

Sri Lanka: New Trends in Tamil Politics

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A Gazette revealing 196 new members of the Parliament who have been elected at the Parliamentary Election held on August 5 is out. We have to wait to know the names of the rest of the parliamentarians until respective parties announce their national list members.

Election results show a new trend in Tamil politics in Sri Lanka. The so-called Sri Lankan Tamil parties contested only in two provinces, Northern and Eastern that they claimed as their 'traditional homeland'. What do the Election results signify? How should we read them?

Results of the Northern and Eastern Provinces

Although Sri Lanka is divided into 25 administrative districts, when it comes to the Elections it has only 22 electoral districts. Just have a look at the relevant 4 districts, Jaffna, the Vanni, Trincomalee and Batticaloa.

Jaffna District	
Ilankai Tamil ArasuKatchchi	31.46%
All Ceylon Tamil Congress	15.40%
Sri Lanka Freedom Party	13.75%
Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party	12.75%
Tamil Maikhal Thesiya Koolani	10.00%
Vanni District	
Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchchi	33.64%
Sri Lanka Podu Jana Peramuna	20.46%
Samagi Jana Peramuna	18.23%
Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party	06.44%
Tamil Maikhal Thesiya Koolani	04.23%
Trincomalee District	
Samagi Jana Peramuna	40.56%
Sri Lanka Podu Jana Peramuna	32.36%
Ilankai Tamil ArasuKatchchi	18.58%
Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party	01.77%
Batticaloa District	
Ilankai Tamil ArasuKatchchi	26.66%
Tamil Maikhal Thesiya Koolani	22.71%
Sri Lanka Muslim Congress	11.55%
Sri Lanka Podu Jana Peramuna	11.22%