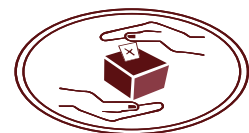


PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2024

PAFFREL OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT REPORT



PAFFREL

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS (PAFFREL)



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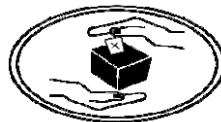
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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2024

PAFFREL OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT REPORT



PAFFREL

People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)

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Key Recommendations for Holistic Electoral Reforms¹

Category	Permanent mechanism for Electoral reform
Observation / Context	Electoral reform should not depend on ad hoc responses after each election. A permanent body would help ensure that lessons are carried forward systematically.
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	High
Recommendations to ECSL	Support the creation of a standing reform oversight mechanism that reviews gaps after each election cycle.
Recommendations to Political Parties	Participate constructively in reform discussions and avoid politicizing the process.
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Provide evidence-based input to reform reviews and advocate for holistic electoral reforms.
Recommendations to the Public	Engage in public consultations on electoral reform.
Recommendations to constitutional/electoral reforms	Establish a permanent reform oversight mechanism by law or constitutional amendment.

Category	Digital resilience
Observation / Context	Election systems need stronger digital safeguards to reduce risk, improve speed, and strengthen confidence in information transmission and processing.
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	High
Recommendations to ECSL	Pilot secure digital methods for information transmission and verification. Strengthen the Human Resources to process digitalization, social media monitoring, and campaign finance monitoring
Recommendations to Political Parties	Accept modern verification tools if they are transparent and independently tested.
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Review digital safeguards and report weaknesses. Support transparent technology that improves public confidence.

¹ Chapter 10 – Detailed Recommendations

Category	Accountability mechanisms
Observation / Context	Independent audits can show what worked well and what failed after each election. They also help convert observation findings into measurable reform.
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	High
Recommendations to ECSL	Publish post-election audits within a fixed time after every major election.
Recommendations to Political Parties	Cooperate with audits and disclose compliance information when required.
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Participate in or support independent audit processes.
Recommendations to the Public	Follow and question audit findings so reforms remain publicly accountable.

Category	Continuous civic participation
Observation / Context	Voter confidence grows when participation is understood as a continuous civic relationship, not only voting on the election day. Sustained engagement can improve trust over time.
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	Moderate
Recommendations to ECSL	Maintain year-round civic outreach and public participation tools.
Recommendations to Political Parties	Respect civic feedback between elections, not only during campaigns.
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Use non-election periods for democratic education and consultation.
Recommendations to the Public	Stay engaged with civic processes beyond voting day.

Category	Crisis readiness
Observation / Context	Elections need contingency planning for crises such as severe weather, political instability, or other disruptions. Preparedness reduces uncertainty and protects continuity.
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	High
Recommendations to ECSL	Prepare tested contingency plans for emergencies that may affect the election timetable or logistics.
Recommendations to Political Parties	Agree in advance to emergency conduct rules.
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Test contingency scenarios and prepare for risks.
Category	International benchmark alignment
Observation / Context	National electoral standards are stronger when they align with recognized international principles on fairness, transparency, and inclusion in elections.
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	Moderate
Recommendations to ECSL	Continue aligning election practice with international democratic standards.
Recommendations to Political Parties	Commit to high democratic standards in party manifestos and campaign conduct.
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Compare domestic practice with international benchmarks and publish findings clearly.

Abbreviations

ECSL - Election Commission of Sri Lanka is the independent constitutional body responsible for overseeing elections and referenda in Sri Lanka.

EMO - Election Monitoring Organization is an entity that observes and assesses the electoral process to ensure it is conducted fairly, transparently, and in accordance with national and international standards.

LTOs (Long-Term Observers): LTOs are individuals deployed well in advance of election day to monitor the electoral environment, including voter registration, campaign activities, and preparations by the ECSL. Their observations provide a comprehensive understanding of the electoral process across its various stages.

STOs (Stationary Observers): These observers are deployed specifically on election day to monitor inside polling stations, voter turnout, ballot handling, and overall compliance with electoral laws.

MTOs (Mobile Team Observers): Mobile Observers operate across multiple polling stations, focusing on dynamic monitoring of external environments and addressing irregularities such as voter intimidation, unauthorized campaigning, or procedural violations.

PVOs (Postal Voting Observers): Postal Voting Observers observe postal voting across multiple polling days. Postal voting is the only advance voting mechanism currently existing in Sri Lanka, which is reserved for government officials who will be on election duty.

EDR - (Election Dispute Resolution Unit): The ECSL formed All Party Operation Units in 2001 with an initiative of PAFFREL with the objective of resolving and mitigating election disputes with the involvement of all the election related stakeholders such as the ECSL, political parties, and election monitoring bodies. The All-party operations Unit in Sri Lanka has been converted into Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) units under the ECSL. Later, this was expanded to district level and converted into Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) centers.

Kobo Collect: Kobo Collect is a digital application used by observers for real-time data collection. It streamlines the reporting process by enabling structured submissions of incidents, compliance metrics, and observations directly from the field.

Campaign finance LTOs - Campaign Finance LTOs monitor election spending, funding sources, and compliance with campaign finance laws over an extended period.

Counting Observers - Counting Observers are individuals authorized to monitor the ballot counting process to ensure transparency, accuracy, and compliance with electoral laws.

Foreword

The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) is proud to present this comprehensive final report on the 2024 Presidential Election in Sri Lanka. As the nation's foremost election observation organization, PAFFREL has consistently championed democratic values, emphasizing the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in electoral processes. This report encapsulates the collective efforts of our organization and stakeholders, offering a detailed account of observations, findings, and recommendations derived from the election process.

The 2024 Presidential Election was a defining moment for Sri Lanka, marked by unprecedented levels of political engagement and a heightened awareness of electoral integrity. This report reflects our commitment to safeguarding democracy by meticulously documenting the electoral process, addressing systemic challenges, and advocating for reforms to strengthen democratic institutions. The insights contained within this report aim to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing dialogue on enhancing the credibility and inclusivity of elections in Sri Lanka.

PAFFREL's efforts were underpinned by the participation of thousands of dedicated observers who dedicated their time and expertise to monitor the election across the country. These individuals, drawn from diverse backgrounds and communities, exemplify the spirit of civic responsibility. Their invaluable contributions ensured a comprehensive and accurate assessment of the electoral process, highlighting both its successes and areas for improvement.

This mission was further enriched by the unwavering support of our partner organizations, civil society allies, and donors. Their collaboration and resources enabled PAFFREL to deploy advanced observation methodologies, integrate digital tools like Kobo Collect for real-time reporting, and enhance the inclusivity of our observation network. Together, these efforts not only strengthened the credibility of our findings but also underscored the importance of collective action in fostering electoral integrity.

The 2024 Presidential Election presented both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, it showcased the resilience of Sri Lanka's democratic framework, with a peaceful transfer of power and significant voter turnout. On the other hand, it revealed persistent issues, including the misuse of state resources, media bias, and barriers to accessibility for marginalized groups. These challenges underline the need for continued advocacy, policy reforms, and robust stakeholder engagement to address systemic vulnerabilities.

As we reflect on the achievements of this mission, we are reminded of the critical role that election observation plays in strengthening democracy. By identifying gaps and recommending actionable solutions, PAFFREL strives to ensure that future elections are more transparent, inclusive, and reflective of the people's will. Our commitment to this cause remains steadfast, as we work alongside stakeholders to build a more equitable electoral system.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this observation mission. To our observers, whose dedication and integrity were the cornerstone of this effort; to our partners and donors, whose support and trust enabled us to achieve our objectives; and to the people of Sri Lanka, whose participation in the democratic process inspires our work. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the principles of democracy and advancing electoral integrity in Sri Lanka.

This report is not merely a documentation of the 2024 Presidential Election; it is a call to action. It urges all stakeholders—from policymakers and election administrators to civil society and citizens—to recognize their roles in strengthening democracy. As we move forward, PAFFREL remains committed to fostering an electoral environment that is transparent, inclusive, and accountable, ensuring that the democratic aspirations of the Sri Lankan people are realized in full.

Rohana Hettiarachchie
Executive Director
PAFFREL

1. Introduction

The 2024 Presidential Election stands as a defining chapter in Sri Lanka's democratic history, marked by both opportunities and challenges that reflect the dynamic political and social landscape of the country. This report aims to provide a comprehensive account of the election process, capturing the successes achieved, the obstacles encountered, and the lessons learned to inform future reforms and policy development.

1.1 Objectives of the Report

The primary objective of this report is to deliver a detailed analysis of the 2024 Presidential Election, shedding light on critical aspects of the electoral process, from pre-election activities to post-election outcomes. Through a meticulous documentation of events and observations, the report seeks to:

- Highlight key successes that strengthened the electoral framework.
- Identify challenges and systemic vulnerabilities that require attention.
- Propose actionable recommendations for stakeholders to foster a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable electoral process.
- By serving as a knowledge resource, the report aims to support policymakers, election administrators, civil society organizations, and international partners in their collective efforts to enhance Sri Lanka's democratic institutions.

1.2 Structure of the Report

This report is structured to provide a thorough examination of the 2024 Presidential Election, organized into the following sections:

1. **Methodology:** An overview of the observation framework, training and deployment strategies, and data collection methods employed by PAFFREL.
2. **Election Observations:** A detailed account of pre-election, election day, and post-election activities, including violence and violations of law, campaign conduct, campaign finance, mass media and social media conduct and procedural compliance.
3. **Data Analysis:** An examination of qualitative and quantitative data, highlighting trends, incidents, and systemic issues observed during the electoral process.
4. **Media Monitoring:** An analysis of the role of traditional and social media, with a focus on bias, disinformation, and its impact on voter perceptions.
5. **Election Administration:** A review of the ECSL's preparedness, logistical arrangements, and adherence to legal and procedural frameworks.
6. **Recommendations:** Strategic suggestions aimed at addressing identified challenges and enhancing the credibility and inclusivity of future elections.
7. **Appendices:** Supplementary materials, including statistical breakdowns, maps, media statements, and a summary of electoral laws.

1.3 PAFFREL Profile

Established in 1987, the People’s Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) has been a pioneering force in promoting electoral integrity in Sri Lanka. Over the decades, PAFFREL has emerged as a beacon of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability, embodying the principles essential for strengthening democratic systems. The organization’s primary mission is to safeguard voters’ rights, advocate for meaningful electoral reforms, and foster public trust in democratic institutions.

PAFFREL has earned its reputation as Sri Lanka’s foremost election observation organization by conducting systematic and impartial monitoring of presidential, parliamentary, and local government elections. These efforts have played a crucial role in identifying challenges within electoral processes and offering actionable recommendations to address them. The organization’s work extends beyond mere observation; it serves as an active catalyst for change by promoting legal, procedural, and institutional reforms aimed at enhancing the integrity of the electoral system.

At the heart of PAFFREL’s success lies its ability to build and sustain strategic partnerships with civil society organizations, community leaders, and international bodies. These collaborations have enabled the organization to leverage expertise, resources, and networks to strengthen its observation methodologies and advocacy initiatives. PAFFREL’s inclusive approach ensures representation from diverse communities, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, in its electoral activities, thereby fostering a more equitable and participatory democratic process.

Over the years, PAFFREL has embraced innovation and adaptability, integrating advanced digital tools such as the Kobo Collect application to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of its observation efforts. This commitment to technological integration reflects the organization’s forward-thinking approach to addressing evolving challenges in election monitoring.

In addition to its core activities, PAFFREL has been instrumental in raising public awareness about the importance of free and fair elections. Through targeted voter education programs, advocacy campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives, the organization has empowered citizens to actively participate in the democratic process and hold institutions accountable.

As Sri Lanka continues to navigate the complexities of its political landscape, PAFFREL remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the principles of democracy. By consistently advocating for transparency, inclusivity, and accountability, PAFFREL not only safeguards the sanctity of elections but also contributes to the broader goal of building a resilient and vibrant democracy in Sri Lanka. The organization’s legacy of excellence and dedication serves as an enduring foundation for its future endeavors, inspiring confidence among stakeholders and citizens alike.

1.4 Presidential Election Fact Sheet

Declaration of Election Date	26/07/2024
Nomination Deadline	15/08/2024 12.00 noon
Total Number of Candidates	38
Pre-Election Period	26/07/2024 – 18/09/2024 (Mid Night)
Cooling Period	18/09/2024 (Mid Night) – 21/09/2024 (6.59 a.m)
Election Date	21/09/2024 (07.00a.m – 04.00 p.m)
Post-Election Period	21/09/2024 (04.01p.m) – 29/09/2024
Dates of Postal Voting	04th, 05th, 06th, 11th, and 12th September 2024
Number of of Polling Centers	13,421
Total Number of registered Electors	17,140,354
Number of votes Polled	13,619,916
Total Number of valid votes	13,319,616
Number of Rejected votes	300,300

1.5 Political and Electoral Context

The 2024 Presidential Election unfolded in a politically charged environment, shaped by an array of socio-economic challenges that influenced voter behavior and political dynamics. An ongoing economic crisis heightened public discontent, intensifying political polarization across the electorate. In addition, there were multiple attempts by the incumbent government to postpone the elections, creating uncertainty about the timeline and raising concerns over governance and institutional integrity. This backdrop created a highly competitive and often contentious electoral atmosphere.

Despite these complexities, the election adhered to constitutional mandates, reflecting the resilience of Sri Lanka's democratic institutions. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) demonstrated commendable commitment to upholding electoral integrity, ensuring that the process was conducted within established legal frameworks. However, significant gaps in key areas, including campaign finance regulation and media neutrality highlighted the need for targeted reforms to address these systemic deficiencies.

The political landscape was further characterized by the highest number of candidates in the country's history, showcasing the breadth of political representation and diversity of viewpoints. While this plurality underscored the vibrancy of Sri Lanka's democracy, it also posed logistical and administrative challenges for election management bodies and placed a strain on the country's financial resources.

People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) observes that in the next presidential election, candidates motivated purely by personal or political gain should be discouraged, and a legislative framework must be introduced to address this issue. The lack of such measures, will likely result in the number of candidates continuing to rise in future elections, placing unnecessary strain on the EC's resources and creating significant practical challenges.

1.6 Main Narratives in the Presidential Election

The 2024 Presidential Election in Sri Lanka was characterized by several prominent narratives that shaped the electoral discourse:

Economic Reform and the IMF : In the aftermath of Sri Lanka's severe economic crisis, discussions surrounding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were central to the campaign. The incumbent administration, led by President Ranil Wickremesinghe, had secured a \$3 billion IMF program aimed at stabilizing the economy. While these measures brought a degree of economic stability, they also introduced austerity policies that were unpopular among the citizens. The IMF's involvement became a focal point of debate, with candidates addressing the implications of the bailout and proposing strategies for economic recovery.

Anti-Corruption Initiatives : Anti-corruption emerged as a significant theme, resonating with a populace disillusioned by longstanding political malfeasance. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, representing the NPP alliance, campaigned vigorously on a platform of transparency and accountability. His commitment to rooting out entrenched corruption and revitalizing the economy through reforms in manufacturing, agriculture, and IT sectors garnered substantial support.

