

South Korea court strikes down abortion law in landmark ruling

<p>Notes &amp; Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>South Korea’s Constitutional Court on Thursday overturned a ban on abortion that has stood for more than 65 years, saying in a landmark ruling that current law unconstitutionally curbs women’s rights. But the law will stay on the books until the end of 2020, it added, to allow time for its revision.</p> <p>In a statement, it said the ban, as well as a law making doctors liable to criminal charges for abortions done with the woman’s consent, were both unconstitutional.</p> <p>”I believe this ruling frees women from shackles, ” said Kim Su-jung, a lawyer representing the plaintiff, a doctor charged with conducting 69 illegal abortions.</p> <p>The ruling reflects a trend towards decriminalising abortion, as cases of criminal punishment have fallen in recent years. Just eight new cases of illegal abortion were prosecuted in 2017, down from 24 in 2016, judicial data show.</p> <p>Duelling demonstrations outside the courthouse highlighted persistent divisions in opinion. But the ruling helps ensure pregnancy is a personal choice, said Lee Ga-hyun, who joined a protest against the law after she saw a friend risk her life using illegal medication for an abortion.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	