Political Developments in South Africa

Why in news?

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African National Congress (ANC), a primary political party in South Africa, is expected to pick a new party chief.

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Why is it a milestone event?

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- Currently, the president of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma is also the Chief of the ANC.
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- Considering the primacy of the ANC in the South Africa, it is likely that the new party chief would become the next national president.
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- This thereby provides an opportunity to break away from the current political legacy of corruption and governance failures.
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Who are the main contenders?

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- The Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini (Mr. Zuma’s ex-wife) are the main contenders.
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- While Ms. Cyril is a strong presence in the party’s constitutional wing, Ms. Dlamini has been a minister across several cabinets.
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- Ms. Dlamini is seen as the candidate of continuity as she is echoing Mr. Zuma’s call for “radical economic transformation”.
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- Significantly, this program is invested in redistribution of resource to the impoverished black majority.

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- But if she prevails, it is also expected to muddy the prospects of any investigation into financial dealings of Mr. Zuma’s family.
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- Yet, even if Mr. Ramaphosa (who is promising change) triumphs at the party conclave, the troubles of the ANC are far from over.
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What are the challenges?

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- Any new leader will be inheriting a troubled political system and a nervous, gloomy economy.
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- Steadily rising unemployment (currently 28%), has been the chief characteristic of the current scandal-ridden decade in South Africa.
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- Also, with its overall popularity of ANC sliding, the party will have to work hard to nurture competent next gen leaders.
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Source: The Hindu

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