Shift from Nationalistic Rhetoric : 2024 presidential election saw a departure from the traditionally dominant nationalistic rhetoric. While previous campaigns often emphasized ethnic and religious identities, the leading narratives in this election centered on economic recovery and governance reforms. This shift indicated a maturing political landscape where voters prioritized policy-driven discussions over identity politics.

Introduction of Campaign Finance Regulations : For the first time, Sri Lanka implemented campaign finance regulations during the 2024 election. However, awareness and understanding of these new mechanisms were limited among candidates and the electorate. The lack of comprehensive interpretation and enforcement highlighted the need for further education and refinement of the campaign finance framework to ensure transparency and fairness in future elections.

Unique Electoral Dynamics: The 2024 election was unique in several respects. It was the first presidential election since the 2022 people's uprising, known as the Aragalaya, which sought to transform the existing political culture. The election also marked the first time in Sri Lanka's history that a second round of counting was necessary, as no candidate secured the required 50%+1 mandate in the initial tally. This unprecedented scenario underscored the evolving nature of the country's democratic processes.

In summary, the 2024 Presidential Election in Sri Lanka was defined by a focus on economic reform, anti-corruption efforts, a move away from nationalistic rhetoric, the introduction of campaign finance regulations, and unique electoral dynamics. These narratives collectively reflected a society in transition, seeking effective governance and sustainable solutions to pressing economic challenges.

2. Methodology, Deployment Plan, and Framework of the Election Observation

PAFFREL's methodology for the 2024 Presidential Election was meticulously developed to reflect international best practices in election observation. Grounded in the principles of impartiality, inclusivity, and transparency, the observation mission aimed to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the electoral process. Spanning the pre-election, election day, and post-election phases, the methodology employed advanced tools and techniques for data collection and analysis, ensuring accurate and actionable insights.

2.1 Observer Deployment Overview

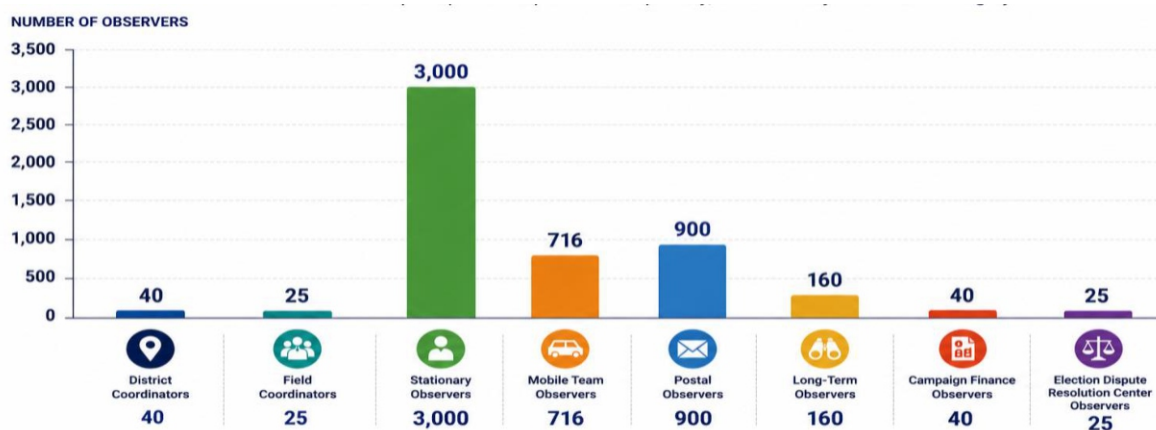
Observers were deployed strategically to ensure comprehensive geographic and demographic coverage. The deployment plan prioritized politically sensitive and remote areas, ensuring that all regions of Sri Lanka were represented in the observation mission. Each observer was assigned specific responsibilities based on their expertise and the unique requirements of their deployment area.

2.2 Observation Framework

PAFFREL designed its observation framework to ensure holistic coverage of the election's critical phases.

Observer Type	Scope of Observation	Deployment Time Duration	Geographical Area	Reporting Schedule	Reporting Mode
Long term Observer (LTO)	Pre-election monitoring, campaign activities, election law violations	Entire pre-election period	All polling divisions nationwide	Weekly	Written/Online reports
Stationary Observer (STO)	Election-day activities, polling stations	Election day	Assigned polling stations nationwide	Immediate/Real-time	Verbal/Written reports/Online reports
Mobile Team Observer (MTO)	Mobile monitoring, rapid incident response	Election day	Vulnerable and multiple polling locations nationwide	Frequent updates throughout deployment	Verbal/Written, Online reports

Postal Observer (PVO)	Monitoring postal voting processes	Designated postal voting days	Postal voting centers nationwide	Daily during postal voting	Verbal/Written reports/ Online reports
Counting Center Observer (CCO)	Observing counting procedures	Counting day and second count period	Designated counting centers nationwide	Immediate/Real-time	Verbal/Written reports/ Online reports
Election Dispute Resolution Center Observers (EDRO)	Observing and reporting EDR center proceedings	Throughout the election period	25 District EDR centers	Daily reporting	Verbal/ Online reports



2.3 PAFFREL's Complaint Mitigation Unit

The Complaint Mitigation Unit functioned as PAFFREL's core mechanism for addressing election-related grievances throughout the electoral cycle. Complaints were received via field monitors, the public hotline, online submissions, and media reports, and were systematically logged with detailed information. Each complaint underwent initial screening to verify accuracy, eliminate duplication, and assess credibility, often involving real-time verification by regional monitors using direct observation and supporting evidence. Verified incidents were categorized based on severity and type—such as voter intimidation, election violence, or violations of campaign regulations. Cases requiring institutional intervention were promptly escalated to the ECSL Election Commission of Sri Lanka through PAFFREL's Legal Office, with urgent matters prioritized and submitted within 24 hours along with complete evidence. Follow-up mechanisms ensured that responses from relevant authorities were tracked and documented. These efforts, coupled with regular public reporting, contributed to transparency, accountability, and the integrity of the electoral process.

2.4 Observer Recruitment and Training

To ensure robust and credible election observation, PAFFREL recruited and trained over 4700 observers, encompassing Long-Term Observers (LTOs), Short-Term Observers (STOs), and Mobile Team Observers (MTOs). Recruitment efforts emphasized inclusivity, with targeted outreach to women, youth, and individuals from underrepresented communities to ensure diverse representation.

Training modules were designed to equip observers with a thorough understanding of electoral laws, observation methodologies, and reporting protocols. Observers received hands-on training in using the Kobo Collect application for real-time data submission, enabling efficient and standardized reporting. The training also included simulations and case studies to prepare observers for potential challenges in the field. PAFFREL provided observers with detailed manuals, checklists, and other resources to support their work.

2.5 Deployment and Data Collection

Real-time data collection was a cornerstone of PAFFREL's methodology. Observers utilized the Kobo Collect application to submit structured reports on incidents, compliance metrics, and procedural adherence. For areas with limited connectivity, alternative reporting methods such as WhatsApp and phone calls were established to ensure uninterrupted data flow. This multi-channel approach enabled the timely identification and escalation of issues to relevant authorities.

Observers' reports included detailed accounts of voter behavior, polling station operations, and incidents of electoral violations. These reports formed the basis for PAFFREL's interim and final assessments, providing stakeholders with reliable and actionable insights.

2.6 Data Analysis and Reporting

PAFFREL adopted an integrated approach to data analysis, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a nuanced understanding of the electoral process. Quantitative data, such as voter turnout statistics and compliance metrics, were analyzed using statistical tools to identify trends and patterns. Qualitative data, including observer narratives and stakeholder feedback, were categorized thematically to capture the broader context of the election.

Incident reports underwent a rigorous multi-tiered verification process. Observers' submissions were first reviewed by district coordinators for accuracy and completeness. Verified reports were then escalated to PAFFREL's national headquarters, where a dedicated team cross-checked the data against external sources such as media reports and stakeholder input. This rigorous process ensured the credibility of PAFFREL's findings and strengthened the validity of its recommendations.

The analyzed data were synthesized into interim and final reports, providing stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of the electoral process. These reports included detailed findings, statistical breakdowns, and targeted recommendations to address systemic challenges and improve future elections.

2.7 Media Monitoring

Mass media (including daily newspapers and television broadcasts) and social media platforms served as critical secondary sources for monitoring the electoral environment. Through the **Hashtag Generation** partnership, social media content was systematically tracked for misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, and politically sensitive satire. Verified cases, particularly those impacting electoral integrity, were referred through PAFFREL's Legal Office to the ECSL for formal review and intervention

2.7.1 Social Media Campaigns on Voting Procedures

Targeted campaigns were launched on social media to educate the public about voting procedures. These included:

- Step-by-step voting guides
- Explainer videos
- Infographics on vote validity and common mistakes. This digital-first approach was particularly effective among youth and first-time voters.

2.8 Limitations and Mitigations

While PAFFREL's observation mission achieved significant success, it was not without challenges. Key limitations and corresponding mitigation strategies included:

2.8.1 Logistical Constraints

The recruitment and deployment of observers across geographically diverse regions posed significant logistical challenges. PAFFREL addressed these issues by leveraging its extensive network of civil society partners to facilitate observer recruitment and support field operations. However, resource limitations further complicated the identification and placement of Postal Voting Observers (PVOs) and Short-Term Observers (STOs). Additionally, with only 200 Mobile Team Observers (MTOs) available, coverage became insufficient in some areas; observers couldn't reach certain polling stations on election day due to long distances and accessibility difficulties. Communication gaps also emerged between PAFFREL's headquarters and district organizations, occasionally hindering efficient coordination. Moreover, observers faced additional logistical pressures related to the second count, as they needed to remain or return to counting centers, placing further strain on limited resources.

2.8.2 Technological Barriers

Some observers were not technologically savvy, which made it difficult for them to effectively use digital tools during election day. In addition, several faced network issues that disrupted real-time communication and data reporting. There was also a lack of sufficient social media expertise among observers, limiting their capacity to monitor and respond to online content, including misinformation and disinformation.

2.8.3 Resource Limitations

Limited financial and human resources placed significant pressure on district-level teams, affecting their ability to efficiently manage observer-related activities. PAFFREL had to reprioritize resource

allocation to focus on high-need areas and leveraged voluntary support from partner organizations to bridge critical gaps. Additionally, funds were received at the last minute, creating logistical strain, while the stipend provided to observers remained low due to the high costs associated with training and the overall observation process.

2.8.4 External Challenges

Delays in response from the ECSL and law enforcement to verified complaints hindered timely resolution of certain electoral violations. In some cases, accreditation papers were sent by the EC at the last moment, creating operational setbacks. Additionally, the accreditation process varied across districts, leading to inconsistencies in observer access—some Election Day Reporting (EDR) units even denied entry to accredited personnel. While PAFFREL intensified follow-ups with relevant stakeholders and used media reports to draw attention to unresolved issues, the ECSL’s internal procedure requiring two-person verification before escalating cases to platforms like Meta, slowed down digital complaint resolution. Furthermore, the capacity of network partners varied, with some having limited reach beyond urban areas, which also affected the scope and speed of response.

Through these targeted interventions, PAFFREL successfully mitigated challenges and ensured the effectiveness of its observation mission. The insights gained from this process will inform future efforts to strengthen election monitoring and promote democratic governance in Sri Lanka.

3. Pre-Election Period

3.1 Introduction

The pre-election phase of the 2024 Presidential Election in Sri Lanka unfolded amidst heightened political activity, rigorous administrative efforts, and intense public engagement. This period was marked by a blend of advancements and persisting challenges, shaping the groundwork for the electoral process.

PAFFREL, together with district-level CSOs and CBOs, carried out pre-election monitoring across the country. To ensure full coverage of every polling division, 160 trained Long-Term Observers (LTOs) were deployed. Their role was to monitor and report on malpractice, including misuse of resources, violations of election laws, election preparations by the campaign activities of candidates, and any derogatory speech or propaganda targeting minority or marginalized groups.

3.2. Political Context and Administrative Preparedness

The pre-election period was marked by heightened political activity and scrutiny. Campaigns were intense, with candidates and political parties leveraging traditional and digital media to reach voters. However, concerns emerged regarding the misuse of state resources, including government vehicles, facilities, and personnel, which undermined electoral fairness.

Regarding candidate registration, the ECSL announced that candidates could deposit their election bonds starting from 8:30 am on **July 26, 2024**, until 12 noon on **August 14, 2024**, the day before nominations were accepted. The deposit amounts were set at **Rs. 50,000** for party candidates and **Rs. 75,000** for independent candidates. A total of 40 candidates placed deposits, marking a record-high number of participants, which, while indicative of a vibrant democracy, also presented logistical challenges for the electoral process.

The **2023 voter registry** listed **17,140,354** eligible voters for the 2024 Presidential Election. The ECSL established **13,134 polling centres** across 22 electoral districts to accommodate voters. Additionally, **712,321 citizens** qualified for advance voting, ensuring broader participation. Media campaigns and community outreach programs further reinforced the importance of inclusivity, underscoring the value of every vote in a democratic society.

These collective efforts by PAFFREL, the ECSL, and other stakeholders highlighted a commitment to fostering an informed and inclusive electorate, addressing challenges, and promoting transparency in Sri Lanka's electoral process.

3.2.1 Executive and Legislative Developments in the Pre-Election Period

During the pre-election period, Sri Lanka experienced a range of legislative activities and administrative decisions that significantly shaped the political climate. Over 150 legislative revisions and amendments were introduced, reflecting efforts to address various national issues. However, concerns were raised by some stakeholders regarding the level of public consultation and accountability mechanisms in the legislative process, particularly in relation to proposed laws such as the Online Safety Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The tenure of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, appointed during a politically transitional period, was subject to discussion regarding the nature of his mandate. Observers noted perceptions of an absence of direct public electoral endorsement, which contributed to heightened political sensitivity during this time.

From an administrative perspective, the delay in appointing a new Inspector General of Police, leaving an acting Inspector General in place, was noted as a point of concern. Additionally, reports emerged suggesting there were efforts to postpone the elections, citing various reasons, including legal, technical, financial, and IMF-related considerations. These developments collectively added layers of complexity to an already dynamic pre-election environment.

3.2.2 PAFFREL's Interventions to hold Presidential Elections

During the pre-election period, PAFFREL actively engaged in efforts to promote electoral integrity and transparency. PAFFREL closely monitored the electoral process, releasing interim observation reports emphasizing the importance of adhering to electoral timelines and ensuring transparency during nominations and campaigning.

In response to challenges regarding the timely conduct of elections, PAFFREL undertook significant legal actions. Notably, PAFFREL intervened as an Interventient Petitioner in two Supreme Court Fundamental Rights applications (SCFR Application No: 177/2024 and No: 191/2024) filed in July 2024. These petitions challenged the validity of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution and sought to delay the 2024 Presidential Election. PAFFREL argued that postponing the election would undermine the democratic process and violate citizens' fundamental voting rights. The Supreme Court dismissed both petitions without hearing, imposing court fees on the petitioners, thereby reinforcing PAFFREL's stance on timely elections.

Furthermore, PAFFREL addressed another critical issue involving the Inspector General of Police (IGP). The Supreme Court declared that the IGP should be suspended from duties pending a case filed against him. PAFFREL expressed concerns about the potential interference with citizens' ability to elect a new president, emphasizing the detrimental effect this uncertainty could have on democracy and electoral integrity. Consequently, PAFFREL urged alternative arrangements to ensure proper police participation in the electoral process.

