

ECI ready to pilot remote voting for domestic migrants; migrant voter need not travel back to home state to vote

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 29:

Migration based disenfranchisement is indeed not an option in the age of technological advancement. The voter turnout in General Elections 2019 was 67.4% and the Election Commission of India is concerned about the issue of over 30 Crore electors not exercising their franchise and also differential voter turnout in various States/UTs. It is understood that there are multifarious reasons for a voter not opting to register in a new place of residence, thus missing out on exercising the right to vote. Inability to vote due to internal migration (domestic migrants) is one of the prominent reasons to be addressed to improve voter turnout and ensure participative elections. Although there is no central database available for migration within the country, the analysis of available data in public domain points

to work, marriage and education related migration as important components of domestic migration. Out-migration is predominant among the rural population in overall domestic migration. Approximately 85% of the internal migration is within the States.

Soon after assuming office as Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar's learning of domestic migration issues first hand from his trek to Dumak village in Chamoli district, focused his attention on enabling the migrant voters to exercise their franchise from their current place of residence. Realising such empowerment would entail a host of legal, statutory, administrative and technological interventions, ECI team has deliberated at length to find inclusive solutions to facilitate electoral participation of migrants across all socio-economic strata and explored alternative voting meth-

ods like two-way physical transit postal ballots, proxy voting, early voting at special Early Voting Centres, one-way or two-way electronic transmission of postal ballots (ETPBS), Internet-based voting system etc.

With the objective of finding a technological solution which is credible, accessible and acceptable to all stakeholders, the Commission headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel has now explored the option of using a modified version of the time-tested model of M3 EVMs to enable voting at remote polling stations i.e., polling stations outside home constituency, for domestic migrants. The migrant voter would thus need not travel back to his/her home district to exercise his/her franchise of voting.

A concept note has been

circulated amongst political parties (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/14714-letter-to-political-parties-on-discussion-on-improving-voter-participation-of-domestic-migrant-using-remote-voting/>) highlighting the challenges of defining domestic migrants, implementation of Model Code of Conduct, ensuring secrecy of voting, facility of polling agents for identification of voters, process and method of remote voting and counting of votes amongst other issues.

The Commission in association with a renowned Public Sector Undertaking is now ready to pilot a Multi Constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM) for facilitating participation of domestic migrants from their remote locations itself i.e., the places of their current residence for purposes of education/employment, etc., for voting for their home constituencies.

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SP Imphal West issues do's and don'ts for picnickers during New Year celebrations



IT News
Imphal, Dec 29:

Superintendent of Police, Imphal West District Ksh. Shivakanta Singh has wished everyone a safe and happy new year and at the same time appealed to the general public against creating public nuisance and unwarranted disturbances to others in the name of year-end and new year celebrations in the district.

Highlighting the popularity of picnic spots along the river-banks in Sekmai, the SP said that a public meeting with Officer-in-charge, Sekmai Police Station K. Sunilkumar Singh, leaders of all villages and local club leaders of the area and its surrounding villages was held on December 28 at the Sekmai Police Station to chalk out ways to minimize untoward incidents at these picnic spots during the New Year celebrations.

The meeting was held to sensitize the leaders of the nuisances which could be witnessed during the New Year

Celebration and of peaceful ways to control them.

Anticipating heavy rush of picnickers on December 31 and January 1, 2023 as is the norm every year along the river banks in Sekmai, the SP appealed to everyone visiting the spots to maintain discipline, cleanliness and against creating unnecessary nuisance for others.

The SP strongly appealed against bringing of any firearms, licensed or otherwise, to the picnic spots, and said that any firearm found during frisking and checking at entry points will be confiscated. He said licensed firearms will be returned to the rightful owners only after proper verification.

People should also be mindful if they are accompanied by children, the SP said, strongly appealing against anyone going unnecessarily into the river. We need to be alert, he said, stressing that there have been unwanted drowning incidents in the river in the past couple of years during the festive season.

He said the police will also identify restricted zones where the river runs deep and further urged all to respect these signs.

The SP appealed to the picnickers against creating disturbances in the neighboring villages to avoid untoward incidents. Another thing we have to be mindful of is the waste, he said, urging picnickers to bring their own waste bags and dispose their waste at IMC designated waste collection centres.

He said we have witnessed several accidents along the highway over the years and further appealed to all to follow traffic rules. He said that strict traffic checks will also be conducted.

The SP also stated that with support of local clubs and leaders, there will be some restrictions on timing of picnic in the area. He said that entry will not be allowed after 12 noon into the picnic spots and that closing time will be 3pm. He added that by 4pm, all picnic should end.

Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar re-extended for another six months

IT News
Imphal, Dec 29:

Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar has been re-extended for another six months as his earlier extension ended on December 31, 2022. Dr. Rajesh Kumar IAS of 1988 batch Manipur- Tripura cadre was due for retirement on 30th June 2022. However, His service was extended by 6 months per an order issued by Governor of Manipur. With another re-extension for 6 months



Rajesh Kumar will hold the post of Chief Secretary till

June 31, 2023.

1988 batch IAS officer, Dr. Rajesh Kumar was appointed as Chief Secretary of Manipur in August 2020. He succeeded Dr. J Suresh Babu retired on July 31, 2020.

The latest move had belied the hopes of contenders to the top job including additional chief secretary MH Khan, NEC secretary K Moses Chalai and additional chief secretary P Vaiphei.

Earlier, the state had written to DOPT seeking another

six months extension for Rajesh Kumar.

So far, only three chief secretaries were given service extension and the maximum period was six months.

DS Poonia was given only three months extension while RR Rashmi was given six months.

RR Rashmi had only about three months of service when he was appointed Chief Secretary in 2017 and in a special case he was given six months extension.

On the 86th Birth Anniversary of NK Sanajaoba

By: Shamu Khongman
Vice-President, NK
Sanajaoba Memorial Trust

Lamyamba NK Sanajaoba was born on 30th of December 1936, Wednesday. His birth residence was at Singjamei Wangma Torban Kshetrelleikai in Imphal. He is the second child of Nongmeikapam Ibochou and Wangjam Ningol Muktarani. He started his education at Khongman LP School near his residence till his 2nd standard. Afterward, he continued his further education and school at ME School at Moirangkhom, and completed his matriculation from RVS high school in the year 1956 from Guwahati University board. Further, he completed his intermediate from DM College and also completed his graduation as well from the same college. During his time in the college, he was associated with various societies like the NCC and he was even appointed as magazine secy. In the year 1977, he got hitched to Mayengbam

Anuradha from Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai and they had a son together named Meiraba. On the crack of dawn of 11th November 1995 NK Sanajaoba had his last breath.

