

Manipur Governor, CM among others wish people on 'Emoinu Erat' Numit

IT News
Imphal, Jan 2:

Governor of Manipur, La. Ganesan, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh among others wish the people of the state on occasion of the Ima Emoinu Erat day.

"I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Manipur on the happy and auspicious occasion of Emoinu Puja (Goddess of Wealth), 2023, La Ganesan writes in his message. The governor also stated that it is, indeed, gratifying to note that the people of Manipur, especially our Manipuri brethren observed Ima Emoinu Puja (Goddess of Wealth) to mark the return of the indigenous Meitei deity to the residence of her daughter-in-law Piyainu. However, Ima Emoinu Puja Festival is celebrated at different places of the State with different flavours.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in his greeting to the people of Manipur on occasion of Ima Emoinu Puja 2023 stated that Ima Emoinu Puja is celebrated on the twelfth day of the Wakhing month of Manipuri lunar calendar, with traditional gaiety and religious fervour.

"On this day, seasonal fruits, vegetables and fish are offered and lights are lit around the houses to evoke the blessings of Goddess Imoinu, believed to be the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. Fish, especially Sareng, being an important part of the offerings made to the Goddess, the State Government has taken up initiatives to revive the production of Sareng and to increase the production of other fish species".

Th. Satyabrata Singh, Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly in his greeting to the people of Manipur on occasion of Ima Emoinu Puja 2023 stated that Ima Emoinu or Goddess of wealth, prosperity and vital resources of Meitei Sanamahism is observed on the 12th Day of Wakhing, Meitei Lunar Calendar month which usually falls in the month of January.

"On this occasion of Ima Emoinu Puja Day, wish that Meitei Community residing in any part of the world be bestowed with wealth, prosperity and happiness".

Awangbow Newmai Minister (Water Resources & Relief and Disaster Management), Nemcha Kipgen, Minister, Textiles, Commerce and Industry & Co-operation Manipur and Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta among others also wished the people on occasion of Emoinu Erat day numit.

Manipur's oldest vernacular daily "Kangleipakki Meira" honours N. Biren as the "Best Chief Minister"

"Will not compromise illegal drug traffickers, poppy planters and will not spare any persons involved in corruption" – CM

IT News
Imphal, Jan 2:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's commitments to eradicate corruption from the state of Manipur and his government 'war on drugs' is going to be more harder with the coming of the new year 2023 as he gives strong message of taking up stringent action against those involved.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, at the 42nd Foundation day Celebration of popular vernacular evening newspaper "Kangleipakki Meira" held at Pillow Library Ground, Mongsangei Mayai Leikai here in Imphal West, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who is also one time editor of the most vocal Manipur's vernacular daily 'Naharolgi Thoudang' said that his gov-



ernment will strengthen fight against corruption and the "war on drugs", which his government had launched in 2018.

The second term of N.

Biren Singh government is about 8 months old. Since his government came to power in 2017, law and other problems has been tremendously improved. The state today have

no bandhs or blockade in High ways, there is no agitations that make the live of the common people suffer besides relationship between various communities of the state has

been strengthened and Manipur is once more united irrespective of east and west. Except for some minor problem as face by every government, the state of Manipur is restoring peace and simultaneously development works can be taken up, N. Biren Singh said.

"Our government top priority is make Manipur a state completely free from corruption by not sparing them at any cost. Illegal drug traffickers and poppy planters will not be compromised. And besides, Anti National and Anti State Concept will not be tolerated", Chief Minister said.

Taking serious concern over the deteriorating condition of hill regions of the state which has been completely tumbled, N. Biren Singh appealed the Civil Society bod-

ies to go to hill and to make them understand about the impact of tunsoring forest areas in Hill region.

"Government alone cannot save the state, together with all the people and all the CSOs we can save our Manipur", the Chief Minister said.

The onetime editor of Manipur's Vernacular daily and also the man behind the unifying of all journalists' bodies of the state, N. Biren Singh, Now the Chief Minister of Manipur recounted on how he joined politics. He said it was his will to bring justice to the people that he joined politics.

Regarding the freedom of speech, he said that the politicians too are entitled the freedom of speech and expression.

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Stage set for Union Home Minister Amit Shah visit to Manipur

Over Rs. 300 crore worths various projects to be inaugurated; to lay foundation stone for over Rs. 1000 crore worth various project

IT News
Imphal, Jan 2:

The year 2023, which begins yesterday, seems to be a blessing year for the N. Biren Singh led government of Manipur. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is visiting the state to take stock of the conditions of Manipur government under the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the first week of the first month of 2023.

According to a face book post uploaded by Chief Minister N. Biren, Union Home Minister will inaugurate various completed projects worth over Rs. 300 crore including the 120 feet tall statue of Polo constructed at Marjing complex in Imphal East. He further said that among others, the Union Home Minister will also officially inaugurate the Churachandpur Medical College.