PAFFREL also took legal action against the misuse of state power and resources under the circular PS/SB/Circular/5/2024 dated 29th April 2024. The Supreme Court issued an interim injunction preventing the implementation of Community Advisory Committees (CACs), established by the Presidential Secretariat for rural development projects, citing concerns about their potential use in electoral campaigns. PAFFREL further highlighted concerns over various government programs perceived as election-targeted initiatives, including appointments and transfers within the state sector, misuse of state properties, and salary increments announced just before postal voting, bringing these issues to the ECSL's attention for intervention.

Additionally, PAFFREL actively addressed resource limitations by reprioritizing resource allocation to high-need areas and incorporating voluntary support from partner organizations. Despite logistical pressures caused by the last-minute receipt of funds and low observer stipends, PAFFREL maintained its commitment to electoral integrity.

3.3 Voter Education

As part of the **March 12 Movement**, all candidates were invited to participate individually on a shared platform for three consecutive days, each given equal time and asked identical questions focusing on their manifestos and policy positions. These sessions were broadcast live via mass media and social media, significantly promoting informed voting and enhancing accountability.

PAFFREL developed a framework to guide the preparation, presentation, and monitoring of election manifestos, with the goal of promoting transparency and accountability in politics. The framework was created with input from academics, civil society and political representatives, and focused on five key themes. It was introduced to political parties to encourage media exposure of candidates' policies, and plans, to monitor and publish analyses of manifestos, and to hold winning parties accountable to their promises.

3.3.1 District level voter education programs

March 12 Movement conducted a series of district-level public platforms in the first quarter of 2024, creating space for citizens and civil society leadership to question and listen to its district representative parliamentarians from different parties, which resulted in civil society access to district development committees in 03 districts, agreements to engage with the civil society regularly on another 02 districts. In another initiative, PAFFREL conducted 28 voter education programs covering 17 Districts, which sensitized 3613 first-time voters who used their franchise for the first time in Presidential Elections 2024, many of whom are teacher trainees who will cascade the knowledge they gained to future generations.

3.3.2 Public Platform Initiatives - presidential debate and M12 public platforms

In the lead-up to the 2024 Presidential Election, the People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), through the **March 12 Movement**, organized a series of public debates to foster dialogue between presidential candidates and the electorate. A notable event took place on September 6, 7 and 8 2024, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo. This debate was broadcast live from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. across major television channels, including 'TV Derana' and 'Ada Derana 24', and streamed on over 200 social media platforms, providing candidates an opportunity to present their policies to the public. However, key candidates such as **Namal Rajapaksa** and **Sajith Premadasa** were notably absent, with only **Dilith Jayaweera** participating. This raised discussions about the commitment of leading candidates to public discourse, as well as the media ownership by contending candidates..

To enhance voter education, PAFFREL launched comprehensive social media campaigns detailing the preferential voting system and the necessary identification documents required at polling stations. These campaigns, presented in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, utilized infographics. PAFFREL's Executive Director, Rohana Hettiarachchi, and National Coordinator featured prominently in television and radio programs, as well as press briefings, to disseminate this information.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE 2024

சனாதிபதி தேர்தல் விவாதம்

•LIVE

September 7th

3PM - 5PM onwards

8th

9th

Moderators

Mr. Saliya Peris
President's Counsel (PC)

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Logos: ITN Sri Lanka, tvG, and other media channels.

3.4 Technical Training for Political Party Poll Agents

Comprehensive training sessions were conducted for polling agents representing political parties. These sessions emphasized electoral laws, polling protocols, and integrity. A detailed technical manual was distributed to ensure consistency and legal compliance at polling stations.

3.5 Press Briefings²

PAFFREL maintained regular media engagement through:

- Daily press releases
- Daily briefings by PAFFREL ED, Mr. Rohana Hettiarachchi.

These engagements ensured transparency, provided updates to the public, and addressed misinformation promptly.

² Annex 01 - Main press releases links

3.6 Campaign Finance Monitoring

During the pre-election period, six leading civil society organizations (CSOs) in Sri Lanka collaborated to launch the "Chanda Salli Meetare" (Campaign Finance Meter), an innovative online platform to monitor and report the campaign expenditures of presidential candidates. The initiative was jointly undertaken by Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE), Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), Hashtag Generation, and the Institute for Democratic Reforms and Electoral Studies (IRES).

The "Chanda Salli Meetare" was designed to support the effective implementation of the **Regulation of Election Expenditure Act of 2023**, a landmark law aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in campaign financing. By systematically gathering and analyzing data on campaign spending, the platform equipped voters with critical information to make informed electoral decisions. The methodology included collecting publicly available financial disclosures, tracking expenditures through media reports, and utilizing field monitors to observe campaign-related activities. This multi-faceted approach provided insights into whether candidates adhered to legal spending limits and equitable campaign practices.

The effort sought to ensure a level playing field for all candidates while fostering a transparent and inclusive electoral process. By equipping stakeholders with reliable data, the "Chanda Salli Meetare" reinforced public trust and accountability, contributing to a democratic environment that upheld the principles of fairness and integrity.

PAFFREL trained 40 observers to track the expenditure of candidates in 40 specific electoral divisions and provide detailed data on several categories such as mainstream media, social media, public campaigns, public events, press conferences and launch ceremonies, and campaign offices.

3.7 Election Commission's Preparations

During the pre-election period, the ECSL implemented measures to strengthen transparency and inclusivity in the electoral process. A key initiative was the establishment of Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) units at the district level, which provided stakeholders with mechanisms to address complaints and resolve disputes effectively. These units commenced operations at the district level from the start of the nomination period, facilitating the resolution of grievances and supporting the orderly conduct of the electoral process.

The ECSL also introduced communication channels, including telephone hotlines, enabling citizens to report election law violations or raise concerns. Updates on complaints received and actions taken were published regularly, providing stakeholders with clear and transparent information regarding the Commission's activities. Additionally, the ECSL updated and released the voter registration list based on the 2023 registry, ensuring accuracy and inclusivity in voter eligibility and participation.

Through these initiatives, the ECSL underscored its commitment to transparency and inclusivity, ensuring an electoral process aligned with established democratic practices.

3.8 Foreign Observer Missions

The ECSL invited observer missions from the European Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat for the 2024 Presidential Election. Several local observer groups were also accredited and deployed across the country.

In addition, the ECSL accredited an International Observer Group (IOG), directly accountable to the Commission. The IOG included representatives from 12 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, and South Korea.

International and citizen observers were present at polling stations across the country. The Group also interacted with local organizations, including PAFFREL, the CMEV, and the EU observers. In some locations, PAFFREL representatives were present throughout the day, while in others, mobile monitoring units travelled between polling stations.

3.9 Nomination Process

The 2024 presidential election in Sri Lanka was conducted in accordance with the Presidential Elections Act No. 15 of 1981. The process commenced with the issuance of a gazette notification by the ECSL on July 26, 2024, formally announcing the election and specifying key dates for nominations and polling.

The nomination period was set for August 15, 2024, during which prospective candidates submitted their nominations to the ECSL at its headquarters in Rajagiriya. The ECSL was responsible for reviewing and validating these nominations to ensure compliance with legal requirements. During the allotted time for objections, three objections were raised but subsequently dismissed.

A total of 40 candidates made deposits by August 14, 2024. 39 candidates submitted their nominations, including 17 candidates proposed by individual voters and 22 from registered political parties. One of the candidates was unable to submit his nomination, and following the unfortunate demise of one candidate (Mr. Mohammed Ilyas), the final count stood at 38. Notably, there were no female candidates among the nominees, highlighting ongoing challenges in achieving gender equity in political participation.

3.10 Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

In collaboration with the ECSL, PAFFREL actively participated in meetings with political party secretaries and contributed to discussions on electoral inclusivity. PAFFREL facilitated roundtable sessions focusing on the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the LGBTQI community in the electoral process. Recommendations submitted to the ECSL included transcribing Sinhala gazettes into English and Tamil and implementing measures to improve polling station accessibility, such as providing stencils and addressing height irregularities at voting booths. The ECSL responded by issuing election identity cards for PwDs and enhancing accessibility at polling stations, reflecting a commitment to inclusive participation.

3.11 Utilization of Media

The 2024 Presidential Election in Sri Lanka highlighted the transformative role of media platforms in shaping political discourse and voter engagement. Traditional media, particularly prime-time television news, concentrated on the campaigns of leading candidates, granting them extensive exposure. Political talk shows and programs further reinforced this focus, often marginalizing candidates representing minority groups. This selective approach influenced public opinion and restricted the visibility of a broader spectrum of political voices, raising concerns about equitable media representation.

Meanwhile, social media became an influential medium for political communication, particularly among younger voters. Platforms such as Facebook and YouTube enabled candidates to engage directly with constituents, bypassing traditional media gatekeepers. These platforms facilitated the rapid dissemination of campaign messages but also presented significant challenges. Weak regulatory oversight allowed for the spread of misinformation and the unmonitored use of private groups for political discussions. Podcasts and live-streamed events emerged as alternative channels for voter engagement, and the lack of content regulation on platforms like YouTube raised concerns about the reliability of information shared.

The prominence of leading candidates across both traditional and digital media underscored the importance of equitable access to media platforms to ensure fair representation for all political actors. The election demonstrated the evolving role of media in Sri Lankan politics and highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive monitoring and regulatory frameworks to uphold the integrity of electoral communication and foster a more inclusive democratic process.

4. Pre- Election Period Observations

4.1 Observations by Long-Term Observers (LTOs) during the pre - election period

A total of 162 LTOs were deployed from the nomination period through the pre-election phase, covering all 25 districts in Sri Lanka. These observers focused on monitoring areas identified as sensitive due to past records of election-related violence, ethnic and religious demographics, and complex socio-political dynamics. Their systematic presence in these regions enabled the collection of detailed and localized data on election-related activities and incidents.

4.2 Election Violence and Violations

LTOs submitted daily reports documenting instances of election-related violence, violations of electoral laws, and irregularities in campaign activities. These reports provided a critical overview of ground-level realities and helped identify trends and hotspots that require intervention.

Violation of election laws were the most common during the pre-election period, with 1,318 reported cases, far exceeding any other category. There were also 213 cases of abuse of state power, resources, and employees, and 87 incidents of violence, which posed serious risks to public safety and electoral integrity. Together, these figures highlighted deep concerns in the pre-election period and pointed towards the urgent need for reforms to protect fairness and uphold democratic principles.

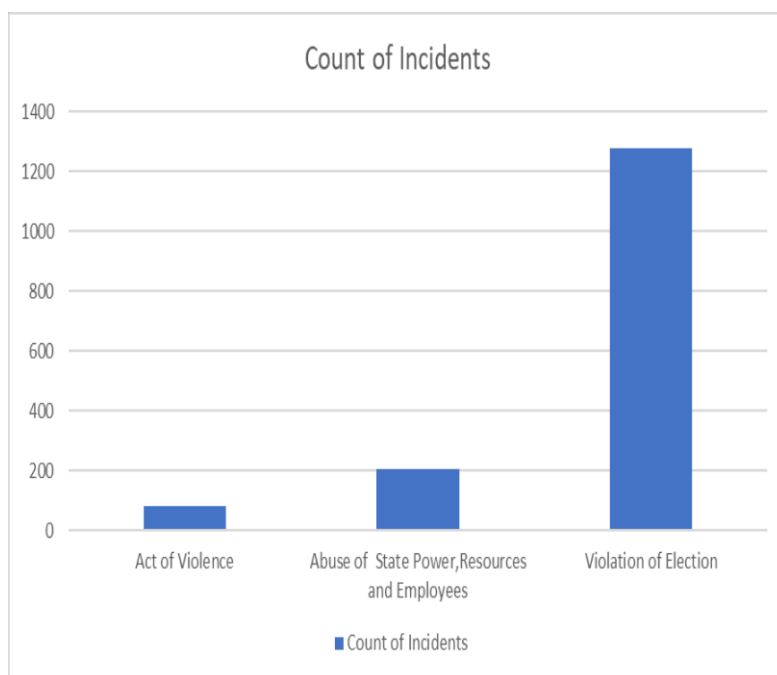
4.3 Verification and Escalation of Complaints

When PAFFREL received complaints from other sources, LTOs assisted in verifying the authenticity of these claims. This verification process was essential to ensure the credibility of the information before escalating the matter to the ECSL. The ECSL's ability to take timely and appropriate actions often depended on the reliability and accuracy of these verified reports.

By combining their on-ground presence with systematic reporting and verification, LTOs contributed significantly to enhancing the transparency and integrity of the election process.

4.4. Violence and Violations reported during the Campaign period

Category	Count of Incident
Act of Violence	87
Abuse of state power , Resource and Employees	213
Violation of election Laws	1318



4.5 Observations on the Campaign Period

The 2024 Presidential Election campaign in Sri Lanka was competitive and largely peaceful, with political parties and candidates employing diverse strategies to engage voters across the country.

4.5.1 Campaign Activities and Approaches

Mass Rallies: Key parties such as the National People's Power (NPP), Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), and Sarwajana Balaya organized well-structured and widespread rallies, demonstrating their organizational strength and voter outreach capabilities.

Door-to-Door Campaigns: In the final three weeks, door-to-door campaign activities intensified significantly, with a notable increase in their volume and outreach. This approach allowed parties to engage directly with voters, fostering localized discussions on key issues.

Social Media and Online Engagement: While some candidates, such as Ranil Wickremesinghe and Namal Rajapaksa, were observed to have started their campaigns comparatively late, their social media efforts gained traction, especially among younger demographics. However, challenges related to misinformation and disinformation persisted on these platforms.

4.5.2 Expatriate Factor and Campaign Finance

The expatriate community played a subtle yet noticeable role in shaping the discourse, particularly influencing NPP's campaign narrative. Discussions on remittances, diaspora engagement, and their broader impact were diplomatically woven into campaign strategies, reflecting their growing significance in Sri Lanka's political landscape.

For the first time, campaign finance regulations were introduced, but awareness of these rules among candidates and parties was limited. The interpretation and implementation of the mechanisms remained inconsistent, leaving room for improvement in future elections.

4.5.3 Regional Dynamics

In the Northern Province, the emergence of a common candidate provided a unique dynamic, fostering a degree of unity across political and community lines. This development highlighted a focus on issue-based campaigning and collaborative efforts to address regional concerns.

4.5.4 Reduced Use of Traditional Campaign Materials

Compared to previous elections, there was a noticeable decline in the use of posters, banners, and cutouts, as well as a reduced reliance on leaflet distribution. This shift may indicate evolving campaign practices, influenced by both regulatory measures and a growing preference for digital and interpersonal engagement methods.

4.5.5 Voter Engagement and Policy Discussions

Public participation during the campaign period was high, with citizens actively engaging in policy-oriented discussions from grassroots to national levels. This trend reflects a growing voter interest in substantive policy issues and a demand for accountability from political leaders.

The proactive interventions by PAFFREL were instrumental in preventing undue voter influence. Their efforts, particularly in addressing complaints and mitigating potential disruptions, contributed to maintaining a level playing field throughout the campaign period.