Sanajaoba had pursued various professions and occupations when he was alive. He was there as a teacher at Meitei Mayek high school which is located at Kongba Soudongbung in the year 1958. Further in the year 1966 he continued his profession as a teacher at Hindi high school located at Akampat Monkhang road and even became the headmaster of the school till 1969. Later he became a casual news reader and translator at All India Radio, he also became the state secretary of the Manipur State Scouts Union in the year 1964 and in the year 1969 he became joint secretary of the Manipur Cultural Integration Conference and also worked as the President of the Loktak project workers union.

He was a very renowned person among the people of Manipur because of all his

contribution to the people and the state. He started a monthly print journal called 'Lamyamba' where he was the Editor. In this journal, there was a column called 'Yukhal Marumda' where he used the pseudonym 'Thengra' to express and write about the dirty politics and obscenity of government departments. In order for NK to produce solid evidence for all his writings he has gone through a lot of terrifying incidents. The investigations were not very easy for NK but he somehow managed to get past all this and became the legend of investigative journalism in Manipur.

With all the history of developmental progression going around the world, many communities and tribes lost their identity. It is said that those who aren't able to get past the progression and fight along are the ones to lose their identity. There have been lots of changes going around Southeast Asia and these changes aren't something that we should be neglecting. Even

though things are pretty overwhelming for the youths it is not the best to overlook situations like this. We have seen the neighbouring states like Tripura who lost their identities and entities. For the Manipuris to save their identity after being included in India the youths "Naharols" of

Manipur were always ready to protect their motherland. The fights of the "naharols" were not always easy as their main motive was always to bring more light in education, to protect the cultural entities of Manipur, and as said the identity. For everything to happen the voice of all Manipuris who

are living outside is needed and integrity among them was very much needed. On November 24th, 1964 United National Liberation Front was established and among the seven members, NK was also a founding member of the organization. Also in the year 1968, a 3 days conference was held on 28,29

and 30 of December, many Manipur students of Guwahati university were present, and also many Manipuris who are employed in many parts of India were also there to witness the "All Assam, Tripuri, Manipuri and Nagaland Youth Conference".

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নমস্কেতচ
শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

NK SANAJAOBA

86th (MARIPHUTARUK) SUBA MAPOK KUMON

SARUK YABIYU

30 December 2022 at Lamyamba Shanglen, Konung Lampak, Imphal

NK SANAJAOBA MEMORIAL TRUST

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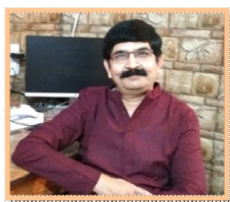
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TikTok Offers a Lot of Tools for Creativity



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

TikTok Day is celebrated on December 29 every year. Thomas Roy an American film, television, and voiceover actor was the creator of TikTok Day together with his wife Ruth Roy. The day reminds people to get down to work on all the things they meant to accomplish before the year ends. TikTok is a social media platform for creating, sharing and discovering short videos. The app is used by young people as an outlet to express themselves through singing, dancing, comedy, and lip-synching, and allows users to create videos and share them across a community.

Since its 2017 launch, TikTok has become one of the fastest growing social media apps, with India serving as its largest user base followed by the US. Its arrival in India in 2017 opened the doors to fame for many ordinary Indians. It had reached 2 billion downloads globally, counting 200 million users in India at the time of the ban. The move to ban TikTok comes in the backdrop of the current stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh with Chinese troops. Among the other banned Chinese apps are UC Browser, Helo, Likee, CamScanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call - Xiaomi, and Clash of Kings. In India, TikTok's success was massive. India has been the biggest driver of new TikTok downloads, generating close to 660 million installs since its launch in 2017. According to the statistics of 2019, a whopping 39% of the 500 million users of the app globally were from India. Right before the ban, India became the app's largest market. But the troubles with this were also massive. According to the sources, it is said that the reasoning given by the government was that these 59 apps are "engaged in activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order."

In India TikTok was banned on June 29, 2020, over national security reasons. It has been a year since the ban, and the app, now forgotten and vilified, was once the only source of income for many. A year after the TikTok ban in India, India Today Tech got a chance to interact with some popular content creators who have finally accepted the TikTok ban and settled with an alternative. According to market research firm Sensor Tower, India used to be one of TikTok's largest overseas markets, accounting for 18.8 per cent of global downloads in June 2020, followed by the United States at 8.7 per cent.

Top social media platforms such as TikTok, Helo and WeChat came under the ambit of the ban, giving a serious jolt to China's dream of setting up a Digital Silk Route. Content sharing platform TikTok is the first among the list of apps banned. We all know that TikTok in recent years, has become a tool for members of many marginalised communities to create their own videos and in absence of TikTok, the marketplace of ideas becomes smaller.

In an interview with India TV, actress Ashnoor Kaur, who has 3.2 million followers on TikTok, celebrated the government's move saying it presented an opportunity for India to become self-sufficient and use homegrown apps. One agrees that TikTok is a platform that celebrates creativity & expression. TikTok has not only objectionable videos but is also pushing youngsters towards unproductive life where they are living only for few followers and even dying when no. We can always use other apps and the best thing is to have an Indian app. Why should we depend on others when we have educated and able youth in our own country?

