

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **veteran** (noun) – (long-serving) expert, seasoned, mature, established/experienced (person in an area of activity).
2. **theatrics** (noun) – (highly emotional and dramatic) incident, scene, spectacle.
3. **step aside** (phrasal verb) – leave, quit, withdraw, resign.
4. **hardly** (adverb) – almost not.
5. **interim** (adjective) – provisional, temporary, transitional.
6. **aide** (noun) – right-hand woman/man, companion, confidante, subordinate, second in command.
7. **mobilise** (verb) – bring (resources) into use for a particular purpose/cause.
8. **serve out** (phrasal verb) – to complete, finish, end (a term in prison, office, etc.).
9. **prompt** (verb) – induce, cause, motivate, persuade, encourage, impel, urge.
10. **play a part/role** (phrase) – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
11. **go by** (phrasal verb) – follow, observe something.
12. **regardless of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, in spite of.
13. **coalition** (noun) – alliance, union, partnership.
14. **a shot in the arm** (phrase) – (figuratively) boost, fillip, stimulus, impetus, encouragement; (literally) an injection of drugs.
15. **ward off** (phrasal verb) – prevent, oppose, avert, resist.
16. **lay to rest** (phrase) – to end something.
17. **for the time being** (phrase) – for now, for the moment, for the present, for a short time.
18. **turn down** (phrasal verb) – reject, refuse, decline, say no to.
19. **ally** (noun) – partner (in a particular activity).
20. **front** (noun) – political group, party, faction/camp.
21. **narrow down** (phrasal verb) – reduce, lessen, decrease.
22. **loyalist** (noun) – supporter, admirer, champion.
23. **accommodate** (verb) – favour, do someone a favour, assist, help, oblige.
24. **breakaway** (noun as modifier) – **an act of separating from a group, especially because of disagreement**, separatist, secessionist, dissenting, splinter (group/party).
25. **take a back seat** (phrase) – take a less important role.
26. **passing** (noun) – death, demise, passing away.
27. **campaign** (noun) – an organized effort that seeks to influence the decision making progress within a specific group.



As elections approach, drama and excitement will be a constant feature in the conduct of politics. In December last, it was **veteran** actor Rajinikanth who provided the **theatrics** to the political situation in Tamil Nadu by announcing his entry, and then his **exit**. Now, with the Assembly election hardly a month away, V.K. Sasikala, former interim general secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and **aide** of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, surprised many by declaring that she would step aside from politics. After mobilising her supporters and making a political show of her return to the State on serving out her jail term in Bengaluru, she issued an appeal to the “true followers” of Jayalalithaa to “remain united, act wisely and work hard” during the Assembly election to prevent the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) from capturing power again. There is no clarity over what **prompted** her to make such an announcement when it was expected that she would play an active political role, **going** by her observations in the last one month. But regardless of her motives, the latest statement can be viewed as a **tactical retreat** on her part so that the ruling AIADMK does not suffer any disadvantage in the elections. Although her nephew, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, who heads the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), is still hoping to lead a coalition of his own, her statement is a **shot in the arm** for the AIADMK, which is trying to **ward off** the challenge from the principal opposition, the DMK. It has also **laid to rest**, for the time being, the debate over the possibility of her return to the AIADMK, which was reported to have **turned down a suggestion from its ally**, the Bharatiya Janata Party, on the matter.

What the ruling party expects now is that the AMMK’s support base in the central and southern parts of the State will come back to it and help the party win the Assembly elections. There is expectation that the gap between the AIADMK-led front and the DMK-led **coalition** will **narrow down**, especially if some of the **loyalists** in the Sasikala camp are **accommodated** during distribution of the tickets by the AIADMK. But, elections rarely turn on any one factor, and certainly not on the limited support base of the **breakaway** group of Ms. Sasikala. On test will be the performance of Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the last four years. Personality-based politics has taken a back seat this election with the **passing** of M. Karunanidhi of the DMK and Jayalalithaa of the AIADMK. Performance and promises are, therefore, more likely to dominate the **campaign**.

1)The passage is revolving around the crux

- a)veteran actor Rajinikanth who provided the theatrics to the political situation in Tamil Nadu by announcing his entry, and then his exit.
- b)strategy adopted by the AIADMK party to gain in upcoming electoral contest.
- c)Sasikala’s withdrawal from politics might help narrow the gap in TN’s electoral contest.
- d) Personality-based politics has taken a back seat this election with the passing of M. Karunanidhi of the DMK and Jayalalithaa of the AIADMK

2) The most suitable title of the passage is

- a)Electoral politics gimmick to win the contest
- b)Tactical retreat: On Sasikala's move to step aside from politics
- c)Saikala's withdrawal from the politics
- d) Personality based politics in South India

3) The attitude of the author in the passage is

- a)critical
- b)Analytical
- c)Descriptive
- d)judgmental

4)Which of the following phrase used in the passage means "to end something"

- a)ward off
- b)a shot in the arm
- c)take a back seat
- d) lay to rest

5) Identify the pair of antonyms used in the passage.

- a) aide and veteran
- b) coalition and alliance
- c) alliance and breakaway
- d) None

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