The campaign for the 2024 Presidential Election underscored a blend of traditional and modern strategies, highlighting the evolving nature of political engagement in Sri Lanka. While the peaceful atmosphere and policy-focused discourse were commendable, the experiences also pointed to areas needing further improvement, particularly in addressing misinformation and strengthening awareness of campaign finance regulations.

4.6 Role of Police during the Pre-Election Period

During the pre-election period of Sri Lanka's 2024 Presidential Election, the police played an essential role in maintaining law and order, creating a peaceful environment for the electoral process. Under the leadership of Senior Deputy Inspector General (SDIG) Asanka Karawita, who was in charge of elections, approximately 54,000 officers were deployed nationwide. Special Election Units, comprising at least three officers per unit, were established in nearly 602 police stations, with additional teams positioned in 45 police divisions to address election-related duties.

Despite the absence of a permanent Inspector General of Police (IGP), the Police maintained efficiency and neutrality throughout the pre-election period. Election monitoring bodies contributed significantly to the peaceful conduct of the election.

By responding swiftly to complaints and collaborating closely with the ECSL, the police upheld transparency and supported the enforcement of electoral laws. Their actions demonstrated a commitment to ensuring a fair and orderly electoral environment, reflecting the maturity of Sri Lanka's law enforcement institutions in managing democratic processes.

4.7 Youth Participation

The 2024 Presidential Election in Sri Lanka marked the first major electoral event since the Aragalaya uprising, where youth played a central role in demanding systemic change, transparency, and better governance. This historic movement fuelled a sense of responsibility among young voters, many of whom saw this election as an opportunity to shape the country's future.

During the pre-election period, youth engaged actively in various ways. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok became key spaces for political discussions, campaign promotion, and advocacy. Young activists and influencers used these platforms to highlight candidates' policies, encourage voter turnout, and combat misinformation. Civil society groups, including youth-led organizations, facilitated workshops and campaigns to educate first-time voters about their rights and the importance of their participation.

Beyond digital spaces, many young people were directly involved in grassroots campaigning. They participated in door-to-door canvassing, organized community discussions, and even volunteered with election monitoring groups to promote transparency. This vibrant engagement not only highlighted their role in shaping the electoral narrative but also reflected their determination to hold leaders accountable and push for meaningful change in Sri Lanka's political landscape.

4.8 Women's participation

In the 2024 presidential election, there were no women among the 38 candidates, compared to one female candidate in 2019. This is despite women comprising more than half of the country's population and voters (52% and 56% respectively). While there have been some gains, such as a 25% quota for women in local councils and more female representatives in Parliament, overall political representation remained low.

Political parties' campaign promises largely focused on economic and social issues, with little mention of women's political empowerment. One candidate pledged to appoint a woman Prime Minister if elected, but this was an exception.

Women played a strong grassroots role after the Aragalaya crisis, boosting political mobilization and voter turnout, though their contributions were underreported in the media. Harmful online content targeting women politicians also increased before the election. On election day, women were active as voters, party agents, observers, security officials, and polling staff. However, senior election roles were mostly held by men.

4.9 Campaign Finance

The 2024 Sri Lankan Presidential Elections were the first major test of the country's new campaign finance law, the **Regulation of Election Expenditure Act, No. 3 of 2023 (REEA)**. The law aims to enhance transparency and accountability in political spending by regulating campaign expenditures and setting limits on financial contributions to candidates and parties. Its purpose is to ensure fair and competitive elections, prevent the undue influence of wealthy donors or interest groups, and provide voters with clear financial disclosures to make informed choices.

The ECSL set a campaign spending limit of Rs. 109 per voter, giving each candidate in the 2024 Presidential Election a budget of about Rs. 1.12 billion (60% of the allowable total), while political parties or nominators could spend the remaining 40%. Candidates were required to submit detailed

expenditure and donation reports within 21 days of the announcement of the results. A coalition of election monitoring groups, including the CMEV, TISL, Hashtag Generation, CaFFE, IRES, and PAFFREL, introduced the “Chanda Salli Meetare” (Campaign Finance Meter). The tool sought to enhance transparency and accountability in the electoral process by raising public awareness of the influence of money in election campaigns. Additionally, it encouraged citizen participation in campaign finance oversight through its dedicated platform.

By October 13, 2024, most presidential candidates had submitted their campaign finance reports. However, three failed to do so and face possible fines under the law. Reported expenditures showed Sajith Premadasa spent the most (LKR 298.8 million), followed by Ranil Wickremesinghe (LKR 187.9 million), Dilith Jayaweera (LKR 186 million), Anura Kumara Dissanayake (LKR 132.5 million), and Namal Rajapaksha (LKR 12.1 million). However, a Sunday Times news report found widespread non-compliance: only 16 candidates provided expenditure documents, 19 disclosed income sources, and just 12 submitted both, with inconsistent reporting overall. While citizens may lodge complaints on discrepancies, the ECSL lacks enforcement powers beyond referring cases to the police.

Despite the positive steps, the implementation of the law revealed several shortcomings. Enforcement was delayed, enabling candidates and parties to spend heavily before the official campaign period, leaving such expenses outside regulation. The absence of clear guidelines on what constituted permissible versus prohibited expenses created loopholes and inconsistencies in reporting. In addition, the ECSL, which was tasked with monitoring compliance, faced significant challenges in tracking and analyzing financial reports, as this was its first experience managing such a complex responsibility.

Together, these challenges highlighted that while the new campaign finance framework was an important step toward cleaner elections, stronger enforcement mechanisms, clearer spending rules, and improved institutional capacity will be essential for it to achieve its full potential in future electoral cycles.

5. Postal Voting

5.1 Introduction

Postal voting for the Presidential Election 2024 concluded on 12th September 2024. A total of 736,589 applications were submitted for postal voting, of which 712,321 were accepted, while 24,268 applications were rejected for reasons such as incomplete information or failure to meet eligibility criteria. Kurunegala District recorded the highest number of postal voters, with a total of 79,666, while Mullaitivu District reported the lowest, with only 3,637 postal voters. Postal Voting was carried out in 4,876 centers, covering all 25 administrative districts.

02 representatives for each candidate, 01 observer from PAFFREL, and 01 observer from CMEV were allowed to observe the casting of postal votes in each presiding office. Also, District Returning Officers deployed Areas Returning Officers and assistants to overlook the postal voting process.

Postal Voting - Islandwide Polling Locations		
September 4th 2024	September 5th and 6th	September 11 th and 12 th
District Secretariats Election Offices Police	State employees, including members of the Armed Forces	Individuals who were unable to cast their vote on September 4 th , 5 th or 6 th 2024. (An additional opportunity to vote in person at their respective District Election Office)

5.2 Postal Voting Observer Deployment Plan

PAFFREL deployed 900 observers to politically sensitive locations (district secretariats, bus depots, education offices, military camps, and police stations) to ensure a free and peaceful postal voting process. Reports indicated that voting was generally peaceful, with observers monitoring election preparation, accessibility and neutrality, voting process, election law violations, and violence.

5.3 Potential government's influence on postal voters

The government announced significant public sector salary increases (24–50%) just two days before postal voting, despite refusing demands earlier, citing the economic crisis. This sudden move raised suspicions of attempting to influence postal voters. In response, opposition parties also promised salary hikes, if elected. While these announcements greatly shaped the election atmosphere, their exact impact on voter behavior was difficult to quantify.

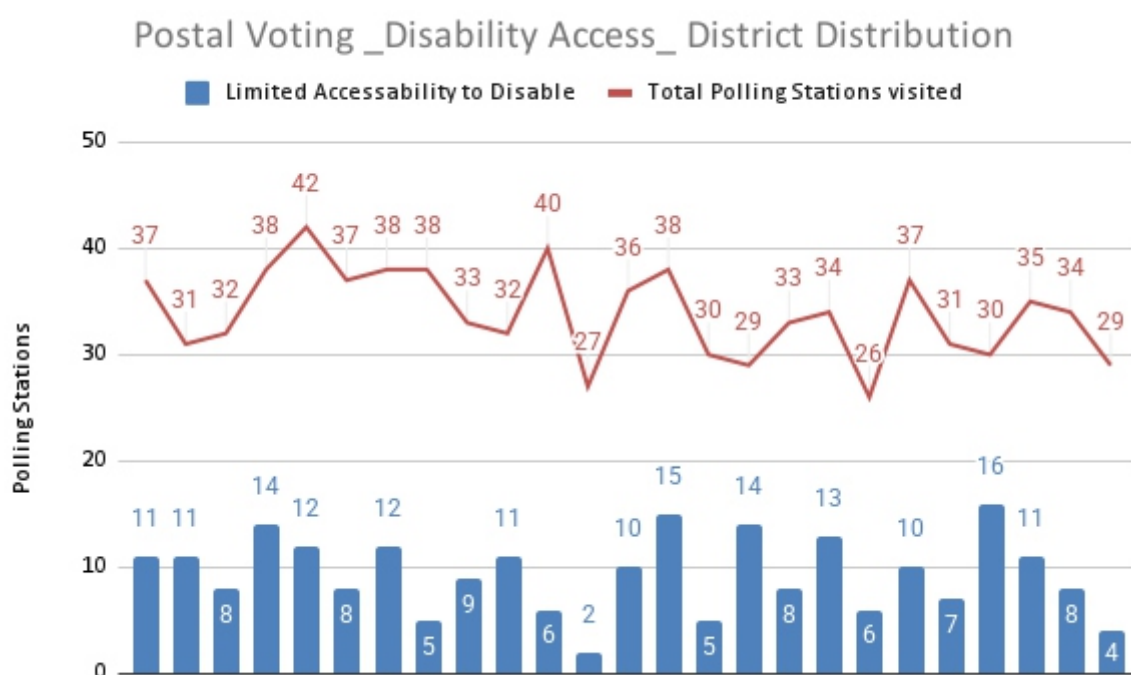
5.4 Postal Voting Observation

Notably, 99% of polling stations were designed to safeguard voter confidentiality, reflecting strong preparatory measures. However, an incident occurred at the Tangalle Land Registry Office, where an agent of a candidate repeatedly used a mobile phone during voting, photographed other observers without consent, and was reported to the Senior Presiding Officer.

Access for People with Disabilities (PWDs) was highlighted in this election and observed in polling stations. PAFFREL observed that 73% of polling stations provided adequate facilities for PWDs while 27% lacked such provisions.

The official presidential candidate list was not displayed at most polling stations observed by PAFFREL's postal observers. Only 45% of stations displayed the list.

From 11th September to 23:59 hours on 18th September, violations of election laws increased from 526 to 872 (confirmed). There has been a slight increase in complaints on abuse of state power, resources and employees, from 75 to 88 (confirmed). Additionally, there was a rise in reported violent crimes from 49 to 68 (confirmed).



5.5 Complaints received during postal voting

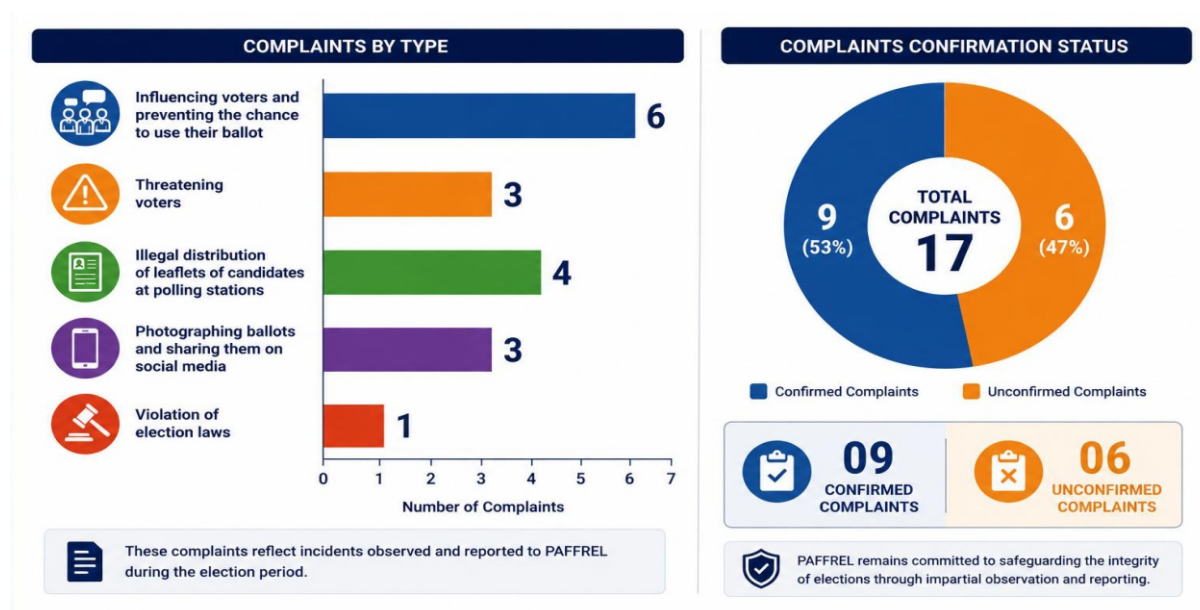
During the postal voting period, PAFFREL's Complaint Reporting and Mitigation Unit received a total of 17 complaints, including some significant cases. These included 06 incidents of influencing voters and preventing the chance to use their ballot, 03 cases of threatening voters, 04 cases involving the illegal distribution of leaflets of candidates at polling stations, 03 cases of photographing ballots and sharing them on social media, and 01 case regarding violation of election laws. PAFFREL confirmed 09 complaints while 06 complaints were unconfirmed.

On 04th September, a Northern Province politician was implicated in coercing voters into not casting their votes; An incident was reported regarding the dissemination on social media of images showing individuals casting their votes at the police station premises; And a distribution of campaign leaflets for one of the 2024 Presidential Election candidates was reported prior to the commencement of postal voting at the Kurunegala District Secretariat.

On 05th September, 28 employees at Seethawaka Divisional Secretariat did not receive ballot papers although the ECSL stated that they had been issued; A group of teachers who reached the Zonal Education Office, Wariyapola were diverted due to a miscommunication on notifying the voting dates. However, due to objections raised by the teachers, everyone who returned was given the opportunity to vote; At the Medical Officer of Health Office Walapane, two voters were diverted from casting their votes; In another incident, an officer threatened 30 postal voters (cadet officers) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka, delaying the voting process.

On the 06th September, an officer threatened cadet officers to cast their votes within a specific time period, warning that they would be punished if they failed to do so. The ECSL has since announced that an investigation will be conducted.

On the 07th September, 02 incidents were reported from Mutur and Mulativu on photographing ballots and sharing them on social media. In addition to these incidents, cases were also reported in areas such as, Avissawella, Battaramulla, Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia, Homagama, Kalutara, Walapane and Weeraketiya.



6. Silent Period

6.1 Introduction

The 48-hour silent period for the 2024 Presidential Election, mandated under the Parliamentary Elections Act, began at midnight on September 18, 2024, and continued until election day on September 21. During this time, all campaign activities were prohibited, with violators subject to a fine of SLR 50,000 and/or imprisonment for a minimum of one month. While the period was generally calm and free of major voter intimidation, PAFFREL observers noted several violations, particularly in the realm of social media and media coverage.