Govt. should raise Ecological Task Force (ETF) to check illegal poppy plantation and deforestation in highlands

By: Thangjam Ranjit

There has been continuous but unabated activities of land degradation and deforestation in the hill districts of the state for the last few decades, since the arrival of illegal settlers in the state. The wanton uprooting, cutting, burning of trees for purpose of collecting/harvesting charcoal, firewoods, new settlements, large scale plantation of poppy and to some extent vegetables/crops in hill slopes, are responsible for the degradation of soil and deforestation in the hill areas of the state with maximum incidence occurring in Kangpokpi District, among the districts. The proof of which is manifested by frequent occurrence of landslides and mudflows; mention may be made of Gopibung/Keithelmanbi mudflow, the largest of its kind in the NE in 2004 and the smaller ones in IT roads which are caused by anthropogenic factors mostly indulged in by illegal settlers for large scale poppy plantation in hill slopes of the state. In the Northeast, maximum land degradation and deforestation is found in Manipur, while the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram show increase in their forest cover area. The total geographical area in Northeast show decline of 765 sq.km. or 0.45% in forest cover.

The state of Assam has proved to the world the successful stories of the two Ecological Task Forces - 134-Ecological Task Force or Eastern Planters and 135-Ecological Task Force or Green Rhino stationed respectively at Rangia and Tejpur. Their excellent works were accomplished under the initiatives and patronage of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India. Because of the yeoman services rendered by these two ETFs, the afforestation programme are on high track and every year 5-7 lakh trees are planted successfully with 75-80% survival rate.

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Rath Yatra, Padyatra and Hectic Politicking



By: M.R. Lahu

Seriously responding to its electoral decline and addressing a generational desperation that it began to suffer from its earth-shattering debacles since 2014, the foot march of the Congress leader across India seems to have gained a noticeable momentum. The party wishes to turn this long march into an event, evidently an enabler to shake away its lethargic premonitions. And true to its core, it needs a genuine revamp that has become a dire necessity which nobody in the party would stop to focus on while its Himachal victory came as a sigh of relief. It has no choice left but to prove its mettle and significance which otherwise would reduce into an irrelevant hallucinatory political disorder. The intention is genuine and the modus operandi seems to attract attention. But the semantics of nationalism framed by the opposite side appear to be delving deeper with a large number of India's electorate kneeling for it with admiration and acceptance. The irresistible popularity of the Prime Minister is a haunting reality that most of his opposition tries to brush aside with a weird disdain. Though the outcome is unpredictable, the rejuvenation process the Congress thought to materialise through the foot march has a legitimate justification.

Another yatra which began on 25 September 1990 from Somnath was of equal significance for the BJP as the Bharat Jodo Yatra is for the Congress. Lal Krishna Advani's

Rath Yatra travelled three hundred kilometres a day with religious sentiments outpouring for a Ram temple in Ayodhya. From the Gandhian padyatra to Advani's Rath yatra to the Bharat Jodo Yatra of Rahul Gandhi, all the yatras had the leaders standing up for a particular cause and communicating with the country's populace on the ground. While Gandhi's revolt was against colonialism, Advani advocated for a cultural renaissance and Rahul Gandhi stood against everything that Advani stood for. BJP's plan was to revive its electoral significance by raising the bar of acknowledgement of its ideology among the Indian voters, especially the Hindus. The momentum that the aggressive yatra could create and the electoral prospects that the BJP could grab in the next elections were evidently a proof of acceptance for the emergence of a Hindu nationalist sentiment. The subsequent elections took the country through a fractured mandate and a new regime of coalition politics became normal. Igniting its electoral rejuvenation, the BJP could maintain the thrust of its ideology all into the days of the Modi upsurge and the party's unprecedented electoral success in 2014 has become a milestone that its historians would profoundly narrate with elegant vocabulary.

Repercussions of the Rath Yatra remained for decades and the safe emergence in Indian politics was not only weakening the Congress alone but the right-wing narratives which were amorphous once, turned out to be potentially capable of bringing stormy paradigm shifts in politics in the Indian subcontinent. A large part of the country preferred to reject the political untouchability that the BJP suffered and went ahead with a seemingly quixotic ideological mission that the party put forth and that was the real turning point that the Indian political scenario witnessed almost aghast and with in-

exorable perplexity. To chase and defeat the nationalistic surge that the BJP under Modi began to systematically push the country into, became a herculean task for the deeply divided opposition. Desperation mounting to an alarming level is manifest when the political opposition in India fails to stand with the government while the Chinese aggression sneaks across the country's borders.

Delinquency by the elected representatives in the parliament and outside on the Chinese aggression helps the internal rift to break open and China for all reasons would have the last laugh when it keeps its giant neighbour India on the edge. Unable to seek consensus on issues of national security, the democratic credentials of the largest democracy exposes its hypocritical intonation on patriotism. But disregarding the opposition parties' sentiments the ruling class would further fail to justify their stand. While an ideological mask is what the foot march headed by Rahul Gandhi would conceal his real intentions with, the expected political implication is the revamp of his party. His emergence as an aggressively capable contender to Modi before 2024 is a hidden adage that the family and the party cadre must be chanting all through. But his making unsubstantiated remarks on the border faceoff with China would ultimately give the BJP the stick that it can flog the Congress throughout the coming elections. Irrespective of political differences the parties in the country should have come along the government sending stringent messages for the dragon. India's political elite often fails to dismantle its blaming- and-shaming of the country for trifling dividends.

The celebrated objective of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is to symbolically unite the genuine emotion of Indianness beyond the boundaries of religion, region and the politics

of hatred. At least for someone who believes its narratives, the Congress is trying to say that the BJP's rule in the country since 2014 has destroyed India's essential oneness. Maybe this is a sheer desperation that the Congress has been forced to come up with. The question pops up with certain relevance is that would Rahul Gandhi's yatra emerge as a platform for a grand alliance before India's 2024 elections. Trying to reinvent its leader's image by bypassing the media, the Congress' plan to hit the streets could have become a decent effort, but badmouthing the government and Narendra Modi on the Chinese aggression will be an unpopular move by the Congress and its Bharat Jodo campaign would expose its lack of clarity on national security. Certainly, the Congress appears to be desperately failing to demystify its nationalistic ethos.

Advani's Rath Yatra specifically intended to bring political prospects to his party through aggressively campaigning on a spiritual subject. Sporadically shifting its dogmas time and again, the BJP has left its spiritualised revolution with victory coming its way in Ayodhya and its patriotic impulses in the Modi regime is undoubtedly capable of accelerating its political fortunes further. That is the reason why the ordinary citizens of India are still not ready to take the opposition parties seriously when it comes to their lamentations on the Narendra Modi government's lethargy on the nation's security. If Rahul Gandhi fails to read the patriotic impulses that unite the Indian populace, baseless accusations on the prime minister on his sincerity on India's security would backfire the Congress once again as it did during the Balakot strike and his yatra would turn out to be a gimmick-a time-pass.

