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Rajapaksa clan heading for landslide win in Lanka polls

SLPP Has Won 13 Of 16 Seats Declared So Far; Gotabaya Calls It Great Victory

Toi 7/8/20

Colombo: Sri Lanka's strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa was poised to stage a political comeback on Thursday as his party took an early lead and was set for a landslide victory in the twice-postponed general elections, according to results announced so far.

PM Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to congratulate Rajapaksa on the outcome of the elections and said the two sides will work together to further advance all areas of bilateral cooperation and to take their special ties to ever newer heights. "Thank you PM @narendramodi for your congratulatory phone call. With the strong support of the people



Unofficial results indicate that the Rajapaksa family-run Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) will comfortably win at least 17 out of the 22 districts on offer

of #SriLanka, I look forward to working with you closely to further enhance the long-standing cooperation between our two countries. Sri Lanka & India are friends & relations," Rajapaksa tweeted.

The SLPP has polled more votes than its rivals, scoring

over 60% of the total votes in the 16 seats officially declared so far from the South, dominated by the Sinhala majority community. The party won 13 out of 16 seats.

Unofficial results indicate that the SLPP would comfortably win at least 17 out of the

22 districts on offer.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a tweet described the results as a "great victory" for the ruling party.

The nearest rival is the new party formed by former presidential candidate Sajith Premadasa who has relegated his mother party, the United National Party, of former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe to the fourth place even below the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. In the Tamil minority dominated north, the main Tamil party — Tamil National Alliance — despite bagging a few polling divisions had also suffered unexpected reversals at the hands of SLPP's Tamil allies — the Eelam People's Democratic Party. AGENCIES