6.2 Silent period violence and violation reporting

The silent period preceding Sri Lanka's 2024 Presidential Election was largely calm and well-managed, but several ground-level violations underscored persistent challenges in ensuring full compliance with electoral regulations. There were instances of misinformation, voter pressure, and physical violence that marred the otherwise peaceful environment. In Matara, voters arriving at polling stations were misinformed that voting was not scheduled on the expected day, causing confusion and delaying the process. Such incidents not only disrupted voter participation but also reflected a gap in communication between authorities and the public. Similarly, in Gampaha, polling officials were reported to have pressured voters to support a specific political party, undermining the neutrality expected at polling stations. In Payagala, voters did not receive their ballot papers because a postman, identified as a supporter of a political party, failed to distribute them and instead discarded them. A similar issue of delayed ballot paper distribution was also reported in Narawelpita, Hakmana. In Gampola, the company initially did not grant polling day leave to nearly 2,000 employees. Following PAFFREL's intervention, the employees were subsequently granted leave to vote.

Acts of violence, while less frequent than in previous elections, were still a concern during the silent period. A notable incident in Jayanthipuram involved clashes between rival political groups, disrupting public order in the area. In Monaragala, a candidate was attacked with chili powder in a targeted act of aggression, highlighting how even isolated violence can shake voter confidence and affect the fairness of the electoral process. These incidents emphasize the ongoing challenge of maintaining a violence-free environment during critical election phases.

Violations related to campaigning in restricted zones further complicated the silent period. In Kalutara and Ratnapura, vehicles bearing political slogans and campaign materials were observed near polling stations, directly contravening electoral laws. Such activities undermine the purpose of the silent period, which aims to create an unbiased environment for voters to make informed decisions. Similarly, in Kattankudy, campaign leaflets were illegally distributed near a polling station, prompting police intervention. These violations, while localized, demonstrate the challenges in enforcing silent period regulations in areas with high political activity.

During this period, 167 violations of election laws were reported, creating serious challenges for fairness and compliance. There were also 7 acts of violence that threatened public safety and stability, as well as 3 cases of abuse of state power and resources. These incidents revealed the urgent need for strict enforcement and oversight to ensure a fair and secure electoral process during this critical phase.



Presidential Elections 2024 - Cooling period

Violations of law under each category - Islandwide

From 2024-09-19 00:00:00 To 2024-09-21 06:59:00 - [By Incident Date]

Label	Type of Violation	Confirmed	Unconfirmed	Sub Total
1	Murders	0	0	0
2	Grievous Assaults	1	1	2
3	Assaults	0	1	1
4	Abductions	0	0	0
5	Attacks with Explosives	0	0	0
6	Shootings	0	0	0
7	Threats & Intimidation using Firearms	0	0	0
8	Damage to Immovable Property	2	0	2
9	Damage to Movable Property	0	1	1
10	Intimidation & Threats	1	0	1
11	Attacks on Political Party/ Candidate Offices	0	0	0
	Acts of Violence	4	3	7
12	Misuse of state property	1	0	1
13	Use of State Vehicles for Election Campaign Purposes	1	0	1
14	Attempts/ influencing State Officials	0	0	0
15	Appointments, Transfers & Promotions for State Officials targeting the Election	0	0	0
16	Use of State Officials & Security Sources for Election Campaign Purposes	0	0	0
16-1	Provide government aid in political gain	1	0	1
	Abuse of State Power, Resources & Employees	3	0	3
17	Destruction & sabotage decorations, posters & cutouts of political parties	0	0	0
18	Disrupting Campaign Activities of Opponents	0	0	0
19	Carrying out Illegal Election Propaganda	80	21	101
20	Threatening & Disrupting Work of Election Monitors	0	0	0
21	State Officers acting in Favor of Political Parties & in Breach of Official Duties	2	0	2
22	Carrying out Unlawful Meetings & Processions	1	0	1
23	Maintaining Illegal Party Offices	39	4	43
24	Giving Incentives with Political Objectives	5	1	6
25	Using Vehicles without Number Plates	0	0	0
26	Favouritism & Misuse of State & other Media	0	0	0
27	Attempts to Influence/ Influencing by Security Sources & State Officials	0	0	0
28	Spreading of fake news	0	0	0
29	Carrying out Election Campaign Activities Harassing & Inconveniencing the General Public	0	0	0
30	Influencing Voters	1	2	3
31	Irregularities relating to Ballot Papers	0	0	0
32	Transportation of voters	0	0	0
33	Giving incentives to voters	0	0	0
34	Obstructing election officials and activities	0	0	0
35	Assaulting voters/ using force to turn voters away from polling station	0	0	0
36	Casting votes illegally/ attempts to impersonate	0	0	0
37	Other Incidents	10	1	11
	Violation of Election Laws	138	29	167
	TOTAL	145	32	177

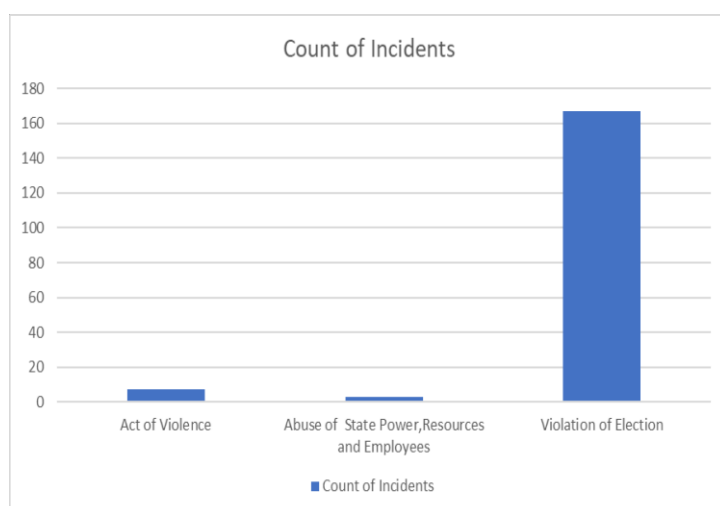
* During the above period, we have received 169 complaints/incidents in relation to 177 Electoral law / general law violations.

Compared to the 2019 Presidential Election, acts of violence decreased in the 2024 Presidential Election. Further, abuse of state power, resources and employees was lower in 2024 compared to 2015. In 2024, violation of election laws is higher than 2015 and 2019.

Despite these issues, the silent period was largely peaceful, with minimal disruptions or voter intimidation. ECSLElection Commission preparations for polling station setups were methodical and well-coordinated, reflecting strong collaboration with government authorities. Aside from an isolated incident involving Harin Fernando, the silent period successfully upheld the intended calm, setting the stage for a smooth election day.

6.2.1 Incident , violence and violation reporting: Silent period

Category	Count of incident
Act of Violence	07
Abuse of state power , Resource and Employees	03
Violation of election Laws	167



6.3 Social media Monitoring during Silent period

Additionally, PAFFREL in collaboration with Hashtag Generation, reported 846 social media violations during the silent period. These included paid advertisements, campaign content that was not removed despite complaints, and other digital infractions. The ECSLElection Commission worked to address these issues and urged platforms to take down non-compliant content and pursue legal action where applicable. On traditional media, reports suggested that the ruling party refrained from using government-owned media outlets. However, there were allegations of a notable feature on Rupavahini involving President Ranil Wickremesinghe, which observers flagged for review.

6.4 Election Commission responses

Despite it being the cooling-off period, several Presidential Election candidates violated election laws. The incumbent president announced the completion of an agreement in principle on International Sovereign Bonds worth US\$12.55 billion, a significant portion of the country's external debt, which can be seen as a direct attempt to influence voters. Similarly, PAFFREL submitted a written complaint to the ECSL regarding a text message sent to Aswesuma beneficiaries, urging them to vote for the incumbent president.

7. Election Day

7.1 Introduction

The Presidential Election 2024 was held on 21st September with 17.1 million eligible voters across 13,421 polling stations. A record 38 candidates contested, the highest since 1982. Voter turnout was high at 75–80% islandwide, reflecting strong public enthusiasm. The election was largely peaceful under the guidance of the ECSL, supported by Sri Lanka Police and election observation organizations. Despite the absence of an Inspector General of Police, law and order were effectively maintained.

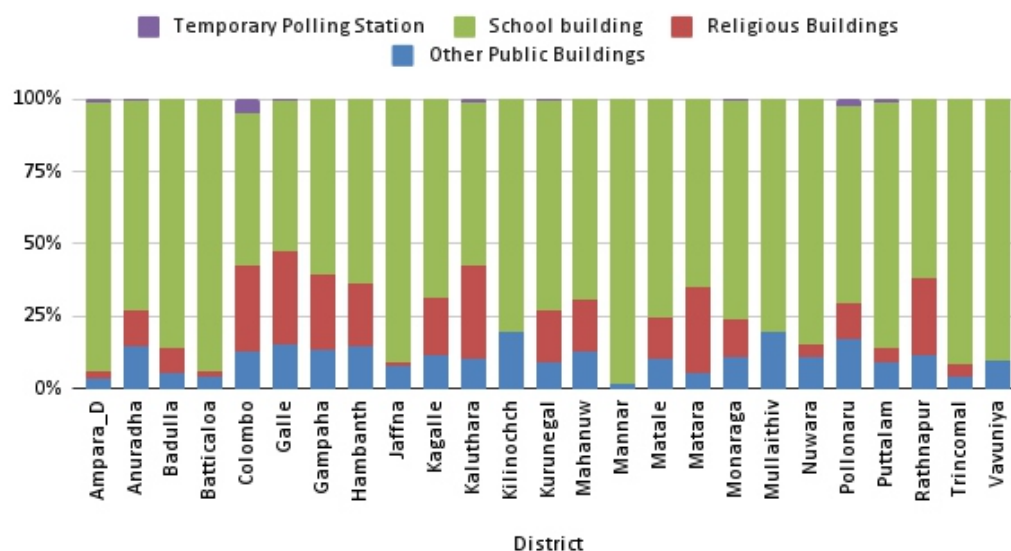
Over 4,700 PAFFREL observers covered a significant number of polling stations, recording 164 complaints (109 confirmed, 55 unconfirmed), of which 161 related to election law violations such as illegal propaganda and voter influence attempts, signalling challenges to the integrity and fairness of the electoral process. Acts of violence were minimal at 3 incidents, suggesting a lower threat to voter safety and public order, but nevertheless relevant.

7.2 Election Day Observations

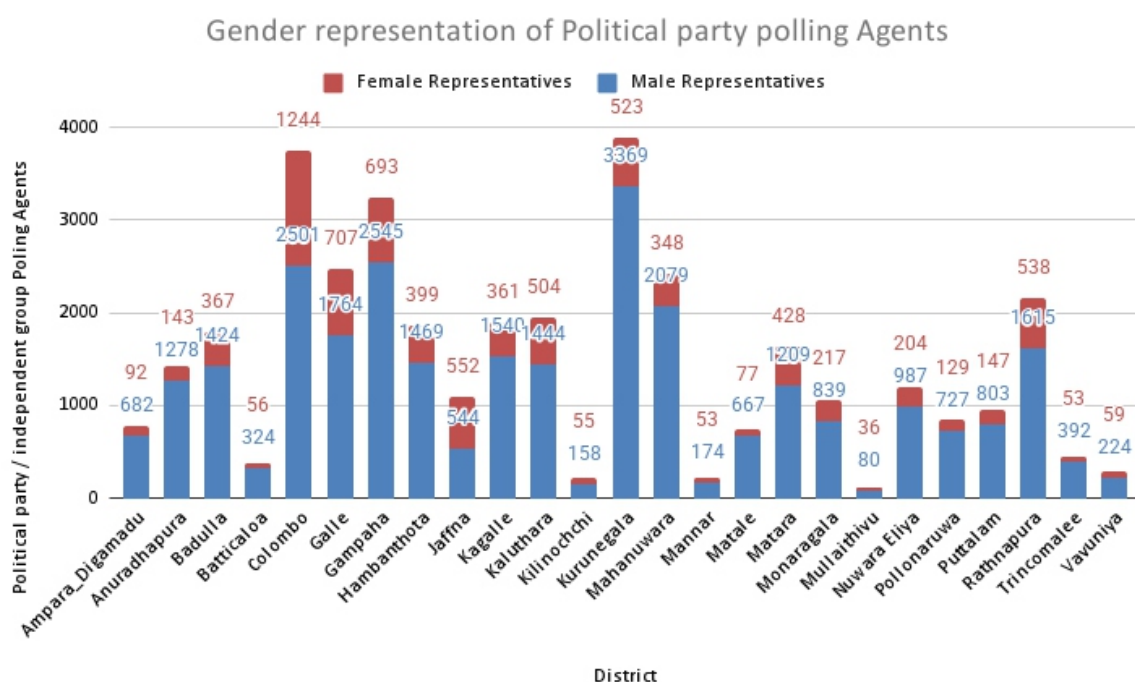
The graphs below are derived strictly from PAFFREL election day observer reports collected through Kobo during the Presidential Election 2024. They present field-based observations recorded by PAFFREL observers and are limited to the verified data captured on election day.

7.2.1 Polling Location distribution

District-wise Polling Station Location Distribution Percentage

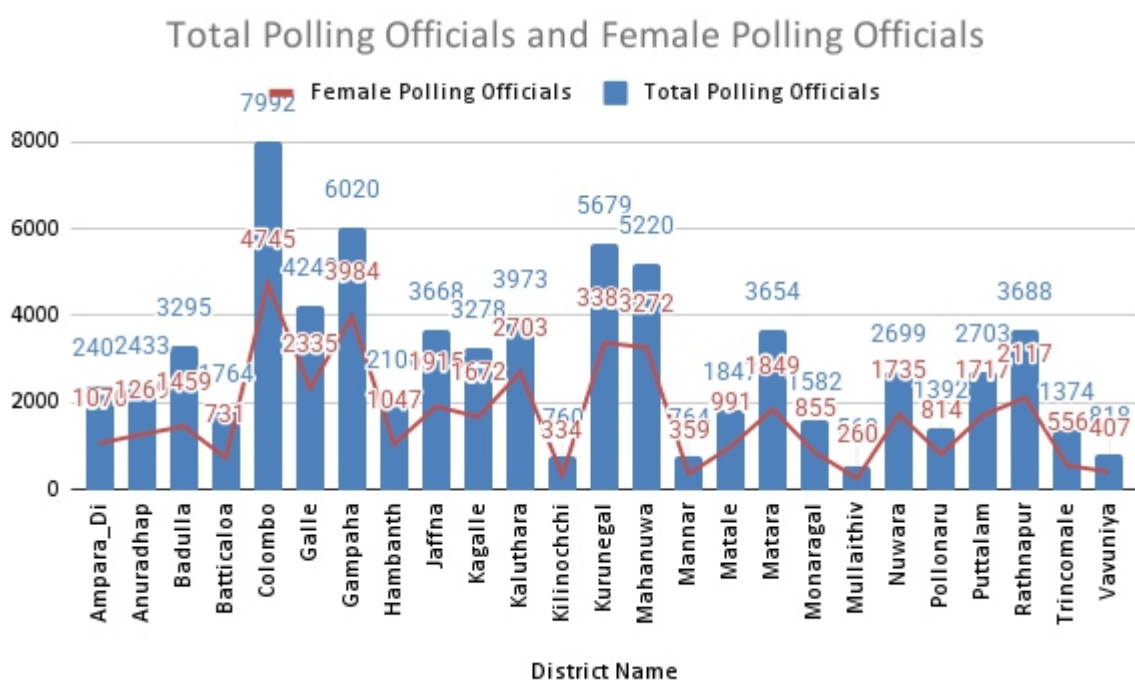


7.2.2 Gender Disaggregation of Polling agents



The graph shows the gender composition of polling agents present at polling stations. The findings indicate the level of participation of women and men in election-day monitoring functions, with the overall pattern reflecting the representation of each group in the polling process. This distribution is important for understanding inclusiveness at the station level. The data are based strictly on PAFFREL observer reports collected on election day.