"Besides, the inauguration of the various completed project Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also lay foundation stones for various projects at various part of the state which is estimated over Rs. 1000 crore", N. Biren Singh told via facebook post while wishing the people of the state a prosperous and peaceful Manipur in the coming days.

On the other hand Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in a function stated that many drug traffickers and poppy planters have been arrested and legal

proceeding are being taken for punishing them.

"Data available with the government said that before the government launched the "War Against Drug" there areas over 7,600 acres of land where poppy plantation were taken place. However, with the effort of the state machineries and understanding of the hill people many have stopped poppy plantation and were replaced by alternative crops. Today as per government record, the area of poppy plantation in the state has been reduced to around 1100 acres.

"Villagers and Village authorities that supported the government initiative to fight drugs and illegal poppy plantation will be honoured and awards will be handed over to them by the Union Home Minister during his visit in the state", N. Biren assured.

Commercial LPG cylinder prices increased by Rs 25

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 2:

The price of commercial liquefied petroleum gas cylinders was on Sunday hiked by Rs 25, Mint reported.

A 19-kg LPG cylinder will now cost Rs 1,769 in Delhi. In Mumbai, cylinders will now cost Rs 1,721, while in Kolkata they will cost Rs 1,870. In Chennai, these cylinders will cost Rs 1,971.

The Congress on Sunday described the move as the Modi government's "new year gift" to the Indians. "This is just the beginning," the party wrote on Twitter.

Prices of LPG cylinder are decided in tune with crude oil rates in the international markets and exchange rate between the Indian rupee and the US dollar.

India's retail inflation came down to 5.88% in November

from 6.77% in October. Retail inflation had been above the upper-end of the central bank's 2%-6% tolerance band since January. It had reached an eight-year high of 7.8% in April.

The Reserve Bank of India has raised the repo rate by 225 basis points, or 2.25%, since May to rein in inflation. The repo rate is the interest rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks.

PM Modi to address 108th Indian Science Congress on Jan 3

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 2:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) at 10:30 AM tomorrow through video conferencing. The focal theme of this year's ISC is Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment. It will witness discussions on issues

of sustainable development, women empowerment and the role of science and technology. The participants will discuss and deliberate on ways to increase the number of women in higher echelons of teaching, research and industry, along with trying to find ways to provide women with equal access to Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics education, and eco-

nomic participation. A special programme to showcase the contribution of women in science and technology will also be held, which will also witness lectures by renowned women scientists.

Several other programmes will also be organised alongside ISC. Children's Science Congress will be organised to help stimulate scientific interest and temperament among children.

Supreme Court upholds 2016 demonetisation

There was no independent application of mind by the RBI: Justice BV Nagarathna added

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 2:

A five member bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday upheld the decision of the Union Government in 2016 to ban old Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes, saying that it was taken after the consultation between the Centre and the RBI.

A Constitution Bench comprising Justices S Abdul Nazeer, B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian and B V Nagarathna delivered the verdict on a batch of pleas

challenging the Central government's 2016 demonetisation exercise.

Delivering the majority opinion, Justice Gavai stated, that "It has been held that there has to be great deal of restraint before interfering in matters of economic significance, we cannot supplant such views with the judicial one. There was consultation between the Centre and the RBI for a period of 6 months. We hold that there was a reasonable nexus to bring such a measure, and we hold that demonetisation

was not hit by doctrine of proportionality".

"Thus, power available to the Centre cannot be mean that it is in relation to only specific series of bank notes. It is for all series of bank notes. There is no excessive delegation as under Section 26(2) of RBI Act and thus cannot be struck down. Notification is valid and satisfies the test of proportionality. Period for exchange of notes cannot be said to be unreasonable. The RBI does not have any independent power to bring in demonetisation".

Justice B V Nagarathna differed and delivered a dissenting judgment. "I have noted that RBI is the bulwark of Indian economy. I have cited history of such demonetisation exercise world over. Court is not to sit over merit of economic or financial decision...examining Section 26(2) would not mean to sit over the merits of demonetisation and thus it is well within the lakshman rekha as drawn by this Court".

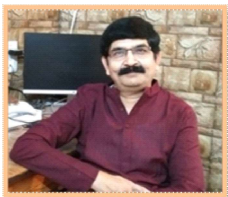
"Demonetisation at the behest of the Central government is a far more serious issue affecting citizens than the one done by the banks. The powers of Centre being vast, the same has to be done by plenary legislation. The Parliament cannot be left aloof on such important decisions. Looking at the records submitted by RBI, it is noted that demonetisation was recommended by the Central government. This shows there was no independent application of mind by the RBI", Justice BV Nagarathna added.

