seat each. The seats allocated to each district is as follows.

### *Contesting parties*

All the constituent parties of the ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) are contesting under its banner. The parliamentary opposition parties (United National Front (UNF), Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and Tamil National Alliance (TNA)), who had come together to support common opposition candidate Sarath Fonseka at the presidential election, are contesting separately. The JVP has formed a new alliance called the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) to contest the election. Fonseka is the DNA's chief candidate in Colombo district.

The UPFA, UNF and DNA are contesting in all 22 electoral districts while the TNA is contesting in the north and east. The UNF is contesting under the name and symbol of the United National Party, as it has done in the previous two parliamentary elections. The TNA is contesting under the name and symbol of the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi, as it did in the last parliamentary election.

A record 7,680 candidates will be contesting for the 196 district seats.

### *Controversy*

Western governments and rights groups added to the chorus of criticism from the opposition accusing the government of violating human rights, intimidation and of not prosecuting attacks on journalists and political opposition. In turn the government responded by saying that the accusations are incorrect and the opposition is simply trying to curry favour with Western powers.

On the day of the election, there were a number of election violations reported around the country. The violations in the Nawalapitiya electorate of the Kandy District were serious enough for the Elections Commissioner to nullify the voting in some areas of the electorate and order a re-poll. Results from the Trincomalee District have also been suspended as some ballot papers had been stolen. The repolling will occur on 20 April.

### *Results*

#### **District by district**

**District by district results of the Sri Lankan parliamentary election, 2010**

District	Province	UPFA			UNP			DNA			ITAK	
		Votes	Seats	+/-	Votes	Seats	+/-	Votes	Seats	+/-	Votes	Seats
Colombo	Western	480,896	10	+2	339,750	7	-2	110,683	2	+2	DNC	
Gampaha		589,476	12	+3	266,523	5	-1	69,747	1	+1	DNC	
Kalutara		313,836	7	+1	139,596	2	-1	36,722	1	+1	DNC	
Mahanuwara	Central										DNC	
Matale		131,069	4	+1	55,737	1	-1	7,636	0	-	DNC	
Nuwara Eliya		149,111	5	+1	96,885	2	-	3,984	0	-	DNC	
Galle	Southern	305,307	7	+1	120,101	2	-2	33,663	1	+1	DNC	
Matara		213,937	6	+1	91,114	2	-1	20,465	0	-	DNC	
Hambant		174,808	5	-	83,027	2	-	19,186	0	-	DNC	



ota												
Jaffna	Northern	47,622	3	+3	12,624	1	+1	201	0	-	<b>65,119</b>	<b>5</b>
Vanni		37,522	2	+1	12,783	1	-	301	0	-	<b>41,673</b>	<b>3</b>
Batticaloa	Eastern	62,009	1	+1	22,935	1	+1	324	0	-	<b>66,235</b>	<b>3</b>
Digamadulla		<b>132,096</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+1</b>	90,757	2	+1	2,917	0	-	26,895	1
Trincomalee												
Kurunegala	North Western	<b>429,316</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>+1</b>	213,713	5	-2	26,440	0	-	DNC	
Puttalam		<b>167,769</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>+1</b>	81,152	2	-1	8,792	0	-	DNC	
Anuradhapura	North Central	<b>221,204</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>+2</b>	80,360	2	-1	18,129	0	-	DNC	
Polonnaruwa		<b>118,694</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+1</b>	45,732	1	-1	6,457	0	-	DNC	

Badulla		<b>203,689</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>+3</b>	112,886	2	-3	15,768	0	-	DNC
Monaragala	Uva	<b>120,634</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+1</b>	28,892	1	-1	9,018	0	-	DNC
Ratnapur a	Sabaraga muwa	<b>305,327</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>+1</b>	125,076	3	-1	11,053	0	-	DNC
Kegalle		<b>242,463</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>+2</b>	104,925	2	-2	13,518	0	-	DNC
National List											
<b>Total</b>											

Source: Sri Lanka Department of Elections

## Overall

**Summary of the 2010 Sri Lankan parliamentary election  
(Provisional)**

Alliances and parties	Votes <sup>5</sup>	% <sup>5</sup>	Seats		
			District <sup>6</sup>	National	Total
United People's Freedom Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ceylon Muslim Congress</li> <li>• Ceylon Workers' Congress</li> <li>• Communist Party of Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Eelam People's Democratic Party<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Jathika Hela Urumaya</li> <li>• Lanka Sama Samaja Party</li> <li>• Mahajana Eksath Peramuna</li> <li>• National Congress</li> <li>• National Freedom Front</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Freedom Party</li> </ul>	4,797,274	60.43%	117		
United National Front <sup>2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic People's Front</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Muslim Congress</li> <li>• United National Party</li> </ul>	2,336,691	29.43%	46		
Democratic National Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna</li> </ul>	439,601	5.54%	5		

Tamil National Alliance <sup>3</sup>	212,612	2.68%	12		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front</li> <li>• Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi</li> <li>• Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization</li> </ul>					
Independent lists	38,668	0.49%	0		
Up-Country People's Front	24,670	0.31%	0		
Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal	19,178	0.24%	0		
Sinhalaye Mahasammatha Bhoomiputra Pakshaya	12,160	0.15%	0		
Tamil United Liberation Front	9,223	0.12%	0		
Tamil National People's Front <sup>4</sup>	6,588	0.08%	0		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ceylon Tamil Congress</li> </ul>					
Democratic People's Liberation Front	6,036	0.08%			
Sri Lanka National Front	5,305	0.07%	0		
Others	31,181	0.39%	0		
<b>Valid Votes</b>	<b>7,989,187</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>180</b>		
Rejected Votes	589,227				
Total Polled	8,528,414				

Registered Electors	13,916,679	
Turnout	61.28%	
<p>Source: Department of Elections, Sri Lanka</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The EPDP contested separately in Vanni and with the United People's Freedom Alliance in all other districts.</li> <li>2. The UNF contested under the name and symbol of United National Party.</li> <li>3. The TNA contested under the name and symbol of Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi.</li> <li>4. The TNPF contested under the name and symbol of All Ceylon Tamil Congress.</li> <li>5. Excludes Nawalapitiya and Trincomalee polling divisions.</li> <li>6. Excludes Kandy and Trincomalee.</li> </ol>		