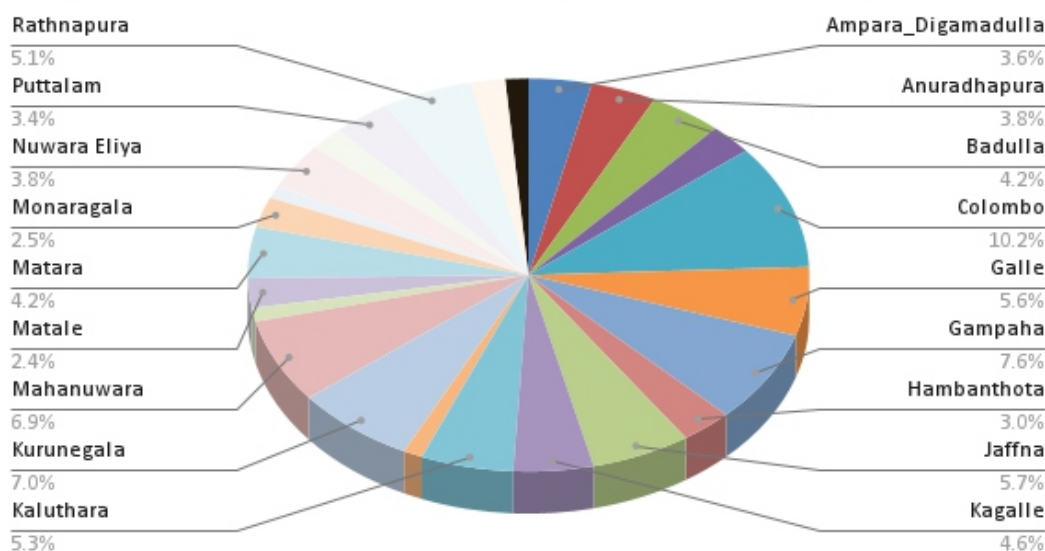
7.2.3 Gender Disaggregation of Polling Officials



The gender profile of polling officials reflects the composition of those managing polling station procedures. The graph highlights the extent of female and male representation in official election administration roles. This trend is important for assessing inclusiveness and the participation of women in operational election management. The findings are drawn strictly from PAFFREL election day observer reports.

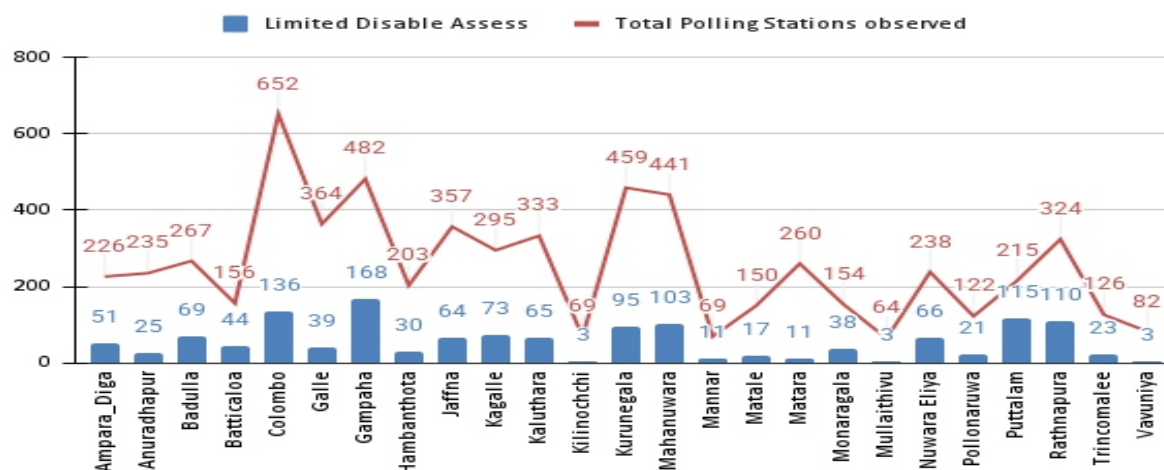
7.2.4 Campaign Materials found outside and in near vicinity of the polling locations

Campaign Material found in and around polling stations on Election Day



The graph shows the presence of campaign materials in or near polling locations, indicating a notable compliance issue at some sites. Such observations are significant because they may affect the neutrality of the polling environment. The pattern highlights the need for continued attention to election-day regulations and enforcement. The data are derived strictly from PAFFREL observer reports collected on election day.

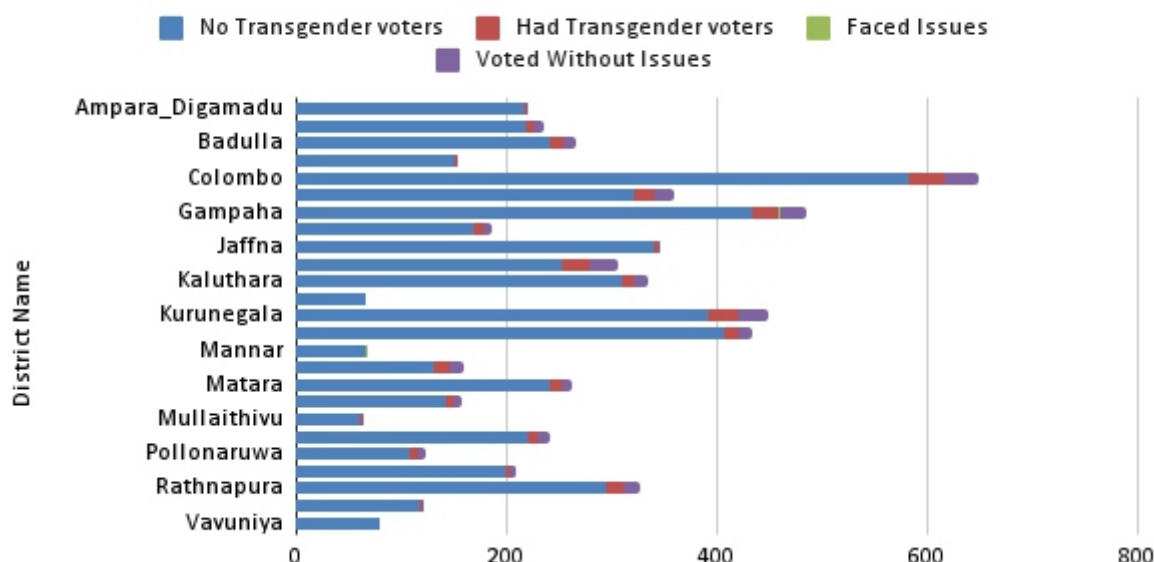
7.2.5 Disabled and elderly accessibility to polling locations



The findings on accessibility show the extent to which polling locations accommodated disabled and elderly voters. The graph indicates whether practical arrangements were in place to support access and participation. This trend is important for assessing inclusiveness and equal voting conditions on election day. The data are based strictly on PAFFREL observer reports.

7.2.6 Transgender voters in polling locations

No Transgender voters, Had Transgender voters, Faced Issues and Voted Without Issues



The graph records observations related to transgender voters at polling locations. The findings offer a limited but important indication of the presence and visibility of gender-diverse voters in the electoral process. This trend contributes to understanding inclusion at the polling level. The data are derived strictly from PAFFREL election day observer reports.

7.3 Election day incident violence violations reporting



Presidential Elections 2024 - Election date

Violations of law under each category - Islandwide

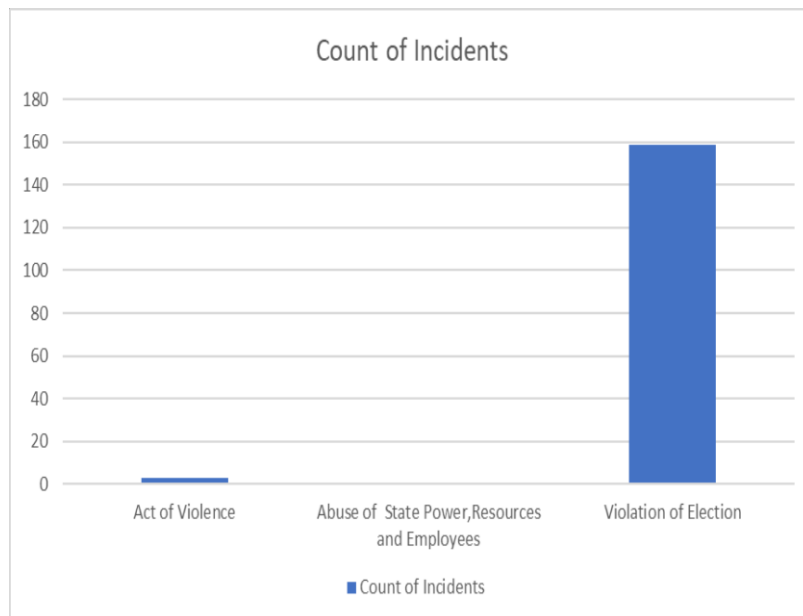
From 2024-09-21 07:00:00 To 2024-09-21 16:00:00 - [By Incident Date]

Label	Type of Violation	Confirmed	Unconfirmed	Sub Total
1	Murders	0	0	0
2	Grievous Assaults	0	0	0
3	Assaults	0	1	1
4	Abductions	0	0	0
5	Attacks with Explosives	0	0	0
6	Shootings	0	0	0
7	Threats & Intimidation using Firearms	0	0	0
8	Damage to Immovable Property	0	0	0
9	Damage to Movable Property	0	0	0
10	Intimidation & Threats	1	1	2
11	Attacks on Political Party/ Candidate Offices	0	0	0
Acts of Violence		1	2	3
12	Misuse of state property	0	0	0
13	Use of State Vehicles for Election Campaign Purposes	0	0	0
14	Attempts/ influencing State Officials	0	0	0
15	Appointments, Transfers & Promotions for State Officials targeting the Election	0	0	0
16	Use of State Officials & Security Sources for Election Campaign Purposes	0	0	0
16-1	Provide government aid in political gain	0	0	0
Abuse of State Power, Resources & Employees		0	0	0
17	Destruction & sabotage decorations, posters & cutouts of political parties	0	0	0
18	Disrupting Campaign Activities of Opponents	0	0	0
19	Carrying out Illegal Election Propaganda	46	17	63
20	Threatening & Disrupting Work of Election Monitors	0	0	0
21	State Officers acting in Favor of Political Parties & in Breach of Official Duties	0	0	0
22	Carrying out Unlawful Meetings & Processions	0	0	0
23	Maintaining Illegal Party Offices	2	0	2
24	Giving Incentives with Political Objectives	0	0	0
25	Using Vehicles without Number Plates	0	0	0
26	Favouritism & Misuse of State & other Media	0	0	0
27	Attempts to Influence/ Influencing by Security Sources & State Officials	0	0	0
28	Spreading of fake news	0	0	0
29	Carrying out Election Campaign Activities Harassing & Inconveniencing the General Public	0	0	0
30	Influencing Voters	31	17	48
31	Irregularities relating to Ballot Papers	1	1	2
32	Transportation of voters	5	0	5
33	Giving incentives to voters	0	0	0
34	Obstructing election officials and activities	0	0	0
35	Assaulting voters/ using force to turn voters away from polling station	0	0	0
36	Casting votes illegally/ attempts to impersonate	0	1	1
37	Other Incidents	23	17	40
Violation of Election Laws		108	53	161
TOTAL		109	55	164

* During the above period, we have recieved 164 complaints/incidents in relation to 164 Electoral law / general law violations.

7.3.1 Incident, violence and violation reporting: Election Day

Category	Count of incident
Act of Violence	03
Abuse of state power , Resource and Employees	0
Violation of election Laws	161



On Election Day, no cases of abuse of state power, resources, or employees were reported, though this may mean either none occurred or they went undetected. While direct violence and misuse of power were limited, there was still a high number of legal violations. This highlights the urgent need for stronger enforcement of election laws to ensure free and fair elections.

Incidents of election law violations were reported from several areas. These mainly involved illegal propaganda and voter transportation. Five cases of violence including intimidation, threats, and assaults which were reported from Bandarawela, Matale, Matara, and Patha Hewahata. However, none of these incidents significantly affected polling on Election Day.

The 2024 Presidential Election also recorded fewer incidents of violence, abuse of state resources, and voter manipulation compared to 2015 and 2019. Attempts to exploit race, religion, or ethnicity were minimal. While some digital violations were reported, hate speech and online attacks were less significant than in past elections.

PAFFREL’s Mobile, Long-Term, and Stationary Observers noted fewer malpractices at polling stations, on polling day. The Sri Lanka Police provided adequate security, and facilities for persons with disabilities were generally available, though some accessibility issues were observed in certain areas. PAFFREL urges the ECSL to take corrective action to improve accessibility in future elections. No serious incidents were reported near polling stations related to illegal campaigning, public gatherings, intimidation, voter influence, or transportation of voters.

Social media played a major role in the 2024 election, with high citizen engagement and candidate promotion. While there were attempts to spread fear through unverified allegations, overall social media use was greater than in previous elections. The ECSL’s monitoring efforts, supported by PAFFREL and Hashtag Generation, were important in addressing these issues.

8. Counting and Result Declaration

8.1 Introduction

The counting of votes in Sri Lanka's 2024 presidential election took place on 21–22 September 2024 and was followed closely across the country. In the first round, no candidate passed the 50% mark, which meant the ECSL had to move into a second round of counting, to count the preferential votes. Through the media it urged citizens to remain calm. To prevent possible conflict or incidents of violence, the government imposed a police curfew from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am, later extending it until noon on 22 September. While a second count made the process longer, it provided a clear result, with Anura Kumara Dissanayake being confirmed as the winner with 55.89 percent of the vote.

8.2 Counting Process and Observations

PAFFREL's observers were strategically positioned to monitor the counting centers, providing real-time reports on the procedures and any anomalies encountered. Observers noted that, in general, the counting process adhered to established protocols, with election officials demonstrating diligence in their duties. However, several logistical challenges were identified:

- **Resource Constraints:** Some counting centers faced shortages of essential materials, such as forms and seals, leading to procedural slowdowns.
- **Training Gaps:** Instances were reported where counting staff appeared unfamiliar with specific procedures, resulting in inconsistencies in ballot handling.
- **Technological Limitations:** The absence of advanced counting technologies in certain centers prolonged the manual counting process, contributing to delays.

Despite these challenges, no significant procedural irregularities were observed that could have impacted the overall election outcome. The presence of both domestic and international observers acted as a deterrent against potential malpractices, fostering an environment of accountability.