Petitions

The petitioners had argued that section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act which allows the government to declare all series of a particular denomination as being no longer legal tender is too wide, was flawed, the recommendation did not consider relevant factors, the stated objectives of demonetisation were not achieved, the move failed the test of proportionality and the Court had powers to mould and grant declaratory relief.

contd. on page 4

Can't Parents Help their Children to Overcome of Porn Addiction?



Vinod Chandrashekhhar Dixit

Porn addiction is rampant today. Don't we quality conversation with their children instead of keeping it bottled up. If they open up, then children feel easy to communicate with them without a fear of being judged. More and more disturbed parents and spouses have been seeking help, and there is even a growing concern in schools. It hurts child's spirit and infects mind with unclean thoughts.

Pornography consumption is not something that can easily be stopped.

Once the appetite for it has developed, it actually increases. Recently the Central Bureau of Investigation has smashed an international child pornography racket, being run for the past two years through a WhatsApp group that had 119 members from 18 countries. Porn or no porn should be decided by the common man and not by a bunch of bureaucrats. Pornography has existed for centuries and there has been a debate about whether pornography is socially or morally acceptable but as it involves adults, there is no law that is broken. But when children are involved in sexual exploitation, pornography is openly regarded to be a heinous crime in multiple nations. Adolescence goes downhill when there are too many restrictions. When obscenity becomes a commodity, it threatens to corrode the very bedrock of ethics on which a healthy society is founded. In such cases, sex education should be made compulsory for students before they reach puberty so that they understand sex and its functionality. Many schools focus exclusively on academics, paying little attention to effective counseling of adolescents. There has to be a policy to reduce the focus in the area of sex in general if our women and children are to be protected globally. At an individual level, pornography addiction, including 'cyber porn addiction' is one of the most notorious problems associated with pornography use today. Child pornography is a real and pressing problem that exists on local, national and international levels. Child Protection Act, 2012 provides protection to children from sexual assault, harassment and pornography. In this Act, Section 13 makes use of children for pornographic purposes a criminal offence that can lead to being jailed for up to five years. The world of internet and social media appeals the child a lot and because of this young mind does not give a second thought on the dark side of that world. With the internet making its way into phones, people now don't even care about who is sitting next to them. The government has already told the Supreme Court that there cannot be a complete ban on Internet pornography in the country and legal actions are also not possible in a large number of cases.

The only way out is for parents to spend their free time interacting with their children instead of watching boring television soaps. The influence of cinema and television on our impressionable youth cannot be underestimated. There are so many other movies that have explicit scenes bordering on soft porn. At times, there are even advertisements for safe sex or use of condoms which depict young girls and boys. We all know of scientifically proven bad effects of porn films. They tear families apart, objectify women and pollute children's mind. Today the children addicted to pornography brings about various changes in values, attitudes, development and also gives rise to unwanted health issues. There are children who use to take money from their parents saying that need to download some study material from Internet to complete their homework, but instead spend them watching porn clippings at the cafes. It is a part of socialization seems to be a difficult proposition to accept as it is a by-product of child sexual abuse. It has become very important that people talk about child pornography so as to raise awareness of the implications of such crimes in our society. Peer pressure is also a cause of child pornography. It is high time that child pornography is dealt with separately.

Children being weak, gentle and meek should be protected from the world of criminals, shady people, and negative people and so on. These vulnerable kids fall prey to the predators of child abuse, child trafficking, child pornography etc. Sex Education today is both timely and apt as the importance of sex education cannot be overemphasized. Unfortunately, we do not take sex education seriously because there exists a huge communication gap between the political leadership and the scientific community. Schools are ideal places where students can get answers to basic questions on sex. With teenage pregnancies and abortions on the rise, and an increase in the number of those affected by AIDS, sex education for children is a must. Because of the conservative culture that exists in our society, children find it difficult to discuss sex with their parents or teachers. Due to lack of information and the cultural barrier, many of them become easy prey of pedophiles. It is necessary to prevent children from learning from bad peers and obscene books about sex. A holistic approach should be adapted to sex education by making available standard textbooks on the Internet for the middleclass children also. Banning pornography is not a solution. Sex education would help students develop personal values and understand interpersonal relationships as they explore their own sexuality. When sexual abuse comes from all quarter's viz. relatives, colleagues and strangers, it is mandatory to teach the children how to overcome and protect themselves from such contingencies than about sex.

