

Sri Lanka swears in left-leaning president

Sri Lanka's new president Anura Kumara Dissanayake has taken his oath of office, promising to "rewrite history" for a country that is recovering from its worst economic crisis



Anura Kumara Dissanayake (above) leads **National People's Power** (NPP) alliance, which includes his Marxist-leaning **Janatha Vimukthi Peremuna** (JVP) party

■ **Nov 1968:** Born in Galewela in central Sri Lanka. Enters politics as university student in 1987

■ **2000:** Elected to parliament. Serves as minister of agriculture and irrigation (2004-05) and chief opposition whip (2015-18)

■ **2014:** Named as leader of JVP – former revolutionary movement led two failed uprisings against Sri Lankan state in 1970s and 80s

■ **2019:** Runs for president as candidate of NPP – comes third with 3% of vote

■ **Sep 22, 2024:** Wins presidency after second round of counting – first election held since 2022, when discontent over economy forced former president **Gotabaya Rajapaksa** from power

SRI LANKA'S PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS (first round)

Anura Kumara Dissanayake
National People's Power

42.3%

Sajith Premadasa
Samagi Jana Balawegaya

32.8%

Ranil Wickremesinghe
(incumbent) – independent

17.3%

Turnout: **75%**