8.3 Delays in Result Announcements

Following the closure of polling stations, the counting process experienced notable delays. These postponements were primarily attributed to logistical challenges, including the transportation of ballot boxes from remote areas and the meticulous verification procedures implemented to ensure accuracy. The extended timeframe for result announcements led to heightened tensions among political parties, candidates, and the general public, with concerns arising over the potential for unrest or allegations of malpractice. Despite these apprehensions, the ECSL maintained a commitment to transparency, prioritizing the integrity of the count over expediency.

8.4 Peaceful Transfer of Power

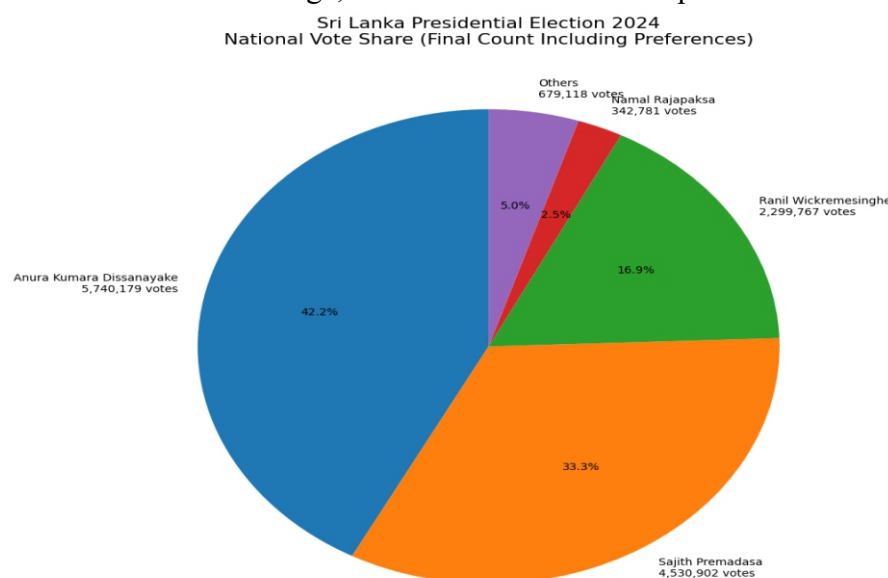
One of the most commendable aspects of the post-election period was the peaceful transition of power. The outgoing administration cooperated fully with the incoming government, facilitating a smooth handover of responsibilities. This seamless transition was a testament to the robustness of Sri Lanka's democratic framework and the political maturity of its leaders. Public confidence was bolstered by the orderly process, reinforcing the nation's commitment to democratic norms.

8.5 Official Voter Turnout and Results ³

Out of 17 million registered voters, a remarkable 13.6 million citizens cast their ballots. This level of engagement was particularly striking given Sri Lanka's recent struggles with inflation, debt, and political disillusionment. The number of valid ballots cast stood at 13,3 million (97.8%), while 300,300 (2.2%) were rejected as invalid.

The election results showed clear voter preferences. Anura Kumara Disanayake of the JVP, backed by the NPP, won with 5.63 million first-preference votes (42.3%) and a final total of 5.74 million votes (55.9%). Sajith Premadasa of the SJB came second with 4.36 million first-preference votes (32.8%) and 4.53 million in total (44.1%). Ranil Wickremesinghe, running as an independent candidate with UNP's support, got 2.3 million votes (17.3%) and was eliminated in the first round.

The election results show a shift in voter attitudes. Anura Kumara Disanayake's win with 55.9% of the votes indicated strong support for his reformist policies. Sajith Premadasa's gain of 44.1% reflected notable but smaller support for his centrist agenda. Ranil Wickremesinghe was eliminated in the first round with 17.3%. Overall, the results suggest people's preference for transformative change, in contrast to established political continuity.



³ Official Election results

8.6 Stakeholder Reactions

Reactions from various stakeholders during the post-election period were mixed but largely constructive. Political parties and civil society organizations acknowledged the overall integrity of the electoral process, though some raised concerns regarding the delays in result announcements and the logistical challenges observed. Calls were made for comprehensive reviews to address these issues, with recommendations for:

- **Enhanced Training:** Implementing more rigorous training programs for election officials to ensure procedural consistency.
- **Technological Integration:** Adopting electronic counting systems to expedite the tabulation process and reduce human error.
- **Logistical Planning:** Improving the logistical frameworks for ballot transportation, especially from remote regions, to prevent future delays.

The Election Commission expressed its commitment to reviewing these recommendations, aiming to implement necessary reforms ahead of future elections.

9. Post-Election Period

9.1 Introduction

The post-election phase of Sri Lanka's 2024 Presidential Election was marked by critical events that tested the resilience and maturity of the country's democratic institutions. The peaceful transition of power highlighted Sri Lanka's strong commitment to democratic principles and the orderly conduct of governance. However, minor administrative and logistical issues arose during this period, although they did not significantly disrupt the overall electoral process.

The newly elected President took the oath of office in a formal ceremony, symbolizing the successful conclusion of the electoral cycle and the commencement of a new administrative term. Following this, a General Election was announced, indicating continued momentum in the nation's political processes, with preparations immediately underway.

Subsequently, the formation of the new Cabinet took place, with appointed members officially sworn in, signalling the establishment of the incoming administration and setting the stage for governance over the coming period. Despite the smooth progression, these experiences underscored the importance of addressing minor issues proactively to further enhance electoral processes and democratic governance in future elections.

9.2 Observations during the post election period

In the post-election period, electoral misconduct was relatively low but not absent. There were 5 violations of election laws, showing that compliance issues continued even after voting. Only 2 acts of violence were reported, posing a small but notable risk to public safety. No cases of abuse of state power or resources were recorded, though this may mean they did not occur or were not detected. Overall, the data indicated that continued vigilance and enforcement were still needed to protect the integrity of the post-election process.

Category	Count of incident
Act of Violence	02
Abuse of state power , Resource and Employees	0
Violation of election Laws	05

10. Recommendations

10.1 Purpose of the recommendations

This chapter provides PAFFRELs' Strategic suggestions aimed at addressing identified challenges and enhancing the credibility and inclusivity of future elections.

10.2 Guiding Key

Category	Description / Guidance	
Sector	Identify the thematic area (e.g., Voter Registration, Campaign Finance, Media, Accessibility, Election Administration, Counting, etc.).	
Observation / Context	PAFFREL's observation during the Presidential Election 2024 or insights derived from organizational socio-political contextual analysis. Clearly describe the issue, irregularity, malpractice, or systemic gap.	
Level of Impact on Overall Electoral Integrity	State the estimated impact if the issue persists. Scale: High / Moderate / Low	
Recommendations to ECSL	Provide specific, actionable recommendations for the Election Commission of Sri Lanka to address the issue.	Recommended timeframe may be indicated (Immediate / Short-term / Medium-term / Long-term).
Recommendations to Political Parties	Suggested recommendations to the Political parties, alliances and candidates	Recommended timeframe may be indicated (Immediate / Short-term / Medium-term / Long-term).
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Suggested recommendations to the Election Monitoring organizations and interested civil society actors	Recommended timeframe may be indicated (Immediate / Short-term / Medium-term / Long-term).
Recommendations to public	Suggested recommendations for the general public for a sustainable solution for the specific irregularity and overarching problem	Recommended timeframe may be indicated (Immediate / Short-term / Medium-term / Long-term).

10.3 Election Administration

10.3.1 Legal Discrepancies

Specific Gap Identified	IGP vacancy during election period	
Observation/ Context	The vacancy in the office of the Inspector General of Police during the election period created uncertainty at a time when effective law-and-order leadership was essential. The Acting IGP carried a critical responsibility in a politically sensitive environment, and any leadership gap at the top of the police structure risked weakening public confidence in election security.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	high	
Recommendations to ECSL	Engage the relevant authorities in advance to ensure that all key institutions directly involved in election security are fully staffed before the election period begins. Where vacancies arise in positions with a direct bearing on public order, the ECSL should seek timely institutional coordination to avoid disruption. .	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	Not to use administrative discrepancies to gain political mileage and cooperating with the ECSL and police to maintain a safe and peaceful environment during campaign period, Election day and post election period.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Monitor administrative gaps that may affect electoral security and alert the ECSL and relevant authorities when such gaps could undermine public confidence or operational readiness.	Long term
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Establish clear constitutional legal provisions to ensure that essential law-and-order institutions remain fully operational during election periods, including contingency arrangements for senior vacancies.	Long term

Specific Gap Identified	Frivolous Petitions to block / delay elections	
Observation/ Context	Repeated attempts were made to delay or obstruct the holding of the presidential election through legal, constitutional, and procedural channels.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to EMOs	Closely monitor litigation or procedural interventions that could affect the election timeline and communicate clearly when such actions may threaten electoral certainty. Strategic legal interventions if needed.	Long term
Recommendations to the Public	Awareness raising and mobilizing the public for a permanent electoral calendar.	Long term
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Legalize the electoral calendar with clear provisions of presidential terms capturing all scenarios.	Long term

Specific Gap Identified	EC Financial Independence	
Observation/ Context	The Election Commission continues to depend on the central government for financial support, including for the conduct of pre-scheduled elections. This dependence can weaken institutional autonomy	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Advocate for a more secure and independent financial framework that allows the Commission to plan and conduct elections without last-minute uncertainty over funding.	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	Support reforms that strengthen the financial independence of the Election Commission and protect it from possible executive and legislative interference.	Immediate
Recommendations to the Public	Call for stronger institutional independence for the Election Commission through public discussion, civic engagement, and engagement with elected representatives.	Long term
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Provide the Election Commission with constitutionally protected financial autonomy and a stable funding mechanism for election administration.	Long term

10.3.2 Polling Officer Training

Specific Gap Identified	Mandatory Polling Officer Training Modules	
Observation/ Context	Ground-level polling officials are usually recruited only after the election is announced, leaving limited time for training and preparation. This can lead to inconsistency in procedure and avoidable errors on polling day.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	Moderate	
Recommendations to ECSL	Conduct mandatory training for polling officials well in advance of elections and ensure that all officers are familiar with procedures, responsibilities, complaint-handling protocols and special provisions to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.	Mid term
Recommendations to EMOs	Observe the polling official training with special reference to the inclusivity and accessibility aspects and recommend improvements. Resource mobilizations if needed.	Mid term
Recommendations to the Public	Report instances where polling officials show bias, confusion, or procedural weakness that may affect the fairness of the vote.	Mid term
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Make advance training for polling officials a mandatory procedural requirement under election Commission derivatives.	Mid term

10.3.3 Complaint Handling

Specific Gap Identified	Deficiencies in use of technology	
Observation/ Context	Limited human and technological resources reduce the speed and effectiveness with which election complaints are recorded, verified, and resolved. This weakens overall administrative responsiveness.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Develop a simple and accessible digital complaint system that allows voters, observers, and stakeholders to submit incidents quickly and securely.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Aline EMO reporting apps to ECSL's for shared problem tracking and solving.	Immediate
Recommendations to the Public	Use available complaint channels promptly and submit clear, factual information when reporting election-related problems.	Immediate

Specific Gap Identified	Delays/ lack of effectiveness in electoral dispute handling - Electoral judicial system	
Observation/ Context	Election-related disputes and violations also move through the ordinary judicial process, which result in delays that reduce the practical value of complaints during the election period.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Advocate for a faster and more specialized process for handling election-related disputes so that complaints can be resolved while they remain relevant to the electoral process.	Long term
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Advocate for the election court system or a speed process for election related court cases.	Long term
Recommendations to constitutional/ legal reforms	Constitutional change to enact election court system or legal provisions for an expedited process for election related court cases	Long term

10.3.4 Official Communication

Specific Gap Identified	Multilingual and accessible official communication	
Observation/ Context	ECSL communications are not always available in Sinhala, Tamil, and English at the same time, and some updates are not presented in formats that are accessible to all users. This limits public understanding and timely access to information.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Ensure that all official communication is issued promptly in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, and make key materials available in accessible formats, including audio and sign-language-friendly options where relevant.	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	Request/ demand information in one's own native language.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Technical assistance to ECSL if needed to improve communication accessibility and reach.	Immediate
Recommendations to the Public	Request/ demand information in one's own native language and format.	Immediate
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Make multilingual and accessible communication a mandatory standard for all official election-related notices and announcements.	Immediate

Specific Gap Identified	Pre-emptive Briefings and information flow	
Observation/ Context	Information on electoral procedures, progress, and updates is not always shared in a timely or systematic manner. This can leave voters and stakeholders without enough guidance during critical stages.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Pro-active information disclosure and weekly official media briefs on electoral progress.	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	Mandatory participation of Political party secretaries meeting during the election period. And use accurate information channels to guide supporters and polling agents.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Dissemination of official election information through their outreach, media, and social media platforms.	Immediate
Recommendations to the Public	Proactive participation in active seeking of establishment and functioning of official information channels.	Long- term
Recommendations to constitutional / electoral reforms	Require regular public information briefings as part of the Commission's core electoral duties.	Long- term

10.3.5 Media Regulations

Specific Gap Identified	State Media usage for political campaigns	
Observation/ Context	State media was perceived to be used in a manner that favoured the incumbent or one side of the political contest. This undermines equal exposure and balanced public debate.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Strict enforcement of media derivatives during election period and act decisively where unfair coverage or misuse of public media is identified.	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	Self imposed censorship and adherence to media derivatives.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Conduct systematic media monitoring and report patterns of bias or unequal exposure to the ECSL. .	Immediate
Recommendations to the Public	Remain alert to unfair media treatment and support balanced, fact-based coverage during elections.	Long term
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Electoral reforms- Introduce clearer legal safeguards and penalties for unfair or partisan use of state media during elections.	Long term

Specific Gap Identified	Social Media Fact Checking	
Observation/ Context	Social media was extensively used for political campaign, and a considerable amount of misinformation , disinformation and hate speech were regulated freely throughout the election period	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Strengthen the social media monitoring and Meta and TikTok platform notifications remove misinformation, disinformation and hate speech.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Strengthen collaborative social media monitoring and flagging misinformation , disinformation and hate speech.	Immediate
Recommendations to the Public	Verify information before sharing it online and avoid amplifying unconfirmed claims.	Immediate
Recommendations to constitutional/ electoral reforms	Legal provisions regulate online campaigns and penalize misinformation , disinformation, and hate speech .	Long term

10.4 Election Processes

10.4.1 Campaign Period Management

Sector	Clear Campaign Timetables	
Observation/ Context	The campaign period needs clearer, fixed timelines so that all candidates know exactly when campaigning may begin and end. Uncertainty over dates can create unfair advantages for better-resourced actors and weaken compliance.	
Level of Impact	Medium	
Recommendations to ECSL	Announce campaign timelines immediately after candidate confirmation and enforce the campaign period consistently.	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	Plan all campaign activities within the legally permitted period and avoid requests for informal extensions.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Strengthen campaign monitoring of political parties and candidates to check if they comply with the official campaign calendar and report violations promptly.	Long term
constitutional/ electoral reforms	Strengthen the law so that campaign periods are fixed and cannot be altered easily.	Long term