There is also an urgent need to keep the young informed of the measures to protect themselves against sexual exploitation. Effective counseling as an inclusive aspect in schools will lead to the overall wellbeing and healthy development of the child. Participatory sex education will provide the impetus for discussion and discourage prejudices. Academicians and policymakers should evolve a syllabus that is relevant to the changing times. The hesitation to discuss sex in open classrooms can be overcome if women teachers teach girls and male teachers educate boys. Other schools in the city should make sex education part of the curriculum to avoid such misinformation and restrict child abuse. There must be a check on their activities by the parents while using net. They must also be made aware of the pros and cons of the high tech modern world and social media. It is important to develop an understanding of the problem so that laws are made and implemented to curb child pornography and the rights are given to children are actually practiced. The Indian cyber law needs to be amended and made more effective to curb access, use, transmission and publishing of porn. Also, cyber education and etiquette need to be inculcated in school curriculum to sensitize children about the huge porn content available and how they should protect themselves from it. People should be educated to note the behavioural changes of the children and find out the reasons for abuses to save the child from trauma which may be prolonged. Sex education as a part of curriculum will create awareness and a healthier India.



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

There is general accusation that press always indulges or highlights murders, assaults, riots, kidnappings, divorce or scandals with women. It is true that these incidents get wide publicity in the newspapers. But, can anyone say that these are not news? If a newspaper decides not to publish all such news as trash news, then what will ultimately happen to that newspaper? A newspaper may refuse to publish such new son moral grounds, but then the rival newspaper may not be so scrupulous and publish such news.

The result would be the first paper would suffer in circulation and might be forced to go into liquidation. Journalistic virtues are centred round the following six principles: Accuracy, Truthfulness, Balance, Decency, Sensitivity and Fairness. Journalists are servants of the public and truth.

Many people complain that newspapers do not give adequate

A new hope for journalism

publicity to the constructive activities or development activities of the Government. It is true that there is ample scope to highlight the programmes of economic activity in both the public and private sectors. But, the general complaints are that these are not adequately reported in the newspapers.

But if all these incidents are properly weighed on the scale of newsworthiness it will be found that actually there is not much news value from the point of view of the readers.

All journalists are aware of the fact that if a snake bites a person, then it is no news. But if a person bites a snake, it becomes a news. The analogy may be very old, but there is some basic truth in it. If a person bites a snake, that becomes a news. But if there comes a time when the person always bites a snake, it will no longer be a news.

River flows its natural course, which is no news. If the river dries up resulting in terrible misery to the people in adjoining areas, then of course it is a great news. This may invite the attention of a scientist as well ecologists to find out reason for this sudden behaviour of the nature. Similarly, if there is devastating flood in the river causing enormous damages to crops, houses and deaths, it becomes news. If the workshop or factories run as per schedule and its production is just according to target,

it is no news, it is expected of workshops. But if there is a strike in the factory or workshop resulting in enormous loss to the nation- it becomes news. Again if there is enough production beyond the target or rated capacity then it becomes a good news.

The importance of news varies from area to area. In certain areas of the Prakhand, the news of even Panchayat election is more important than the Vidhan Sabha or the Lok Sabha elections. This is because all the big guns are involved in such elections and the people under the Panchayat are eager to know about the elected persons as they would have made a considerable influence in the development and other works in the Panchayat.

Of course, if there be one or two candidates from the area seeking election to Vidhan Sabha or Lok Sabha, then the result of such elections as well as the campaign of the candidate before election should become news and should get preference to local news items. Similarly, the news of the death of a Gram Sarpanch or a Mukhiya is no news for big national newspapers, but if the Sarpanch or Mukhiya dies after a shock received about any untoward happening to the Chief Minister or a minister of his area then of course such news of death becomes a news.

Therefore, it can be safely assumed that there is no hard or fast rule regarding news or its publication. Newspapers, big or small, are

interested in publishing only such news in which its readership is interested. But this is also a fact that newspapers hardly know the news preference of its readership. A newspaper or a reporter will undoubtedly be a great success if they are able to find out the news by its readership.

Then comes the question of newspapers exposing malpractices of politicians. Such exposures are nothing new in Indian journalism. Journalists had the courage of and honesty to expose the gross malpractices of Heavyweight politicians Mr. K.D. Malviya (Minister in the Centre Govt.), Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon (Chief Minister of Punjab), A.R. Antule (Chief Minister of Maharashtra), Bakshi Gulam Mohammad (CM of Jammu & Kashmir), Jagannath Mishra & Laloo Prasad (both CM of Bihar) and many others. Because of exposures of malpractices reported by them they had to quit ultimately. If such exposures are done even now by bold journalists, it will do immense good to the country.

It is heartening that many young generation reporters are engaged in exposing many corrupt practices on high places with unquestioned integrity and honesty. That is the real hope for new journalism in our country.

(Author is a technocrat and educationist. He studied Journalism & Mass Communication at Patna University)

How to become a Forest Officer



By: Vijay GarG

the world.

This is a kind of career which is ever demanding, you cannot get relaxed after getting the post, in fact you have to work harder after getting the job than before getting it. To be an (IFS) Indian Forest Services Officer is not a small thing by any means. If you want to enjoy the beauty of the other part of the living beings then you have also to accept the responsibility attached to it.

