

# Editorial

Friday, January 31, 2020

## Judiciary on the rescue Indian Constitution

'In Indian politics nothing is impossible' - former Chief Minister of Manipur Radhababoo Kojam once said to reporters before he took oath on February 15, 2001. Saying so, the bindings of the constitution of India cannot be overridden by any of the citizen including the elected representatives called MLAs or Ministers. Numbers matter in democracy to form government, but as stated by former CM Radhababoo Kojam, it was made possible for the BJP to form a government here in the state even though it bagged only 21 seats in the assembly election. Congress party which bagged 28 seats failed to come back to power as it failed to control its members elected in the election who had parted violating the constitutional provisions provided under the Anti defection Law.

Recent verdict of the Supreme Court of India, directing the Speaker Tribunal of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, perhaps is a sign to show that the impossible part that former Chief Minister had stated regarding politics in Indian democracy turn out to be wrong. He seems to have forgotten that there is a judiciary that will come to the rescue of the constitution of India if violated by law makers. Some said the directives of the Supreme Court is a blow to the Speaker Tribunal, but then opinion of some said that the order is more like an opportunity given to the Speaker of Manipur to exercise his power without interference from the political party that he got elected. Even though the Speaker has to leave his party if become the speaker in conventional manner, he definitely may find undue pressure from the leadership of the party while rendering his duty.

To remind our readers, Th. Shyamkumar, the Forest Minister, was the first Congress MLA to join BJP. He joined BJP even before being sworn in as MLA. He was sworn in as Cabinet Minister at Raj Bhavan along with others on March 15 this year. On April 18, Congress MLA Giansuanhou Zou joined BJP. Four more Congress MLAs - Y Surchandra, Nangthang Haokip, O Lukhoh and S Bira joined the BJP on April 28. Another two Congress MLAs Kshetrimayum Biren Singh and Paanam Brojen joined the BJP on July 17.

With the joining of the 8 Congress MLAs to BJP, the number of Congress MLAs has been reduced to 20.

Congress party is the oldest political party in the country. People across the country have high respect for this political party over its commitment to protect and safeguard the constitution of India.

When BJP comes to power, people are not upset on realizing that the Congress party will play constructive role of opposition. In democracy a strong opposition is what people have been expecting and with the present numbers, Congress is a strong opposition in the house of 60.

Protecting the 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian constitution is also what is expected from the oldest political party. But for reason best known the political party is not following any procedure to protect the constitutional provision.

A candidate will be disqualified if he wins election on one party ticket and joins other party after win under Anti-defection law. Anti-defection law was introduced by 52nd amendment act, 1985 and it was also added in constitution as 10th schedule. Having known it, none of the members of the Congress had applied for disqualification of these elected representatives even after 7 months plus some few days. It was only against Th. Shyamkumar that a petition for disqualification had been reported filed. But till now no move or campaign is seen to speed up the case.

Lately a disqualification case has been filed against MLA Y Surchandra to the Speaker's tribunal but by a voter from Kakching Assembly constituency and not from the political party he had defected.

Better late than never, justice is likely to be delivered. Saying so, it is upto the Speaker that will decide the fate of the defected congress MLAs. People in the state have to wait and watch the integrity of Manipur Legislative Assembly.

## Coronavirus outbreak: Sikkim bans import of yarn & wool from Punjab, Assam

Agency Gangtok JAN 31

With the novel coronavirus leading to over 100 fatalities in China, Sikkim sounded high alert in view of the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) in China and has banned import of yarn and wool from Punjab, Assam that may have origin in China.

Sikkim government has put a temporary ban on import of yarn and wool from Ludhiana and Guwahati. The order issued by the

Rural Management Department reads that the step has been taken as a part of precaution from Corona Virus as the yarn and wool may be have imported from China. Earlier, Chief Secretary, S.C. Gupta in a meeting seeking preventive measures and caution against any suspected case of Corona Virus, and to assess the preparedness for prevention of any outbreak. He urged the heads of departments and all stakeholders to be alert and work in close coordination.

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## Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak 2019 - 2020 : Updated by WHO



### What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that infect both animals and humans. Human coronaviruses can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease (such as MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). Some coronaviruses that are found in animals can infect humans - these are known as zoonotic diseases.

### What is known about the disease identified in Wuhan China?

- It is caused by a novel coronavirus (called 2019-nCoV)
- Infection with this virus causes respiratory disease ranging from mild to severe disease.
- Some infected patients have died from infection (people with serious underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe disease and death) What is NOT known about the disease?
- Where it came from?
- How easily it spreads between people?
- Who is vulnerable to infection?

### Timeline of the outbreak

Dec 2019 - 1 st case December 12

Cases linked to a Seafood Market in Wuhan City China

January Week 1 - China reports to WHO a total of 59 patients with pneumonia of unknown etiology

January Week 2

- Diagnostic test developed & confirms 41 cases in China
- Thailand reports 1 case
- 1 death reported in China

January Week 3

- Japan reports 1 case
- Thailand reports a second case
- A second death reported in China

January Week 4

Total of 571 confirmed cases in mainland China, 4 in Thailand, 1 in Japan, 1 in Republic of Korea, 1 in the United States of America, 1 in Taiwan, China

- A total of 17 people have died
- Of the 571 cases, 95 are severe cases

Some human to human transmission is occurring

As per Official report data as of 23.01.2020 10:00 Beijing.