(Freelance Journalist/Author of 'India @ 75-A Contemporary Approach')

Reporting and Publishing of Judgments Part of Freedom of Speech and Expression, cannot be taken away lightly: Kerala HC

By: Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While upholding the right to publish judgments, the Kerala High Court in a most learned, laudable, logical, landmark and latest judgment titled *Vysakh K.G vs Union of India & Anr. And Other Connected Cases* in W.P.(C).Nos. 26500/2020 and others and cited in 2022 LiveLaw (Ker) 665 ruled that reporting and publishing of judgments are part of freedom of speech and expression. It must be mentioned here that while dealing with petitions seeking enforcement of the 'right to be forgotten' against uploading of court orders or judgments on the internet, the Division Bench of Kerala High Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice A Muhamed Mustaque and Hon'ble Ms Justice Shoba Annamma Eapen minced no words to hold that, "The Courtroom is open to all. The Court cannot gloss over the protection available to publishers of judgments under Article 19(1)(a) of our Constitution. Reporting and publishing judgments are part of freedom of speech and expression and that cannot be taken away lightly without the aid of law." It must also be mentioned here that the Bench made it clear that the Courts can have no copyright claim over judgments since the same forms part of public records.

At the very outset, this notable judgment authored by Hon'ble Mr Justice A Muhamed Mustaque for a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court comprising of himself and Hon'ble Ms Justice Shoba Annamma Eapen sets the ball in motion by first and foremost to state briefly puts forth in para 1 that, "These cases present a question of seminal importance in judicial information policy followed by the Courts in India. They have been placed before us on a reference order of the learned Single Judge, Justice Anil K. Narendran in W.P.(C).No.6687/2017, dated 15/3/2021, to determine the questions involved, finally, by an authoritative pronouncement."

Due to paucity of space, I would mention here very briefly the brief facts of only one case here wherein it is laid down in para 3 that, "W.P.(C) No. 26500 of 2020: Criminal proceedings were initiated against the petitioner for an offence punishable under Section 354-D Indian Penal Code in C.C.No.344/2015 on the file of the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Chavakkad. Subsequently, in the Cr.M.C.No.5477/2016 filed before this Court, the de facto complainant filed an affidavit stating that she does not wish to pursue the matter and consented to quash the entire proceedings. By judgment dated 7/9/2016, Cr.M.C.No.5477/2016 was allowed and the proceedings in C.C.No.344/2015 were quashed. This judgment has been published by Indian Kanoon and indexed by Google. The petitioner submits that the right to be forgotten being recognized as a part of the right to privacy and the judgment being of no public importance, there is no justification for it being in the public domain."

To put things in perspective, the Division Bench envisages in para 8 that, "The interplay of providing information about the parties and providing information on the contents of the cause in a Court of law requires a balancing exercise. It is exactly that exercise that has to be considered by this Court in these writ petitions in the absence of any legislation. Anonymity though is different from privacy, it becomes a facet of privacy when the cause and content in a case are identified with the parties in the lis. The privacy aspect of such information about the identity of the parties cannot be separated from the cause that is being considered by the Court in open transparent court proceedings. The sensitive and personal information of individual parties was exposed to the public when the Court started making judgments available through its web portals. Law reporters beaming court news online, have worldwide online viewers and followers. The judgments became a gold mine of data for online publishers, to the satisfaction of lawyers, litigants, researchers etc. Such publishers and legal databases developed search tools using algorithms for easy identification of the judgments with reference to the name of parties, subject and text of the judgments. Search engines like Google help users find the information they are looking for, using keywords and phrases. No one has any grievance against the open, transparent court proceedings and the conduct of cases in the open justice system. The problem for them is allowing their personal and private information to remain permanently in

formation about the parties and providing information on the contents of the cause in a Court of law requires a balancing exercise. It is exactly that exercise that has to be considered by this Court in these writ petitions in the absence of any legislation. Anonymity though is different from privacy, it becomes a facet of privacy when the cause and content in a case are identified with the parties in the lis. The privacy aspect of such information about the identity of the parties cannot be separated from the cause that is being considered by the Court in open transparent court proceedings. The sensitive and personal information of individual parties was exposed to the public when the Court started making judgments available through its web portals. Law reporters beaming court news online, have worldwide online viewers and followers. The judgments became a gold mine of data for online publishers, to the satisfaction of lawyers, litigants, researchers etc. Such publishers and legal databases developed search tools using algorithms for easy identification of the judgments with reference to the name of parties, subject and text of the judgments. Search engines like Google help users find the information they are looking for, using keywords and phrases. No one has any grievance against the open, transparent court proceedings and the conduct of cases in the open justice system. The problem for them is allowing their personal and private information to remain permanently in

the digital public space, invading their right to privacy and right to forget the past. The task for us, therefore, is to decide not only on the privacy claimed in the present but also in the future."

Needless to say, the Bench mentions in para 37 that, "Courtrooms by virtue of Section 153-B of CPC and Section 327 of Cr.P.C. are statutorily public spheres where people are allowed to view proceedings and form public opinion. The very idea of keeping Courtrooms open to the public is to safeguard the open Court principle which is a fundamental aspect of the democratic ecosystem."

Most significantly, the Division Bench then lays down in para 58 very clearly that, "The Case Information System software is a giant move under the initiative of the e-committee to make the Indian Judiciary more transparent and more litigant friendly. The CIS versions are available for District Judiciary and High Courts exclusively. This Case Information System software for the District Judiciary is created under the guidance of the e-committee, Supreme Court of India through the software team at the National Informatics Center (NIC), Pune. The whole idea of CIS, in a nutshell, is that the litigant should be able to view the daily status of his case, the orders of the case, hearing dates of his case, the progress of the case on any particular date etc. online from any part of the world. [Source ecommittee Of Supreme Court Of India Website Viewed On 14/12/22]

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After Gambia, an Indian syrup linked to deaths of 18 kids in Uzbekistan

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29:

Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health said Wednesday that at least 18 children have died in Samarkand after allegedly consuming an India-manufactured syrup, Doc-1 Max prepared by Noida-based Marion Biotech.