To handle thing effectively a lot of hard work, stamina, alertness of mind, adaptability to follow difficult time schedules, good team spirit is required as this is not a time bound job. This is a career in which you are not only supposed to work yourself only but you have to make your team work hard for the society you have vowed to serve while joining this career.

Indian Forest Services Officer Eligibility

Educational Qualification
To be eligible for becoming an Indian Forest Services Officer one should hold a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, geology, statistics, veterinary science and animal husbandry; or who hold a bachelor's degree in engineering, forestry, or agriculture; or a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. And who are between the ages of 21 and 32 as on July 1 of the year of the examination.

Upper age limits are less restrictive for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and Other Backward Classes (SC/ST/OBC).

Age Limits

The candidate must have attained the age of 21 years on 1st July of the year of examination and must not have attained 30 years of age on that date.

The upper age limit will be relaxed by 3 years for OBC candidates and 5 years for SC/ST candidates.

The upper age limit is also relaxed in favour of certain categories of civil servants working under the Government of India and

Defence Services Personnel.

Physical Standards

Candidates must be physically fit according to physical standards for admission to Indian Forest Service Examination

How to become an Indian Forest Officer (IFS)

To become an IFS officer one has to follow the given steps:

Step 1

As a first step, the aspirant has to procure the "Application Form" along with "Information Brochure" of Indian Forest Services Exam from any of the "Head Post Offices or Post Offices" spread throughout the country and sent the filled Application form to:

The Secretary
Union Public Service Commission
Dholpur House
New Delhi - 110011.

Note: The notification for the examination with relevant details regarding rules and syllabus is published in the month of December in the 'Employment News' / 'Rozgar Samachar', 'Gazette of India', and in some leading Newspapers of the country.

Step 2

In the month of May or June, the aspirants have to take the "Preliminary examinations". It is consisting of two papers-

General Studies (150 marks)
Some optional subject (300 marks)

The optional subject for the second paper may be chosen from the following given subjects-

Agriculture
Animal Husbandry and veterinary science
Botany
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Commerce
Economics
Electrical Engineering
Geography
Geology
Indian History
Law
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering

Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Psychology
Public Administration
Sociology
Statistics
Zoology.

Note: This exam is just a qualifying exam for the Final exam and scores obtained in this exam are not added to make the final result.

Step 3

Those candidates who are declared qualified in the "Preliminary examination" are supposed to take the final exam (normally held in the month of October) having following papers

1.1 Essay type of Indian Language Qualifying Paper (300 marks)
2.1 English Qualifying Paper (300 marks)
3.1 General Essay type of paper (200 marks)
4.2 General Studies papers (300 marks each)
5.4 Optional subjects papers (300 marks each)

Step 4

Once you are through the final stage is the interview. The aspirants are grilled in the interview to test their personality and mental ability. Then the final list of the successful candidates is prepared and those candidates who have opted for these services are admitted for foundation training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration at Mussoorie. This is followed by Forest Service-specific orientation at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy at Dehradun, with training on forest and wildlife management, soil conservation, surveying, Scheduled Tribes, and handling weapons.

Indian Forest Officer Job Description

The main mandate of the service is the implementation of the National Forest Policy which aims to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance which is vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animal and plant.

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11th Oja (Prof.) Naorem Sanajaoba Memorial Lecture, 2022 organised in connection with Ojha's 77th Birth Anniversary by Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial trust (OSMT) on "Demographic Challenges in Manipur & Remedies"

By: Prof. R.K. Narendra Singh

Contd. from previous issue

Hindu and Christian communities almost equally shared in 2011, but this rendezvous happen as, during the last 60 years, Hindu population composition declined from 60.13% to 41.39%, and other religions from 21.55% to 8.19% as against Christian population composition increased at a faster rate from 11.84% to 41.29% and Muslim from 6.44% to 8.40%. The gap of population composition between Hindu and Christian was narrowing faster as it was 48.29% in 1951 and only 0.10% in 2011. The Christian community could definitely leftovers its counterpart the Hindu community after 2011.