### Important events

- Initial cases all linked to Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan City, China. The Market was closed 01.01.20 for environmental sanitation and disinfection
- On 10 January, WHO launched a website with updated general and travel guidance <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- On 11 January, China shared the genetic sequence of nCoV

enabling the rapid development of diagnostic tests

- The cases in Thailand, Japan and Republic of Korea were all travelers from Wuhan City

### What is being done to control the outbreak? What are affected countries doing?

- Remaining vigilant for new cases and providing care for existing cases
- Implementing screening of travelers
- Sharing information with WHO and other countries What is WHO doing?
- Supporting affected countries and providing guidance on how to manage the outbreak
- Working with global networks of researchers and experts to deliver accurate, updated information
- Delivering accurate, timely information to the world

### Public health advice: summary

Frequently clean hands by using alcoholbased hand rub or soap and water Cover mouth and nose with a medical mask, tissue, or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Wash hands afterwards and discard mask or tissue. Avoid unprotected close contact with people with fever and cough and seek medical care if you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing When visiting live markets, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals Stay healthy and protect yourself from infection If you become sick while travelling, inform crew, seek medical attention early and share travel history

### Safe travel guidance

Before you depart: Avoid travel if you have a fever and cough If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical attention and share previous travel history with your health care provider During travel: • Avoid close contact with people suffering from a fever and cough • Frequently wash hands by using alcohol based hand rub or soap and water • Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth • Cover mouth and nose with tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing and wash hands afterwards • If you choose to wear a face mask, be sure to cover mouth and nose. Avoid touching mask once it's on, immediately discard single-use mask after each use and wash hands after removing masks. • If you become sick while travelling, inform crew and seek medical attention • If you seek medical attention, share travel history with your health care

### Food safety guidance: Guidance for shopping in wet markets

Wash hands with soap and water after touching animals and animal products

- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid contact with sick animals and spoiled meat
- Avoid contact with stray animals, waste and fluids in market
- Avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals

Stay healthy at markets Guidance for working in wet markets 24/01/



## China Successfully Cures First Person Of The Deadly Wuhan Coronavirus Using HIV Drugs

Chinese government has confirmed that they've successfully cured it's first patient of the deadly Wuhan Corona-virus.

Agency report said that the Chinese government has announced to the world that they've successfully treated and discharged it's first patient of the deadly Wuhan coronavirus. The patient identified as a 56-year-old has been discharged from the hospital after showing tremendous improvement. The woman Chen first started showing symptoms on January 10th and was hospitalized on January 12th.

After many days of testing and scans, strangely she started showing good response to a medicine used in treating HIV and AIDS.

The drug called Nelfinavir is a protease inhibitor drug which decreases toxins in already infected cells.

The drug also helps to reduce the production of virus from cells.

Although the exact cause of Wuhan corona virus has not yet been determined, it is believed to have originated from wild animals which include bats and snakes.

The deadly Corona-virus has already claimed its 110th patient with over 90,000 currently infected.

The Chinese government has shut down all transport systems including trains and airports in other to curb the deadly virus. Most cities including Wuhan have also been shut off from the outside world so that infected patients does not leave.

As China battles to complete a world record of setting up a 1000 bed hospital in 7 days, the corona virus has now been recorded in 16 countries with Ivory Coast in Africa been the latest country to get the Virus.

A student who arrived the country was showing symptoms of Coronavirus and was detained at the airport. He was found to have traveled through China.

## IIT Bombay bans anti-national activities within campus

By a Correspondent By Raju Vernekar

IIT, Bombay has banned anti-national activities by students within campus and has advised students that the undesirable activities will not be allowed even if faculty is part of the gathering.

The 15 point circular issued via e mail by IIT BDDirector Subhasis Chaudhuri on 28 January 2020, states that they should not indulge in giving speeches, play music or any other activities that would disturb the peace of the hostel environment. Besides, the pamphlets, leaflets can be distributed or posters pasted only with the permission of the Hostel Council or the Dean of Students' Affairs.

Point 10 of the internal mail states that "Residents shall not participate in any anti-national, anti-social and or any other undesirable activities." The internal mail says that it is aimed at reiterating and highlighting hostel rules that need to be strictly implemented.

Earlier, IIT Bombay director in an open-house speech had told students that they should refrain



from taking part in such protests inside the campus. He had said that the students should express their political views outside the campus and never use the institute's name while voicing such views. IIT Bombay is funded by the government with public funds and the institute is apolitical, he had said.

The 15 point circular has been issued in the backdrop of some IIT Bombay students and faculty organising a candle march in solidarity with students of the Jamia Millia Islamia University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University where widespread violence was witnessed over the past

month.

Besides some students are also running a face book page "IIT Bombay for Justice". The page boldly carries a photo of some students, posing with a placard saying 'Reclaim the Republic'. According to reports, this page is being run by the left oriented students affiliated to "Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle". These students were in the forefront in agitations against CAA/NRC. Even the comedian Varun Grover had participated in the anti CAA/NRC agitations and had recited a poem in Hindi titled "Hum Kagaz Nahi

Dikhayenge" (we will not show documents to authorities for CAA/ NRC).

Those attached to "IIT Bombay for Justice" were also busy preparing posters protesting the sedition charges filed against Sharjeel Imam, by several states for an anti-CAA speech he delivered at Aligarh Muslim University on January 16. Later Imam, a PhD student in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), was arrested from his village" Koko in Jehanabad district of Bihar" on 28 January, Tuesday. He was a student at IIT, Bombay between 2006 and 2011. He pursued a dual degree in Computer Science and Engineering and graduated in 2011.

However the national sentiment was also quite apparent at IIT, Bombay when the students and teachers in large number took out 4.5 km long march carrying a long tricolour on Republic Day. The theme of the march was "IIT Bombay for Nation Building". Besides, over 1,000 residents of IIT Bombay rallied in support of the institute's director's call for non-politicisation of the campus.