

# Who will be Sri Lanka's next president?

Two years after an economic meltdown, Sri Lanka holds an election seen as a referendum on painful austerity measures that were imposed under a \$3 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund



**Ranil Wickremesinghe, 75**

*Running as independent*

■ Took office in July 2022 after widespread protests caused by financial crisis forced predecessor

**Gotabaya Rajapaksa** to flee Sri Lanka

■ Unpopular for undertaking austerity measures in exchange for IMF bailout, but hopes to gain support from his success in largely abating shortage of essentials and slowing inflation to single-digit percentage rate this year



**Sajith Premadasa, 57**

*Leader of **Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB)** party*

■ Sri Lanka's opposition leader and son of former President **Ranasinghe Premadasa**, wants to lower taxes from rate agreed with IMF to ease economic pain for households



**Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55**

*Leader of Marxist-led coalition **National People's Power***

■ Only major candidate who does not belong to established party, campaigns on platform to fight corruption and has vowed to reopen IMF negotiations



**Namal Rajapaksa, 38**  
***Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)** party*

■ Nephew of deposed president and son of former strongman **Mahinda Rajapaksa**. Running as scion of country's most powerful political family in attempt to rebuild its brand with voters