Table-6
Religion-wise comparison of population composition (%) during 1951-2011

| Religion | 1951 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Hindu | 60.13 | 61.68 | 58.97 | 60.04 | 57.67 | 46.01 | 41.39 |
| Muslim | 6.44 | 6.23 | 6.62 | 6.99 | 7.27 | 8.81 | 8.40 |
| Christian | 11.84 | 19.49 | 26.03 | 29.68 | 34.11 | 34.04 | 41.29 |
| Sikh | .01 | .07 | .10 | .07 | .07 | .08 | .05 |
| Buddhist | .01 | .04 | .05 | .03 | .04 | .09 | .25 |
| Jain | .03 | .10 | .13 | .07 | .07 | .07 | .06 |
| Others | 21.55 | - | 7.75 | 2.50 | .77 | 10.86 | 8.19 |
| Not stated | - | 12.39 | .36 | .62 | .00 | .05 | .38 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

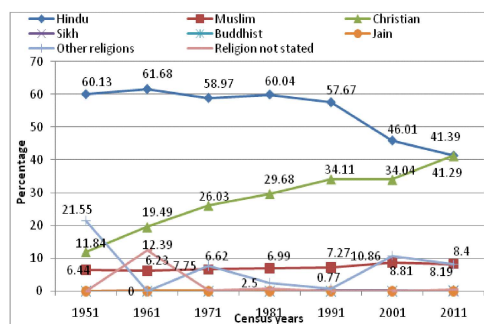


Fig-5: Showing religion composition trend

Table-7
Religion-wise decadal growth rate (%)

| Religion | 1951 to 1961 | 1961 to 1971 | 1971 to 1981 | 1981 to 1991 | 1991 to 2001 | 2001 to 2011 |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Hindu | 38.52 | 31.49 | 34.87 | 24.18 | -5.91 | 18.36 |
| Muslim | 30.62 | 46.06 | 39.06 | 34.44 | 42.99 | 25.61 |
| Christian | 122.3 | 83.66 | 51.02 | 48.6 | 17.7 | 59.85 |
| Sikh | 946 | 96.56 | -3.5 | 31.15 | 27.06 | -7.62 |
| Buddhist | 884.85 | 52.31 | -4.44 | 50.32 | 170.89 | 267.81 |
| Jain | 418.67 | 80.98 | -30.75 | 37.13 | 9.27 | 15.81 |
| Others | - | - | -57.33 | -60.37 | 1572.69 | -0.64 |
| Not stated | - | -96.02 | 129.17 | -99.32 | 1661.67 | 937.75 |
| Manipur | 35.04 | 37.53 | 32.46 | 29.29 | 17.94* | 31.8 |

* Excluding three sub-divisions of Senapati district viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul.

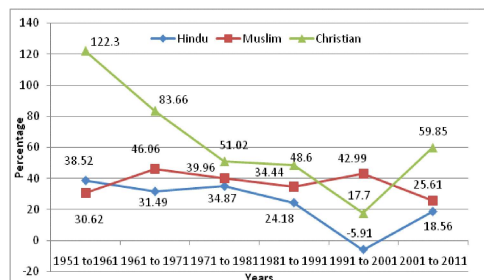


Fig-6: Showing religion-wise decadal growth rate (%)

The state had registered a dramatic decline of population growth with decadal growth rate of 17.94% (2001) as against 29.29% (1991) and thereafter witnessed a population spurt of 31.8% in 2011 which was running quite above the national figure of 17.64% (2011). The unusual figures observed at 2001 and 2011 were the upshots of excluding population of three sub-divisions of Senapati district viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul in the census, 2001.

A much fluctuated decadal growth rates was observed among the minority religious communities and it was because of their less population compositions which might be affected due to few thousand immigrant or out-migrant of their communities from one census year to another. However, when one looks at three major religion groups, the Hindu and the Christian had more or less declining growth rate since 1951 to 2001 (Hindus had negative growth in 2001 i.e., -5.91%) while Muslim maintained a slightly stagnant trend. There after the Christian's population spurt was witnessed (59.85%) followed by the Muslim (25.61%) and the Hindu (18.36%) in 2011. Nonetheless, a great variation of growth rates at each census year was persisted over the religion groups. For instance; the Christian had decadal growth rates of 122.3% in 1951 while the Hindu and the Muslim had 38.52% and 30.62% respectively. Abrupt decline of Christian's decadal growth rates from 1991 to 2001 and again spurt at 2011 were due to the non-inclusion of population of three sub-divisions of Senapati district viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul in the Census, 2001. In any case, it is confirm that growth rate of Christian community is faster than its counterpart Hindu and Muslim communities; and again Muslim has faster than that of Hindu.

