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## Article For Reading – Sri Lanka's verdict: On the Island nation's ninth Presidential election.

The people of Sri Lanka have voted for change in the ninth presidential election with their **nod** to Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the National People's Power (NPP). Even though Mr. Dissanayake, also the chief of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), had to go through a second round of counting — a first since the introduction of the system of executive presidency in 1978 — the spirit of the mandate is for a change and a perceptible shift away from the established, traditional parties and groups that dominated the political landscape. It is remarkable that the JVP, a party with Marxist origins, that is leading the NPP, has been able to get about 42% of the vote share, unlike its poor showing in 2019 and 2020. And though lower than in 2015 and 2019, voter turnout was about 79.5%. Given their **constraints**, all the contestants conducted themselves in a way that reflected their faith in the democratic system. It is also no surprise that the purpose for which the popular uprising Aragalaya ('struggle' in Sinhala) took place, found **resonance** in the campaign and verdict.

As economic **woes** had triggered the uprising, all the contenders had focused on the economic factor. Mr. Dissanayake told *The Hindu* recently that fixing the **battered** economy would be among his priorities.

Despite being a Leftist, the JVP leader appears receptive to welcoming private and foreign investments. His election manifesto talks of renegotiating, rather than **scrapping**, with the IMF the \$2.9 billion bailout agreement. What Mr. Dissanayake should not overlook is that he has to adopt a **consensual** path while implementing his economic policies and programmes. It is also going to be challenging when it comes to the other facets of governance and how he will be able to ensure a “system change” as he has repeatedly attacked the present “corrupt political culture”. The promise to hold elections to provincial councils — a tier of government that the JVP had once opposed — must be reassuring to Tamils. In the area of foreign relations, Mr. Dissanayake, **dubbed** by his critics a “pro-China” leader, is expected to extend his pragmatism — he did visit India early this year. His election manifesto talks of renegotiating, rather than scrapping, with the IMF the \$2.9 billion bailout agreement. What Mr. Dissanayake should not overlook is that he has to adopt a consensual path while implementing his economic policies and programmes.

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## **Summary –**

**Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the National People’s Power (NPP) was elected as Sri Lanka’s president, signaling a shift from traditional parties with 42% of the vote. The campaign focused on economic recovery, and Dissanayake plans to attract investments while negotiating with the IMF. He aims to address corruption and hold provincial elections, reassuring minority communities. While criticized as “pro-China,” he emphasizes regional security. His commitment to abolishing the executive presidency remains contentious, and his success will rely on broad societal support.**



# Vocabulary –

## 1. Constraints ( Noun) बाधा-

Meaning – A limitation or restriction.

Synonyms – Obstruction, Limitation, Restriction.

Antonyms – Freedom, Leeway, Emancipation.

E.g.- Due to budget Constraints, the project could not be completed on time.

## 2. Battered(Adj.) बुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त –

Meaning – Injured or damaged by repeated blows or hard usage.

Synonyms – Beaten, Worn, Damaged.

Antonyms – New, Unbroken, Undamaged.

E.g.- After years of misuse, the old car looked battered and worn out.

## 3. Woes (Noun) दुर्दशा –

Meaning – Great sorrow or distress.

Synonyms – Misery, trouble, Suffering.

Antonyms – Joy, Happiness, Comfort.

E.g.- The Company's financial woes led to widespread layoffs.

## 4. Nod (Noun, Verb) अनुमोदन -

Meaning – A gesture indicating approval or acknowledgement.

Synonyms – Agree, Affirm, Approve.

Antonyms – Disapprove, Reject, Dissent .

## **5. Resonance (Noun) अनुरूपता –**

**Meaning –** A strong alignment or compatibility between ideas, values or situation.

**Synonyms –** Harmony, Alignment, Congruence.

**Antonyms –** Discrepancy, Mismatch, Disagreement.

**E.g.-** An employee focused on innovation may feel a lack of resonance with management.

## **6. Scrapping (Noun, Verb) रद्द करना –**

**Meaning –** The act of discarding or eliminating something entirely, often a plan, project, or idea.

**Synonyms –** Conceding, Terminating, Discarding.

**Antonyms –** Supporting, Continuing, Retaining.

## **7. Consensual (Adj.) सहमति –**

**Meaning –** Agreed by all parties, mutual consent or agreement.

**Synonyms –** Mutual, Unanimous, Concurrence.

**Antonyms –** Disagreeing, Coercive, Non-consensual.

**E.g.-** Both parties agreed to the contract, ensuring that their relation was consensual.

## **8. Dubbed( Verb) नामित, उपाधि –**

**Meaning –** to be given a name or title.

**Synonyms –** Named, Called, labelled.

**Antonyms –** Ignored, Unnamed, Disagreed.

**E.g.-** The Scientist was dubbed the ‘father of modern genetic ‘ for his groundbreaking research.