In a statement, the Uzbekistan ministry said laboratory tests of the preparation found presence of the contaminant ethylene glycol. It said the medicine was consumed without prescription and in a higher dose by the children affected.

According to the statement, preliminary laboratory studies indicate the presence of ethylene glycol in a particular batch of the syrup. The statement said the substance is toxic and consuming 1-2ml/kg of 95% concentrated solution can cause vomiting, fainting, convulsions, cardiovascular problems and acute kidney failure.

The contaminant ethylene glycol — along with di-ethylene glycol — is the same as the one found in four India-manufactured syrups that have been linked to the deaths of 70 children in The Gambia earlier this year.

The World Health Organisation told *The Indian Express*: "WHO is in contact with health authorities in Uzbekistan and is ready to assist in further investigations."

Marion Biotech, the manufacturing company, and the Union Health Ministry did not respond to queries from *The Indian Express*.

With paracetamol being one of the active ingredients in Doc-1 Max, the Uzbekistan ministry statement said it was incorrectly used by parents as an anti-cold remedy on the recommendation of local pharmacies.

It said the children had taken the medicine for 2 to 7 days, in doses of 2.5 to 5 ml, three to four times a day, before hospital admission, which exceeded the standard dose for children.

The statement said that at a body temperature of 38 to 38.5 degrees Celsius, 100 to 125 mg should be given to a child under the age of one year, 200 mg for children between 1 and 3 years, and 250 mg for children between 3 and 5 years. The medicine should not be taken with normal body temperature, it stated.

A letter dated December 15 from the Samarkand Regional Children's Multidisciplinary Medical Center to Davronbek Zhumaniyozov, head of the Regional Health Department, quoted in regional news reports, claimed that 21 cases of kidney damage and failure in children were reported over two months. Anuria, the inability to produce urine, was observed and 17 with severe disease had to undergo dialysis, of whom 15 died.

Following this, tablets and syrups of Doc-1 Max were withdrawn from sale. The ministry, in its statement, asked parents to remain cautious. It said seven employees had been dismissed because they failed to analyse child mortality and take necessary measures.

The Uzbekistan incident is similar to the deaths of 70 children in The Gambia after allegedly consuming India-manufactured syrups contaminated with ethylene glycol and di-ethylene glycol.

Last week, *The Indian Express* reported that a select committee of the Gambian National Assembly had concluded that the deaths of 70 children due to acute kidney injury were linked to their consumption of four contaminated syrups made by Indian pharmaceuticals. The committee, in its report, recommended that Maiden be blacklisted, its products banned in the Gambian market and legal action be pursued against the company.

Between June and November this year, 82 children were confirmed to have suffered acute kidney injury in The

Mandaviya says samples collected, action based on inspection report

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29:

After Gambia, Uzbekistan claimed that drugs manufactured by an Indian pharmaceutical company led to the deaths of 18 children. While there has been no official statement from the union health ministry, official sources said the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has started investigating the matter.

CDSCO, which has started the probe, has been in regular touch with the national drug regulator of Uzbekistan since December 27.

After Gambia, Uzbekistan claimed that drugs manufactured by an Indian pharmaceutical company led to the deaths of 18 children. Reacting to the deaths, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which has started the probe, has been in regular touch with the national drug regulator of Uzbekistan since December 27.

"Immediately on receipt of the information, a joint inspection of Marion Biotech's Noida facility was carried out by UP Drug Control and the CDSCO team. Further action as appropriate would be initiated based on the inspection report," he tweeted.

"The samples of the cough syrup have been taken from the manufacturing pre-

mises and sent to Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh for testing," he further said.

The Union Health Ministry in a statement also said that "Marion Biotech is a licensed manufacturer and holds license for manufacturing of Dok1 Max syrup and Tablet for export purposes granted by Drugs Controller, Uttar Pradesh."

The Noida-based Marion Biotech Private Limited legal representative said that the samples of the cough syrup, said to have led to the deaths, have already been collected.

The company was registered in Uzbekistan in 2012.

"How the deaths (in Uzbekistan) occurred, the government is conducting an investigation. The report will reveal the truth," said the company's legal representative, Hasan Harris.

"There is no problem from our end and no issue in testing. We have been for the past ten years. For now, the manufacturing has stopped," he added.

According to officials, a joint team of CDSCO and the Uttar Pradesh Drugs Controlling and Licensing Authority inspected the manufacturing unit in Noida two days back. The samples have already been sent for testing contamination. Officials are also examining for possible Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) viola-

Gambia. Of them, 70 died.

Maiden has denied the allegations. Its manufacturing unit in Sonapat was shut down by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for alleged irregularities in processes. But India maintains

that sufficient clinical details to establish causality between the deaths and the consumption of medicine hasn't been shared by the country or the WHO that raised an alert in October linking the deaths to Maiden's four syrups.

Security Alert in Bihar's Gaya as Cops Release Sketch of Chinese Woman Suspected of Spying on Dalai Lama



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, and the sketch of Chinese woman (right).

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29:

As Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama addressed a massive gathering in Bihar's Bodhi Gaya on Thursday, a security alert was issued as the police is searching for a Chinese woman, who is suspected to be a spy.

The sketch of the woman, identified as Song Xiaolan was shared by the police, besides her passport and visa details with the press.

Security has been beefed up around the Mahabodhi Temple Complex with the screening of devotees being intensified.

It was not immediately clear why the police were looking

for the woman, news agency PTI said.

Gaya Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harpreet Kaur said that they were getting inputs on the Chinese woman for the last two years. She is yet to be found.

"Local police has received inputs about a Chinese woman who has been living in Gaya. We were getting inputs on her for the last two years. In view of this, an alert has been given and searches are underway," Kaur said, news agency ANI reported.

"There is no information at present about the location of the Chinese woman. We cannot rule out suspicion of her being a Chinese spy," Kaur added.

The woman has been living in different parts of the country including Bodhi Gaya for more than one year, reports said.

Meanwhile, the Dalai Lama addressed a gathering and urged people to work for those in need, adding if a person is a believer he needs to think of others.