Table-8
District & religion-wise decadal growth rate (%) from 2001 to 2011

| District | Manipur | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | Sikh | Buddhist | Jain | Others | Not stated |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|------------|---------|------------|
| Valley | 15.72 | 17.35 | 25.89 | 12.39 | -14.18 | 508.50 | -99.41 | -1.02 | 813.27 |
| Hill | 61.87 | 39.01 | 18.94 | 63.51 | 4.94 | 195.06 | 302.47 | 20.08 | 1103.08 |
| χ ² -value | 32616.336 | 849.305 | 13.199 | 3719.504 | 7.446 | 153.235 | 35598.832* | 85.243 | 18.064 |
| P-value | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.006 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Imphal East | 15.50 | 14.37 | 27.43 | 16.85 | 1.09 | 719.23 | -99.90 | 4.55 | 1104.96 |
| Imphal West | 16.56 | 17.07 | 27.05 | 29.29 | -12.22 | 506.08 | -98.28 | 4.51 | 1123.95 |
| Bishnupur | 13.93 | 17.59 | 31.68 | -30.70 | -56.92 | 2433.33 | -99.95 | -0.78 | 239.63 |
| Thoubal | 15.93 | 20.82 | 23.57 | -15.84 | 3.92 | 111.11 | -99.95 | -16.67 | 1255.17 |
| χ ² -value | 40.929 | 188.912 | 39.048 | 1018.052 | 25.248 | 58.179 | 2285.788 | 901.516 | 211.196 |
| P-value | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Senapati | 206.13 | 43.59 | 158.86 | 247.78 | -9.09 | 88.05 | 341.66 | 23.43 | 1068.09 |
| Tamenglong | 26.14 | -6.02 | -58.83 | 27.38 | -11.94 | 5971.42 | 418.18 | 16.14 | 3010 |
| Churachandpur | 20.28 | 14.19 | 12.16 | 19.60 | 21.6 | 953.19 | 383.33 | 75.947 | 1179.34 |
| Chandel | 21.85 | 89.61 | 33.13 | 18.25 | 8.8 | 566.66 | 145.83 | -61.60 | 487.75 |
| Ukhrul | 30.70 | 32.81 | 26.56 | 29.96 | 12.5 | 655.95 | 337.5 | 166.66 | 936.11 |
| χ ² -value | 73429.020 | 849.305 | 831.254 | 82349.465 | 4.304 | 487.507 | 5.499 | 501.943 | 42.517 |
| P-value | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 366 | <0.001 | 0.240 | <0.001 | <0.001 |

* χ² cells with expected counts less than 5; χ² (Chi square); df: degree of freedom.

Overall decadal growth rate (%) from 2001 to 2011 for valley was 15.72% as against 61.87% for hill. It is further worthwhile to mention that the decadal growth rate for all the religion groups except Muslim and Buddhist were found growing faster in hill than that of valley. Even the Hindu population was significantly growing faster in hill than valley. In contrast, Sikh, Jain and Other religion groups had negative decadal growth rate in valley. Statistically there is a great variation of religion-wise decadal growth rate between valley and hill as evident by all the P-values are <0.01.

Irrespective of religion, the decadal growth rates for valley districts were running less than 17% which was less than the national figure of 17.64%. Highest decadal growth rate (16.56%) pertained to Imphal West and lowest (13.93%) to Bishnupur. Hindu community was growing faster in Thoubal district (20.82%), followed by in Imphal West and in Bishnupur districts with around 17% each, and lowest (14.37%) in Imphal East. For Muslim highest growth rate (31.68%) noticed in Bishnupur and lowest (23.57%) in Thoubal, and in Imphal East and in Imphal West, the rate was about 27% each. Imphal West again had highest Christian's growth rate (29.29%), next to the highest belonged to Imphal East (16.85%), and negative growth rates were witnessed in two other valley districts viz., Bishnupur and Thoubal. Jain had negative growth in all valley districts and Sikh had also negative growth in all valley districts except in Thoubal district while Buddhist population spurt occurred in all the districts of which more in Bishnupur. The variation of decadal growth rates over the four valley districts is found to be highly significant statistically. This is true in all religions.

In case of the hill district of the state, irrespective of religion, the decadal growth rates for hill districts were running above 20%. Senapati had highest decadal growth rates (206.13%) which was followed by Ukhrul (30.70%), Tamenglong (26.14%), Chandel (21.85%) and Churachandpur (20.28%) respectively. Technically unacceptable decadal growth rate for Senapati district is attributed with many population dynamics and causes, of them excluding population of three sub-divisions of Senapati district viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul in the census, 2001 was one of the main reasons.

When bisecting religion wise, Chandel had highest Hindu decadal growth rate (89.61%), followed by Senapati (43.99%), Ukhrul (32.81%), Churachandpur (14.19%) and Tamenglong had negative growth (-6.02%). In case of Muslim population Senapati maintained highest growth (158.86%), and lowest and negative growth rates respectively related to Churachandpur and Tamenglong districts. For Christian, the highest growth rate (247.78%) was detected in Senapati and next to it was correspondingly in Ukhrul (29.96%), Tamenglong (27.38%), Churachandpur (19.60%), and Chandel (18.25%). Buddhist and Jain were growing faster in all the hill districts while Sikh had negative growth in Senapati and Tamenglong districts. The decadal growth rates over the five hill districts are found to be highly significant except in cases of Sikh and Jain.