Sector	Equitable Rally Permits	
Observation/ Context	Access to public venues for rallies should be managed in a transparent and equal manner. Unequal access can create the perception that some candidates are being favored over others.	
Level of Impact	Low	
Recommendations to ECSL	Negotiate with relevant local government and administrative authorities to maintain a transparent permit register and ensure equal access to public spaces for all qualified candidates and political parties.	Long Term
Recommendations to Political Parties	Respect the principle of equal access and avoid pressuring local authorities for preferential treatment.	Long Term
Recommendations to EMOs	Strengthen district level campaign monitoring of political parties and candidates to check if they comply with the official campaign calendar and report violations promptly.	Medium Term
constitutional/ electoral reforms	Election derivatives - Create a digital, rule-based permit system to reduce human discretion and bias.	Medium Term

10.4.2 Misuse of Public/State Resources

	Government vehicles used in political campaigns	
Observation/ Context	The use of government vehicles and other official assets in campaign activity gives an unfair advantage and blurs the line between the state and the ruling party.	
Level of Impact	Medium	
Recommendations to ECSL	Closely monitor the use of state-owned vehicles and intervene immediately where misuse is identified.	Long ter,
Recommendations to EMOs	District level Collaborative observation and report instances of official vehicles or public assets appearing in campaign events.	Immediate
Recommendations to public	Report the misuse of government property for political purposes.	Immediate

Sector	Restrict Public Funds/Spending	
Observation/ Context	Public funds, government development projects can be used to influence voters if they are not tightly controlled during the election period.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Review government spending, public announcements, and development activity during the campaign period and stop actions that appear election-targeted.	Immediate
Recommendations to Political Parties	For the ruling party - Separate party campaign finances from public funds and voluntarily disclose all campaign-related spending accurately.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Beef up Coordinated Campaign expenditure monitoring and reporting	Immediate
Recommendations to public	Question sudden giveaways, announcements, or projects introduced during election period.	Immediate
constitutional/ electoral reforms	Strengthen legal controls on public spending during election periods and impose stronger sanctions for abuse.	Immediate

10.5 Election Integrity

10.5.1 EC Financial Independence

Sector	Autonomous Revenue Funds	
Observation/ Context	The Election Commission's dependence on central government funding can weaken perceived and practical independence. Financial uncertainty can also delay operational readiness.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Advocate for a dedicated and predictable funding mechanism that supports election operations without last-minute dependence on the Treasury. Fixed Electoral Calendar	Long term
Recommendations to Political Parties	Support reforms that protect the Commission's financial independence.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Monitor funding-related constraints and publicly document their impact on preparedness.	Immediate
Recommendations to public	Support institutional independence for the Election Commission.	Immediate
Constitutional/ Electoral Reforms	Establish constitutional or legal guarantees for secure Election Commission funding.	Long term

Sector	Fixed electoral calendar	
Observation/ Context	A predictable electoral calendar reduces uncertainty and limits attempts to delay elections for political advantage.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Publish election timelines well in advance and adhere to them strictly.	Long term
Recommendations to Political Parties	Avoid tactics that seek to alter the timetable for political gain.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Publicly challenge attempts to shift or delay the elections and advocate for fixed election calendar.	Long term
Recommendations to public	Support the principle that elections should be held on time.	Long term
Constitutional/ Electoral Reforms	Constitutional reform - Fixed election Calendar	Long term

10.5.2 Inclusion Measures

Sector	Female/Youth Boost	
Observation/ Context	Women and youth remain underrepresented in candidate lists and leadership positions, even though they form a large share of the electorate. This weakens representativeness.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	Moderate	
Recommendations to Political Parties	Promote women and youth through internal party reforms and nomination practices. Builds benches sustainably.	Long term
Recommendations to EMOs	Support inclusive leadership and voter awareness programs with representation in mind.	Long Term

Sector	Deposit Refunds Tied to Votes	
Observation/ Context	Election deposits should discourage unserious candidacies while still protecting legitimate political participation.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	Moderate	
Recommendations to ECSL	Refund deposits only above 1% threshold. Deters unserious spoilers.	Mid term
Recommendations to public	Support rules that reduce frivolous candidacies without limiting choice.	Long term
Recommendations to constitutional / electoral reforms	Set clearer rules linking deposits to minimum vote thresholds.	Mid Term

10.6 Election Campaign

10.6.1 Campaign Finance Monitoring

Sector	Campaign finance transparency	
Observation/ Context	Campaign finance monitoring remains essential for fair elections because hidden or excessive spending can distort competition. The new legal framework still needs stronger implementation and disclosure.	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Launch a public app showing timely, public, and standardized disclosure of all campaign spending and donations.	Long term
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Beef up coordinated campaign finance monitoring and reporting	Immediate
Recommendations to public	Use published finance information to assess candidate credibility.	Immediate
Constitutional/ Electoral Reforms	Strengthen campaign finance enforcement powers and reporting obligations.	Mid term

10.6.2 Regulate Misinformation/Disinformation/Hate Speech

Sector	AI Flagging Partnerships	
Observation/ Context	The growing increase of use of AI in online misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech can distort voter judgment and increase tension during elections.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Monitor online campaigning more actively and Ban inflammatory rhetoric circulated online.	Long Term
Recommendations to Political Parties	Pre-label AI content; Leads by clean example.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Work jointly on social media monitoring and verification.	Immediate
Recommendations to public	Verify information before sharing it online. .	Immediate
Constitutional/ Electoral Reforms	Create clearer legal rules for online campaign content and penalties for harmful digital conduct.	Long term

10.7 Election Dispute Resolution

10.7.1 Prevent Online/Physical Campaign Violence

Sector	Cyber Patrol Taskforces	
Observation/ Context	Online threats, incitement, and hostile messaging can quickly spill into physical confrontation during elections.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Deploy 24/7 digital teams scanning social platforms for threats, issuing cease-and-desist orders pre-escalation.	
Recommendations to Political Parties	Ban agents posting violent memes; self-report threats.	
Recommendations to EMOs	Monitor social media for patterns of incitement and alert the ECSL when escalation risks appear.	
Recommendations to public	Report threatening posts and avoid sharing content that may inflame tensions.	

10.7.2 Strengthen EC as Legal Entity

Sector	Quasi-Judicial Authority	
Observation/ Context	The Commission needs stronger legal authority to resolve routine election disputes quickly rather than relying on slow external referral systems. Faster decisions would improve deterrence and public confidence.	
Level of Impact	High	
Recommendations to ECSL	Seek legal powers to impose administrative penalties for certain disputes without waiting for court referral. .	Mid term
Recommendations to Political Parties	Accept EC rulings binding pre-campaign pacts. Speeds resolutions mutually.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Support the Commission in advocating for stronger enforcement powers while keeping accountability safeguards in place.	Immediate
Constitutional/ Electoral Reforms	Amend the Constitution or election law to grant limited quasi-judicial powers to the Commission.	Long term

10.8 Inclusivity & Accessibility

10.8.1 Voter Education

Sector	Gamified Mobile Apps	
Observation/ Context	Youth and first-time voters require special customized voter education and inclusion programs	
Level of Impact	Mid term	
Recommendations to ECSL	Launch quiz apps with prizes for completing modules in Sinhala, Tamil, English and disable friendly formats.	Immediate
Recommendations to EMOs	Collaborate with tech and telecommunications companies to create and propagate the gaming apps.	Mid term
Recommendations to public	Encourage youth and school leavers to participate	Immediate

10.8.2 Inclusion and accessibility to marginalized groups

Sector	Remand Prisoner Voting, Hospital voting, Home Voting Drones	
Observation/ Context	Sri Lanka does not have provisions to provide voting for remand prisoners	
Level of Impact to the overall electoral integrity	Mid term	
Recommendations to ECSL	Provide mobile ballot boxes at detention centers, hospitals, and ambulances with screened polling officials.	Mid term
Recommendations to Election Monitoring Organizations	Advocate for holistic voter inclusion through multiple voting modes	Long term
Recommendations to public	Support holistic voter inclusion	Long term
Constitutional/ Electoral Reforms	Electoral reforms to include the mechanisms to provide voting facilities to remand prisoners	Long term

11. Appendices

11.1 Media statements

11.1.1 First Interim Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAEBK-VCocG6a_hNVDaj_83qhSxajxl/view?usp=drive_link

11.1.2 Second Intern Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gaihMSl606HW1wfpBF4UnOACTu1YTWiZ/view?usp=drive_link

11.1.3 Postal Voting Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BPm2mAJpNxxkCT2neacmDxiUGe68XHF6Z/view?usp=drive_link

11.2 PAFFREL Election Budget - Presidential Election - 2024

Expenses - Election Monitoring		Amount Spent (LKR)
01	All Party Operation Unit Coordinators Training & Allowances	1,576,666.66
02	Field Coordinators Expences	3,386,499.99
03	Printing & Translation	843,525.00
04	Observer Reporting Database (KOBO)	833,985.21
05	Observer Facilitators Receive Training of Trainers	406,678.00
06	LTO Training & Allowances	8,739,785.25
07	Deployment of District Coordinators	3,838,285.00
08	District Finance Officers Training & Allowances	891,520.00
09	Training of Stationary Postal, Mobile Observers	19,253,676.00
10	Counting/Tabulation Centre Observers Training & Allowances	3,423,152.35
11	Deployment for Stationary, Mobile & Postal Observers	10,728,000.00
12	Mobile Observation Vehicle Charges	3,340,000.00
13	Reporting & News Releases	422,430.00
14	Administration Expenses	5,388,568.73
15	40 Campaign Finance Observers Training & Allowances	3,601,785.00

16	Election Coordinator's Allowances	4,578,333.31
17	Staff Salaries & Statutory Payments	8,646,030.98
18	Tools for Observers	4,286,920.00
19	Special Mobile Vehicle Expenses	1,014,038.00
20	Staff Training and Orientation	348,000.00
	Total Expenses	85,547,879.48

Name of the Donor	Fund Received (LKR) - Presidential Election 2024
DIAKONIA	285,614.06
Foundation Open Society Institute	57,577.18
National Democratic Institute	53,620,956.57
PACT International	31,583,731.67
Total	85,547,879.48



Presidential Election - 2024/09/21
All Island Result - Without Preferences



#	Name of the Candidate	Party Abbreviation	Votes Obtained	Percentage
1	ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE	NPP	5,634,915	42.31 %
2	SAJITH PREMADASA	SJB	4,363,035	32.76 %
3	RANIL WICKREMESINGHE	IND16	2,299,767	17.27 %
4	NAMAL RAJAPAKSA	SLPP	342,781	2.57 %
5	ARIYANETHIRAN PAKKIYASELVAM	IND9	226,343	1.70 %
6	DILITH JAYAWEERA	SLCP	122,396	0.92 %
7	K.K. PIYADASA	IND4	47,543	0.36 %
8	DISSANAYAKA MUDIYANSELAGE BANDARANAYAKE	IND13	30,660	0.23 %
9	SARATH FONSEKA	IND12	22,407	0.17 %
10	WIJEYADASA RAJAPAKSHE	JPF	21,306	0.16 %
11	ANURUDDHA POLGAMPALA	IND11	15,411	0.12 %
12	SARATH KEERTHIRATHNA	IND5	15,187	0.11 %
13	K.R. KRISHAN	APP	13,595	0.10 %
14	AGAMPODI PRASANGA SURANJEEWA ANOJ DE SILVA	DUNF	12,898	0.10 %
15	PRIYANTHA WICKRAMASINGHE	NSSP	12,760	0.10 %
16	NAMAL RAJAPAKSHA	SBP	12,700	0.10 %
17	AKMEEMANA DAYARATHANA THERO	IND1	11,536	0.09 %
18	NUWAN BOPEGE	SPF	11,191	0.08 %
19	AJANTHA DE ZOYSA	RJA	10,548	0.08 %
20	VICTOR PERERA	IND10	10,374	0.08 %
21	SIRIPALA AMARASINGHE	IND2	9,035	0.07 %
22	SIRITUNGA JAYASURIYA	USP	8,954	0.07 %
23	BATHTHARAMULLE SEELARATHANA THERO	JSP	6,839	0.05 %
24	ABUBAKAR MOHAMED INFAS	DUA	6,531	0.05 %
25	PEMASIRI MANAGE	IND14	5,822	0.04 %

#	Name of the Candidate	Party Abbreviation	Votes Obtained	Percentage
26	MAHINDA DEWAGE	SLSP	5,338	0.04 %
27	KEERTHIE WICKRAMARATNE	AJP	4,676	0.04 %
28	PANI WIJESIRIWARDENA	SEP	4,410	0.03 %
29	OSHALA HERATH	NIF	4,253	0.03 %
30	ANURUDDHA ROSHAN RANASINGHE	IND15	4,205	0.03 %
31	SARATH BANDARANAYAKE	NDF	4,070	0.03 %
32	K.A. KULARATNA	IND6	4,013	0.03 %
33	LALITH DE SILVA	UNFF	3,004	0.02 %
34	PALLIMULLA KAPUGAMAGE ANURA SIDNEY JAYARATHNA	IND7	2,799	0.02 %
35	JANAKA RATNAYAKE	ELPP	2,405	0.02 %
36	MYLVAGANAM THILAKARAJAH	IND8	2,138	0.02 %
37	SARATH MANAMENDRA	NSU	1,911	0.01 %
38	A.S.P. LIYANAGE	SLLP	1,860	0.01 %
Total Number of Valid Votes :			13,319,616	97.8 %
Number of Rejected Votes :			300,300	2.2 %
Number of Votes Polled :			13,619,916	79.46 %
Number of Registered Electors :			17,140,354	-

Date : 22.09.2024
Time : 5.25 Pm

R.M.A.L. Rathnayake
Chairman

M.A.P.C. Perera
Member

Ameer Faaiz
Member

A. Shanmuganathan
Member

Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake
Member

OFFICIAL RESULTS



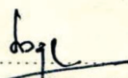
ELECTION COMMISSION
Presidential Election - 2024/09/21
All Island Preferences Result

171436083



#	Name of the Candidate	Party Abbreviation	Preferences
1	ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE	NPP	105,264
2	SAJITH PREMADASA	SJB	167,867
Total Number of Preferences :			273,131

Date : 22/09/2024
Time : 7.40 PM


R.M.A.L. Rathnayake
Chairman
(on behalf of Election Commission)

171436083

Page 1 of 1



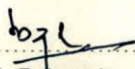
Presidential Election - 2024/09/21
Final Result

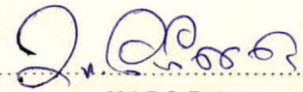


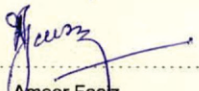
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1	ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE	NPP	5,634,915	105,264	5,740,179
2	SAJITH PREMADASA	SJB	4,363,035	167,867	4,530,902

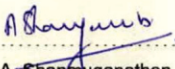
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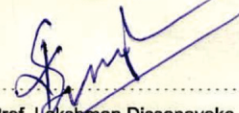
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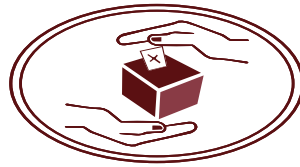

R.M.A.L. Rathnayake
Chairman


M.A.P.C. Perera
Member


Ameer Faaz
Member


A. Shanmuganathan
Member


Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake
Member



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