



# Sri Lankan President Sirisena must Uphold Democracy

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### Why in News?

After three weeks of political turmoil, Sri Lanka's controversially dismissed Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, appears to have gained the upper hand.

- A majority of lawmakers backed a no-confidence motion in Parliament against Mahinda Rajapaksa, a former President who was sworn in Prime Minister on October 26.
- The Speaker declared the motion to have been passed by voice vote, as Mr. Rajapaksa's loyalists sought to block the motion being taken up. Mr. Rajapaksa himself walked out of the parliamentary chamber before the vote was taken, with his supporters questioning the no-trust motion being taken up with such urgency.
- Mr. Sirisena's decisions in the last three weeks have been against the letter and spirit of the Constitution, especially the reforms enacted in 2015 to curb the vast powers that come with his office.
- It is now clearer than ever that Mr. Sirisena had needlessly plunged the country into a deep crisis by replacing the Prime Minister without ascertaining the numbers in the House.
- With these two leaders smarting under the setback in Parliament, it is difficult to consider the latest development as the end of political uncertainty.
- It is time that Mr. Sirisena, who was elected on a promise of political and institutional reform, showed some statesmanship and found a way

to work with Mr. Wickremesinghe again and bring back SL from political turmoil.

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