

**Party and symbol: on 'Two Leaves' verdict**

**Delhi HC order on 'Two Leaves' deepens T.T.V. Dhinakaran's political dilemma**

The Delhi High Court verdict upholding the allotment of the 'Two Leaves' symbol to the AIADMK jointly led by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy CM O. Panneerselvam has come as no surprise. The Election Commission's November 23, 2017 order had ruled in its favour based on the group's majority in its organisational and legislative wings. The claim of the faction headed by V.K. Sasikala, a confidante of the late Jayalalithaa, and her nephew, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, to the party's name and symbol weakened after Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam, who were in rival factions earlier, decided to come together in August 2017. Since then, they have consolidated their position by getting Mr. Dhinakaran's loyalists among MLAs disqualified and outmanoeuvring him in both the party structure and in court cases. Their unity was forged with the common aim of keeping out Ms. Sasikala, who was briefly elected interim general secretary of the AIADMK after Jayalalithaa's death in December 2016, and her nephew. The court has ruled that the EC was well within its powers to apply the majority test and allot the symbol to the faction that had more members in the general council and in its complement of MLAs and MPs. The court did not entertain arguments that the Commission should have ruled against the Panneerselvam-Palaniswami faction because it had changed the party's basic structure by abolishing the post of general secretary; and the contention that the Commission's order was vitiated by malice because it granted additional opportunities for filing affidavits, after which many reneged on their earlier statements on which group they belonged to.

The Dhinakaran faction has decided to appeal in the Supreme Court against the order that has set back his political fortunes. At the same time, it wants a common symbol to contest elections. Mr. Dhinakaran himself won a by-election to the Assembly from the RK Nagar constituency as an independent with the 'pressure cooker' symbol. He may have to register his party, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), with the EC to get a common symbol. Ever since he began running a faction in the absence of Sasikala, who is serving a four-year prison term, he has been trying to make the best of bad situations. He spent months in a Delhi prison himself on an allegation that he attempted to bribe an unknown EC official to get the party symbol. His political survival has so far hinged on tactically preserving a dual identity: running a party on the one hand, and keeping his group's claim to the AIADMK's identity alive through court cases. It is clear he is seeking to preserve his claim until the mainstream leadership is defeated in an election, in the hope that a majority of the party's primary members will rally behind him. The coming general elections and as many as 21 Assembly by-elections will be an acid test of his political survival

WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS
<b>Verdict</b>	A decision on an issue of fact in a civil or criminal case or an inquest.	Judgement, Adjudication, Adjudgement, Decision, Finding, Ruling, Resolution,
<b>Legislative</b>	Having the power to make laws.	Law-Making, Law-Giving, Judicial, Juridical, Jurisdictional, Parliamentary,
<b>Confidante</b>	A person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, trusting them not to repeat it to others	Close Associate, Companion, Crony, Intimate
<b>Rival</b>	A person or thing competing with another for the same purpose	Competitor, Opponent, Contestant, Contender, Challenger

<b>Factions</b>	A small organized dissenting group within a larger one, especially in politics.	Clique, Coterie, Caucus, Cabal, Bloc, Camp, Group, Grouping
<b>Loyalists</b>	A person who remains loyal to the established ruler or government, especially in the face of a revolt.	
<b>Outmanoeuvring</b>	Evade (an opponent) by moving faster or with greater agility	Outflank, Circumvent, Bypass, Shake Off, Throw Off, Get Around
<b>Forge</b>	Copied fraudulently; fake.	
<b>Briefly</b>	For a short time; fleetingly.	In Short, In Brief, To Put It Briefly, To Cut A Long Story Short, In A Word
<b>Complement</b>	A thing that contributes extra features to something or a gift to encourage someone for their contribution	Accompaniment, Companion, Addition, Supplement, Accessory, Adjunct
<b>Abolishing</b>	Formally put an end to (a system, practice, or institution)	Stop, Terminate, Eradicate, Eliminate, Exterminate, Destroy
<b>Contention</b>	Heated disagreement.	Disagreement, Dispute, Disputation, Argument, Variance
<b>Vitiate</b>	Spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of	Ruin, Wreck, Destroy, Upset, Undo, Mess Up, Make A Mess Of, Dash
<b>Malice</b>	The desire to harm someone; ill will.	Spitefulness, Spite, Malevolence, Maliciousness, Animosity, Hostility
<b>Reneg</b>	Go back on a promise, undertaking, or contract.	Default On, Fail To Honour, Go Back On, Break, Back Out Of, Pull Out Of, Withdraw From
<b>Fortunes</b>	Chance or luck as an arbitrary force affecting human affairs	Chance, Accident, Coincidence, Serendipity, Twist Of Fate, Destiny, Fortuity
<b>Hinge</b>	Attached or joined with a hinge	
<b>Tactically</b>	In a way that relates to actions carefully planned to gain a specific end	
<b>Preserve</b>	Keep in its original or existing state for future use.	Conserve, Protect, Maintain, Care For, Take Care Of, Look After, Save, Safeguard, Keep
<b>Survival</b>	The state or fact of continuing to live or exist, typically in spite of an accident, ordeal, or difficult circumstances	Actuality, Being, Existing, Reality, Fact

