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SRI LANKA'S NEW LEADER MUST BALANCE TIES BETWEEN REGIONAL POWERHOUSES INDIA AND CHINA

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Krishan Francis and Krutika Pathi

The Marxist lawmaker who won Sri Lankas presidency faces a key challenge in how to balance ties with his countrys two most crucial partners, India and China, as he seeks to draw foreign investment and pull the economy out of the doldrums.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55, won the weekend election in an extraordinary political upset against an old political guard that voters blame for tipping the country into its worst economic crisis two years ago. Dissanayake must now deliver on promises to improve Sri Lankans lives, clean up government and ease austerity measures imposed by international lenders.

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