"If you are a believer, you need to think of others. If you only think of yourself that is not what is expected of you, always work for those who are in need," he said.

The Dalai Lama said he has no ill will against those who provoke anger in him. "We are born human beings, and wherever I may be, I will continue to work for humanity," he added.

India reports 268 new cases, two deaths in a day

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29:

India reported 268 fresh coronavirus infections and two deaths in the last 24 hours, as per the Union health ministry's covid bulletin on Thursday. Active cases stood at 3,552,

taking the total number of cases reported in the country so far since the pandemic hit in 2020 to 4,46,698. Death toll stood at 530,698.

Active cases comprise 0.01% of the total infections, and the country's recovery rate stands at 98.80%, according to

the ministry.

As of now, Karnataka has 1,275 active cases, Kerala has 1,389 active cases, Maharashtra has 1,64 active cases, Odisha 91 cases, Rajasthan with 88 cases, Tamil Nadu has 60 cases; Uttar Pradesh 46, and West Bengal has 58 active cases.

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Reporting and Publishing of Judgments Part of....

The Judgments are gold mines of data. In a few of the cases, the challenge is in regard to permitting the use of Court Information Systems by technology innovators in the legal domain like Indian Kanooon. On typing a subject or name of the parties, one can easily search and find out the cases they are looking for on the Indian Kanooon website. Indian Kanooon obtains judgments from the Case Information System of Courts which are accessible and free of cost. The Courts shall have no copyright claim over judgments as the same forms part of public records. Under the Copyright Act 1957, reproduction for judicial reporting, or reproduction or publication of judgments are not infringements of copyright. Indian Kanooon provides access to different statutes and case laws of various Courts and the Supreme Court of India, free of charge. The relief sought against Indian Kanooon are to block the personal data of the petitioners and also to remove and erase the disclosure of

the identity of some of the petitioners herein. Though there was resistance on the side of Indian Kanooon in regard to the maintainability of the writ petition seeking prayers against them, we are not considering the above at this juncture for the simple reason that substantial relief is sought against the publication of the judgment by the High Court on the websites and the portal, and allowing Indiankanooon and other publishers to obtain data from Case Information System. Advocate Santhosh Mathew, learned counsel appearing for Indian Kanooon further submitted that the law does not prohibit the publication of public records and Indian Kanooon never published judgments with the personal details of the parties in cases where the anonymity of parties is protected. He also tried to distinguish between the right to be forgotten with the right of erasure. The judgments forming part of the Court records are public documents as referable under Section 74

of the Indian Evidence Act. There cannot be any dispute in regard to publishing the contents of the judgment even if such judgments are ordered to be masked in regard to the details of the parties to protect their identity. We have already overruled the right to claim privacy in the public sphere in an Open Court system. The Courtroom is open to all. The Court cannot gloss over the protection available to publishers of judgments under Article 19(1)(a) of our Constitution. Reporting and publishing judgments are part of freedom of speech and expression and that cannot be taken away lightly without the aid of law."

We thus see that the Kerala High Court while declining the prayer dismisses the writ petitions filed as stated in para 65 and it is held in para 64 that, "In summation, we hold as follows:

i. We declare that a claim for the protection of personal information based on the right to privacy cannot co-exist in an Open Court justice system. ii. We hold that right to be

forgotten cannot be claimed in current proceedings or in a proceedings of recent origin. It is for the Legislature to fix grounds for the invocation of such a right. However, the Court, having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case and duration involved related to a crime or any other litigation, may permit a party to invoke the above rights to de-index and to remove the personal information of the party from search engines. The Court, in appropriate cases, is also entitled to invoke principles related to the right to erasure to allow a party to erase and delete personal data that is available online.

iii. We declare and hold that in family and matrimonial cases, arising from the Family Court jurisdiction or otherwise and also in other cases where the law does not recognise the Open Court system, the Registry of the Court shall not publish personal information of the parties or shall not allow any form of publication containing the identity of the parties on the website or on any other in-

formation system maintained by the Court if the parties to such litigation so insist.

iv. We hold that the Registry of the High Court is bound to publish privacy notices on its website in both English and Vernacular languages.

In sum, we thus see that the Kerala High Court has made it explicitly clear that the reporting and publishing of judgments are part of freedom of speech and expression and so they cannot be taken away lightly without the aid of law. The Court said that the identity of the judiciary based on public confidence is not ordinarily possible without there being free flow of information on judicial functioning. Of course, it definitely merits no reiteration that all the courts must definitely pay heed to what the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice A Muhammed Mustaque and Hon'ble Ms Justice Shoba Annamma Eapen have laid down so very clearly, cogently and convincingly in this leading case! No denying it!

Govt. should raise Ecological Task Force...

The successful stories of Ecological Task Forces (ETFs) are also available in Delhi, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab. In these states and union territories, afforestation activities have taken place successfully by ETFs and other organisations like students of schools and colleges, NCC cadets, Forest Departments, local people/villagers. As a consequence of the successful afforestation works, deforestation in surrounding areas has been checked, cutting and uprooting of trees for consumption and trade have been stopped, poaching of birds and animals have been reduced, sense of security and aesthetic value among the local people have restored, ecological and environmental degradation have checked, birds and animals have appeared in large numbers, springs and streams have resurfaced, illegal settlement from surround areas have

checked, among others.

Considering the large scale land/soil degradation and deforestation in the hill districts of the state and resultant effects of landslides, mudflows, drought, drying of lakes, rivers and springs in most areas of the state in the last few years, afforestation programmes should be taken up by the Govt. at the earliest to check the unwanted ecological and environmental changes taking place for want of greenery/forest cover in the state through Ecological Task Force under the guidance of Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India on war footing during the coming monsoon season in the way Assam and other states have achieved successes. The establishment of Ecological Task Force for the state can help restore our degraded forests and soil, which are precious to our livelihood and development. This also will ensure successes in War on Drugs/Poppy Plantation and afforestation in the state.

Centre sounds Covid alert: Need for caution, uptick likely in January

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29:

With China and East Asian countries reporting an increase in Covid-19 cases, Health ministry sources said Wednesday that India might see a surge in cases in January, citing patterns observed during previous waves. Officials, however, said an increase in hospitalisation and deaths is unlikely.