## Alarming spread: on H1N1 cases

### With H1N1 now a seasonal flu strain, care workers and others at risk must be vaccinated

In a short span of 55 days (till February 24) this year, the number of influenza A (H1N1) cases and deaths reported from India reached an alarming 14,803 and 448, respectively. The highest numbers were from Rajasthan (3,964), Delhi (2,738) and Gujarat (2,726). Uttar Pradesh was next, with 905. While Rajasthan and Gujarat had the highest number of deaths, at 137 and 88, respectively, Delhi recorded seven deaths despite recording around the same number of cases as Gujarat. There appears to be no let-up, with the number of cases and deaths steadily rising. What is more disturbing is that the number of cases reported till February 24 is nearly the same as that recorded in the whole of 2018 (14,992). At about 450, the number of deaths till February 24 is nearly half the total reported in 2018 (1,103). The actual number of cases and deaths this year is likely to be higher as West Bengal has not reported the data to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. Moreover, the IDSP data are based only on laboratory confirmed cases and deaths. The H1N1 virus, which caused a pandemic in 2009, has since become a seasonal flu strain globally, including in India, and causes fewer deaths. According to the WHO, in 2009 the number of laboratory confirmed deaths caused by the pandemic strain was at least 18,500. But a 2012 paper in Lancet Infectious Diseases mentioned 2,84,000 deaths, which was 15 times more than the number of laboratory confirmed deaths.

On February 6, the Union Health Ministry had reviewed the preparedness and action taken by States to deal with influenza cases when the number of H1N1 cases and deaths stood at 6,701 and 226, respectively. Despite the number of cases and deaths more than doubling in less than 20 days since the review, the Ministry has made no additional effort to contain the spread. It has issued a guidance “recommending” vaccines for health-care workers, and deeming them “desirable” for those above 65 years of age and children between six months and eight years. Surprisingly, people with pre-existing chronic diseases, who are most susceptible to H1N1 complications according to the WHO, have been ignored — though its own statement released on February 6 had said more deaths were seen in people with diabetes and hypertension. With H1N1 becoming a seasonal flu virus strain in India even during summer, it is advisable that health-care workers and others at risk get themselves vaccinated. Despite the sharp increase in cases and deaths, the vaccine uptake has been low. Besides vaccination, there needs to be greater awareness so that people adopt precautionary measures such as frequent handwashing, and cough etiquette.

<b>WORD</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>SYNONYMS</b>
<b>Span</b>	The full extent of something from end to end; the amount of space that something covers.	Extent, Full Extent, Length, Width, Reach, Stretch, Spread, Distance, Compass, Range
<b>Respectively</b>	Separately or individually and in the order already mentioned (used when enumerating two or more items or facts that refer back to a previous statement)	Separately, Individually, Singly, Discretely
<b>Steadily</b>	In a regular and even manner.	
<b>Disturbing</b>	Causing anxiety; worrying	
<b>Surveillance</b>	Close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal	Observation, Scrutiny, Watch, View, Inspection, Monitoring, Supervision, Superintendence
<b>Pandemic</b>	(Of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.	Widespread, Prevalent, Pervasive, Rife, Rampant, Epidemic
<b>Strain</b>	Force (a part of one's body or oneself) to make an unusually great effort	
<b>Flu</b>	Influenza	
<b>Preparedness</b>	A state of readiness, especially for war.	Anticipation, Planning, Forward Planning, Provision, Prescience, Circumspection, Watchfulness, Attentiveness, Vigilance, Prudence, Care, Caution, Precaution, Readiness
<b>Deeming</b>	Regard or consider in a specified way.	Judge, Adjudge, Count, Rate, Find, Esteem, Gauge, Suppose
<b>Desirable</b>	Wished for as being an attractive, useful, or necessary course of action.	Advantageous, Advisable, Wise, Sensible, Prudent, Recommendable
<b>Susceptible</b>	Likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing.	Liable To, Prone To, Subject To, Inclined To, Predisposed To, Disposed To, Given To, Easily Affected By, In Danger Of, At Risk Of, At The Mercy Of
<b>Chronic diseases</b>	Suffering with an illness for a long time or recurring constantly.	Persistent, Long-Standing, Long-Term, Constantly Recurring
<b>Complications</b>	A circumstance that complicates something; a difficulty.	Difficulty, Problem, Issue, Obstacle, Hurdle, Stumbling Block, Barrier, Impediment

<b>Vaccinated</b>	Treat with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease; inoculate.	Administer, Introduce
<b>Precautionary</b>	Carried out as a precaution; preventive.	Preventative, Preventive, Safety, Protective
<b>Etiquette</b>	The customary code of polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group.	

