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Article For Reading –

More of the same: On the Sri Lankan President's India visit

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's visit to India, also his first **overseas** trip **in keeping with tradition**, marks a continuity in India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations. The joint statement, after his meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, covered aspects similar to the one subsequent to the visit of his predecessor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, in 2023. Mr. Dissanayake's assurance that Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used in any manner **inimical** to India's security and regional stability, **on the face of it**, appears to be a reiteration of Colombo's long-standing position, but it was significant in view of a perception that Mr. Dissanayake's Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) is a Left-leaning pro-China party. India viewed his observation as one that could have a bearing on the clearance for Chinese ships visiting Sri Lanka in the light of the Wickremesinghe government's one-year **moratorium** (after India's concerns) on all "foreign research vessels" visits ending next month. In the last 10 years or so, the frequent presence of Chinese ships became the main **irritant** in bilateral ties. It remains to be seen how far the **dispensation** will be sensitive to India's concerns — the Wickremesinghe's regime **took a stand** about six months ago that it "cannot only block China".

That the statements of the two leaders or the joint statement did not touch upon the status of projects by the Adani Group was expected. The joint statement talked of India's commitment to help Sri Lanka in areas such as agriculture and the digital economy. The proposal to have a joint working group on agriculture is a welcome development. There was a mention of the proposed Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement — 14 rounds of negotiations have been held so far. On the fisheries dispute, the two sides apparently stuck to their stated positions but Colombo should help facilitate an early meeting between the fishermen's associations in both countries. More importantly, there seems to be a **nuanced** shift, going by the English version of Mr. Modi's statement at the joint press conference. There is no reference to the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, which **envisages** a measure of autonomy to Provincial Councils, despite Mr. Modi covering matters such as **reconciliation**, the need for Sri Lanka fulfilling its commitments towards "fully implementing" its Constitution and conducting Provincial Council polls. The JVP ran a **virulent** campaign against the Amendment, an outcome of the 1987 India-Sri Lanka Accord. As the **coalition** that Mr. Dissanayake heads secured a massive mandate across the country in the November 14 parliamentary election, he is in a comfortable position to show a new direction to ties with India. It is an opportunity for both countries to resolve their differences.

Summary –

India's foreign trade showed mixed trends in November. While October saw a strong export growth of 17.2%, November's exports fell sharply to \$32.1 billion, the lowest in over two years. Meanwhile, imports surged to a record \$70 billion, driven by a 331.5% rise in gold imports and a 7.9% increase in petroleum imports. The trade deficit hit a historic \$37.8 billion, exceeding the export value. Despite government efforts to downplay concerns, declining exports of gems, jewellery, and petroleum, coupled with rising imports, raise questions about the sustainability of India's trade dynamics

Vocabulary –

1. Overseas (adj) विदेश में

Meaning= in, from, or to other countries.

Synonym: Abroad, foreign

Antonym: Domestic, local

Example: He often travels overseas for work, especially to Europe and Asia.

2. Inimical (adj) हानिकारक

Meaning = tending to obstruct or harm.

Synonym: Harmful, adverse

Antonym: Beneficial, friendly

Example: The harsh climate was inimical to the plants' growth.

3. Irritant (noun) उत्तेजक

Meaning = a substance that causes slight inflammation or other discomfort to the body.

Synonym: Aggravator, annoyance

Antonym: Soother, alleviator

Example: Pollen is a common irritant for many people with allergies.

4. Moratorium (noun) रोक

Meaning = a temporary prohibition of an activity.

Synonym: Embargo, suspension

Antonym: Continuation, resumption

Example: The government imposed a moratorium on commercial whaling.

5. Dispensation (noun) वितरण

Meaning = exemption from a rule or usual requirement

Synonym: Exemption, immunity

Antonym: Enforcement, imposition

Example: She was given a dispensation from the exam due to her illness.

6. Nuanced (adj) सूक्ष्म अंतरयुक्त

Meaning= characterized by subtle shades of meaning or expression.

Synonym : Subtle, refined

Antonym: Blunt, straightforward

Example: His nuanced performance conveyed the complex emotions of the character.

7. Envisage (verb) परिकल्पना करना

Meaning = contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event.

Synonym: Foresee, predict

Antonym: Disregard, ignore

Example: The architect envisaged a modern design that would complement the historic surroundings.

8. Virulent (adj) विषाणुयुक्त

Meaning = (of a disease or poison) extremely severe or harmful in its effects

Synonym: Deadly, lethal

Antonym: Harmless, benign

Example: The virulent strain of the virus spread rapidly through the community.

9.Reconciliation(Noun) सुलह, मेल-मिलाप, or समाधान.

Meaning - The process of restoring friendly relations, resolving disagreements, or making two opposing things compatible.

Synonyms – Restoration, Settlement, Resolution, Harmony.

Antonyms – Conflict, Disagreement, Disharmony, Discord.

Example – The peace treaty marked a historic reconciliation between the two warring nations.

10. Coalition (Noun) गठबंधन

Meaning - Coalition is a group or alliance formed by individuals, organizations, or nations working together for a common purpose or goal.

Synonyms – Alliance, Union, Partnership.

Antonyms – Division, Separation, Disunion, Detachment.

Example – The political parties entered into a coalition to secure a majority in the parliament.

Idioms & Phrases

1. In keeping with tradition:

Meaning - Following or adhering to established customs or practices.

2. On the face of it:

Meaning - Appearing to be true based on initial impressions.

3. Took a stand:

Meaning - Adopted a firm position or stance on an issue.