"We have seen during the three previous waves that any surge reported in East Asian countries hits Europe in about 10 days, the Americas in another 10 days, and the Pacific island countries in another 10 days. The surge reaches India in 30 to 35 days. So, it is crucial that people stay cautious during the month of January," Health ministry officials said.

Covid-19 cases in the country continue to be low – 188 new cases were reported over

the previous 24 hours – even as a global increase has been noted over the last six weeks.

The government re-introduced random sampling of international travellers December 24 onward, with nearly 6,000 passengers tested over the last three days. Of these, 39 were found to be positive, according to officials. The government, however, isn't looking to ban travel or enforce any mask mandate.

"There is a need to be cautious and be prepared, but there is no need to stop travel from any country. Implementation of Air Suvidha (the online portal of the government where travellers have to submit travel details and a negative RT-PCR test conducted at the boarding point within 72 hours of travel) is being considered from six countries – China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong –

next week onward... Masks will also not be made mandatory, but we will urge people to wear it rather than fine them," a senior official said.

The Indian Council of Medical Research has also isolated the Omicron sub-variant BF.7, which is reportedly behind the surge in China, and will test the efficacy of the vaccines against it. Similar exercises carried out against other Covid-19 variants have found the vaccines to be effective.

Keeping the global increase in Covid-19 cases in mind, the Prime Minister conducted a review meeting last week on the Covid situation in the country. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya too met with senior officials and state Health officials last week and a spate of guidelines were issued, including re-starting random sampling of 2% international

travellers coming into the country.

On Tuesday, a country-wide mock drill was conducted to check the preparedness of health facilities for Covid-19 management. Over 20,000 health facilities from across the country participated in the drill.

According to information provided by officials after the mock drill, there are 2.79 lakh isolation beds, 2.45 lakh oxygen support beds, 64,711 ICU beds, and 49,236 ICU beds with ventilators functional across the country. There are 11,830 functional PSA plants as well, according to Ministry data.

"The mock drill helped us map the availability of facilities, consumables and healthcare workers. If need be, these numbers can be increased. But it is unlikely that there will be a need for more," an official said.

China to lift COVID travel curbs from Jan 8 amid big surge in cases

Agency
Beijing, Dec 29:

Come January, China will practically abandon its three-year-old zero covid policy and its international isolation, fully opening its airports and ports for travel and trade amid the massive coronavirus outbreak

in the country.

Starting from January 8, China will cancel nucleic acid tests for international arrivals, the need to obtain Covid green codes from Chinese embassies abroad and quarantine on arrival, the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

The complete scrapping

of the travel rules comes at a time when China is grappling with a sudden spurt in coronavirus infections fuelled by the Omicron variants after the Xi Jinping regime relaxed its stringent zero-Covid policy earlier this month following a wave of anti-government protests.

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ECI ready to pilot remote voting...

This modified form of EVM can handle up to 72 multiple constituencies from a single remote polling booth. The initiative, if implemented, can lead to a social transformation for the migrants and connect with their roots as many times they are reluctant to get themselves enrolled at their place of work for various reasons such as frequently changing residences, not enough social and emotional connect with the issues of area of migration, unwillingness to get their name

deleted in electoral roll of their home/native constituencies as they have permanent residence/property etc.

The Commission has invited all Recognised 08 National and 57 State Political Parties on 16.1.2023 to demonstrate the functioning of the multi-constituency prototype Remote EVM. The Technical Expert Committee members will also be present. The Commission has also solicited written

views of recognised political parties by 31.01.2023 on various related issues including changes required in legislation, changes in administrative procedures and voting method/RVM/technology, if any other, for the domestic migrants.

Based on the feedback received from various stakeholders and demonstration of the prototype, the Commission will appropriately carry forward the process of implementing remote voting method.

100% govt requests for blocking social media content in India complied

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29:

The IT Act's Section 69A requests for content banning have received "100% cooperation," possibly the first time that major social media juggernauts like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Google have complied with legislative demands, TOI reported.

There hasn't been much resistance to requests to block content that might have an impact on national security, sovereignty, and public order, despite a few cases that companies have filed in court, particularly

Twitter, which went to the Karnataka HC last July over what it claimed was the state's disproportionate use of power.

This also follows a tightening of the regulatory framework around illicit content by the government, which mandated that corporations establish officials to investigate user and government requests under the new IT rules and guidelines.

The government has consistently refuted claims made by activists and politicians from opposition parties that governments have used the clause to stifle "free speech and freedom of expression,"

claiming that the blocking orders were only intended to stop "illegal" conversations that might cause public disorder or jeopardise the sovereignty of the country.

The government usually sends 500-600 requests to block such content and it doesn't have any pending content regarding that, TOI reported quoting sources.

The tense atmosphere of the past has drastically changed, as seen by Twitter's repeated defiance of government orders to remove users and accounts during the farmer demonstrations.

The government stated

that it wanted the accounts deleted because they may potentially cause public disruption throughout the nation, particularly in and around the national capital.

The blocking requests are issued following a committee's determination that specific user accounts or content have to be deleted, which includes members from the ministries of IT, home, law, I&B and CERT-In as well as other important organisations.

Many of these are connected to Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism, and hate speech coming from Pakistan or within India.

On the 86th Birth Anniversary...

An organization "Pan Manipuri Youth League" for all the Manipuris to stay as one united Manipuri even if they aren't staying in Manipur was founded. Furthermore, in the year 1969, there were three days of brainstorming and progressive ideas-sharing meetings held at Manipuri dramatic Union hall. Many people joined the 3 days meeting, and people who came from outside the state were provided lodging at Ram Lal pal school during the days many cultural programmes were also held at MDU hall. On the first day, the youths held the sacred fire from Andro to take the oath to protect the State of Manipur and the people. On this day itself, the constitution for the Pan Manipuri Youth League was written and adapted. And the first Publication of "Lamyamba" was produced and NK Sanajaoba was appointed as the editor. The publication of Lamyamba was very challenging and it was very different from all the other print publications as it included various patriotic ideas and thoughts. The people of Manipur were very much awakened by the publication of "Lamyamba". Some of the most read articles were namely 'pukhrida mee Taba', 'Mapal Manipuri gi Hikharaba Saktam, Kadomdang, Manipurda Hindu Mahasava gi Maroom Kokpa', etc. Some of the renowned writers of Lamyamba were Chingakhom Oja Pishak, Gangmumei Kamei, Rose Mangsi

On 13th August 1969 to remember the day for our Patriots day, and former Chief Minister M Koireng was the chief guest of that event, the Speaker of the Manipur Assembly of those days Siblo Lorho was the President and also the education minister N Tombi and, Dr. L Chandramani and also Nandalal were the spokesperson of that event. On that day the government also announced a half-holiday for the state. Later in the year 1979, the government announced the 13th of August as Patriots Day and was held as a state function as more people started to mourn the day for the great patriots.

NK Sanajaoba opined that the seven footprints on the cover page of the "Lamyamba" journal were that of the seven maichou. In the first edition of Lamyamba, the biggest footprint that is located at the left corner was a footprint of the left foot, however, it was later changed to the footprint of the right foot in later edition of Lamyamba. The slogan "Athou Licha Heppa, Thayang Kondai Lonbasing, Pathou Minglenga Henmoiba, Poirai Ta Fathibasing, Nakhoi' Mar Nakhongunbu, Ningna-Tena Lijarak'k" which was not there in the first edition of Lamyamba was put up from the second edition of it, till its last edition.

Police arrested NK Sanajaoba on charges of being a revolutionary when the third edition of Lamyamba was just published. Sanajaoba was unable to discharge his duty as an Editor because of this. After this, Yambem Tejendra acted as the Editor of Lamyamba for 3 Editions, Thounaojam Ibotombi as an editor for 8 editions, Thounaojam Tarunkumar for 3 editions, and Ahongsangbam Birendra for a total of 18 editions. Altogether, a total of 100 editions of Lamyamba were printed and all under the editorship of NK Sanajaoba.

In recognition of his contribution to journalism, The All Manipur Working Journalist Union awarded him with the "Award of Honour" on the 16th Foundation Day of AMWJU, on 6th January 1994. Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Manipur also recognised

him as a renowned journalist on its Information Day and was honoured.

NK Sanajaoba who fully dedicated his life to his motherland is no more with us. The "Lamyamba Yawolloi NK Sanajaoba Memorial observation Committee" was formed at Gandhi Memorial Hall, Imphal on November 11, 2005, the 10 death anniversary of NK Sanajaoba with Nongmaithem Pahari as its first Committee Chairman, to pay homage and tribute to the son of the land who dedicated his whole life for his motherland. After the demise of Nongmaithem Pahari on October 18, 2006, Arambam Lokendro took the reins as Committee Chairman. At its Committee meeting held on 14th January 2007, it was decided to form a trust and sponsor a journalist award in NK Sanajaoba's name. The NK Sanajaoba Memorial Trust was formed on March 27, 2007. In a meeting held of the trust on 5th March 2007, it was decided to select and award a journalist from newspapers published in Manipuri and English language with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 every 2 years. Also, it was decided to change the date of NK Sanajaoba Memorial Day from his death day to his birth anniversary at the Trust meeting held on 12th November 2016, and consequently upon this, the 80th anniversary of NK Sanajaoba was held on 30th December 2016 and is continuing till date.

The 81st Anniversary of NK Sanajaoba was held at Lakhimpur Assam with Yumnam Ramkumar as Chief Guest on 30th December 2017. Due to the Covid pandemic, in 2020 and 2021 the memorial was observed with a small group of people paying homage to NK Sanajaoba by following the COVID-19 SOP. Under the aegis of the trust, The Lamyamba NK Sanajaoba Thoupang Lup organised a function at his residence at Singamei Wangma Torban Kshetri Leikai on his 27th death anniversary on 11th November 2022. As usual, the 86th birth anniversary of NK Sanajaoba this year will be held at Lamyamba Shanglei located at Palace Compound on 30th December 2022, organised by the NK Sanajaoba Memorial Trust.

Sports

AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup:

India pitted alongside Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia in Qualifiers



Agency
Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Dec 29:

India have been drawn in Group F of the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2024 Qualifiers Round 1, where they will face Singapore, Indonesia, and hosts Vietnam.

According to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) release, the eight group winners will progress to Round 2, where the four best sides will earn a spot in the Finals where

they will join the three highest seeds from the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 - champions Japan, DPR Korea and Korea Republic - and host nation Uzbekistan.

China PR, hosts Laos, Hong Kong and the Philippines were drawn in Group A of Round 1, while Group B will see Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Northern Mariana Islands and hosts Palestine vying for the top spot.

Group C has Australia, hosts Kyrgyz Republic, Guam

and Iraq with Lebanon, hosts Jordan, Mongolia and Bhutan the teams in Group D.

Hosts Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Tajikistan will fight for the Group E top spot with matches against Uzbekistan deemed as friendlies while hosts Vietnam, India, Singapore and Indonesia are the Group F cast.

Group G consists of Myanmar, Malaysia, Pakistan and hosts Cambodia while Islamic Republic of Iran, hosts Bangladesh and Turkmenistan are the Group H cast.

Round 1 of the Qualifiers will be played on March 4-12, 2023 with Round 2 scheduled for June 1-11. The Finals are on March 3 to 16, 2024.

Draw Result:

Group A: China PR, Laos (H), Hong Kong, Philippines
Group B: Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Northern Mariana Islands, Palestine (H)
Group C: Australia, Kyrgyz Republic (H), Guam, Iraq
Group D: Lebanon, Jordan (H), Mongolia, Bhutan
Group E: Thailand (H), Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Group F: Vietnam (H), India, Singapore, Indonesia
Group G: Myanmar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Cambodia (H)
Group H: Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh (H), Turkmenistan

India's fixtures in Round 1 of the Qualifiers are:
March 7, 2023: India vs Singapore, 1.30 PM IST (Viet Tri Stadium, Phu Tho Province)

March 9, 2023: Indonesia vs India, 1.30 PM IST (Viet Tri Stadium, Phu Tho Province)
March 11, 2023: Vietnam vs India, 4.30 PM IST (Viet Tri Stadium, Phu Tho Province)