V. Differential inhabited villages and its growth:

Table-9
District-wise number of inhabited villages and density

| District | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 | *Area/ Km ² | *Density / Km ² |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Senapati | 368 | 404 | 447 | 517 | 625 | 669 | 3,271 | 146 |
| Tamenglong | 163 | 184 | 190 | 194 | 171 | 174 | 4,391 | 32 |
| Churachandpur | 290 | 362 | 428 | 502 | 546 | 596 | 4,570 | 60 |
| Chandel | 244 | 217 | 254 | 292 | 361 | 430 | 3,313 | 44 |
| Ukhrul | 223 | 216 | 221 | 222 | 198 | 213 | 4,544 | 40 |
| Hill | 1288 | 1383 | 1540 | 1727 | 1901 | 2082 | 20089 | 61 |
| Imphal East | 262 | 252 | 220 | 206 | 204 | 191 | 709 | 643 |
| Imphal West | 142 | 146 | 125 | 117 | 134 | 107 | 519 | 998 |
| Bishnupur | 61 | 58 | 47 | 45 | 49 | 48 | 496 | 479 |
| Thoubal | 113 | 110 | 103 | 87 | 103 | 87 | 514 | 821 |
| Valley | 578 | 566 | 495 | 455 | 490 | 433 | 2238 | 780 |
| Manipur | 1866 | 1949 | 2035 | 2182 | 2391 | 2515 | 22327 | 128 |

No. of inhabited villages in 1911 was 1477 villages, 1951 was 1601 where district-wise data, not available. *Based on Census 2011.

Table-10
District-wise decadal absolute growth of new inhabited villages

| District | 1961-71 | 1971-81 | 1981-91 | 1991-01 | 2001-11 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Senapati | 36 | 43 | 70 | 108 | 44 |
| Tamenglong | 21 | 6 | 4 | -23 | 3 |
| Churachandpur | 72 | 66 | 74 | 44 | 50 |
| Chandel | -27 | 37 | 38 | 69 | 69 |
| Ukhrul | -7 | 5 | 1 | -24 | 15 |
| Hill | 95 | 157 | 187 | 174 | 181 |
| Imphal East | -10 | -32 | -14 | -2 | -13 |
| Imphal West | 4 | -21 | -8 | 17 | -27 |
| Bishnupur | -3 | -11 | -2 | 4 | -1 |
| Thoubal | -3 | -7 | -16 | 16 | -16 |
| Valley | -12 | -71 | -40 | 35 | -57 |
| Manipur | 83 | 86 | 147 | 209 | 124 |

Table-11
District-wise decadal inhabited villages growth rate (%)

| District | 1961-71 | 1971-81 | 1981-91 | 1991-01 | 2001-11 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Senapati | 9.78 | 10.64 | 15.65 | 20.88 | 7.04 |
| Tamenglong | 12.88 | 3.26 | 2.10 | -11.85 | 1.75 |
| Churachandpur | 24.82 | 18.23 | 17.28 | 8.76 | 9.15 |
| Chandel | -11.06 | 17.05 | 14.96 | 23.63 | 19.11 |
| Ukhrul | -3.13 | 2.31 | 0.45 | -10.81 | 7.57 |
| Hill | 7.37 | 11.35 | 12.14 | 10.07 | 9.52 |
| Imphal East | -3.81 | -12.6 | -6.36 | -0.97 | -6.37 |
| Imphal West | 2.81 | -14.38 | -6.4 | 14.52 | -20.14 |
| Bishnupur | -4.91 | -18.96 | -4.25 | 8.88 | -2.04 |
| Thoubal | -2.65 | -6.36 | -15.53 | 18.39 | -15.53 |
| Valley | -2.07 | -12.54 | -8.08 | 7.69 | -11.63 |
| Manipur | 4.44 | 4.41 | 7.22 | 9.57 | 5.19 |

According to the Census data there were only 1,477 inhabited villages in the entire state of Manipur in 1911 and it went up to 1601 inhabited villages in 1951 with decadal growth rate of 2.10% only as against the decadal growth rate of 16.55% during 1951 to 1961 which was the highest ever in the state. Mushrooming new village means expanding population. Thus data speaks that there was a large scale influx during 1951 to 1961 as a consequence of the closure down of The Foreigners' Permit System in the state since November 18, 1950 by the then Chief Commissioner of Manipur, Mr. Himmat Singh. In the subsequent Census decades of 1961-71, 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-01, and 2001-11, the growth rate were found to be 4.44, 4.41, 7.22, 9.57, and 5.19 respectively. The rate accelerated fast after 1981 and spurt occurred during 1991 to 2001, and thereafter tapering a little but still maintaining a high growth rate of 5.19% during 2001-11. The corresponding number of villages established during the decades were 83, 86, 147, 209, and 124. It further proves that the state has been receiving large scale migration flow and now becoming a dumping ground of migrants.

There was a great variation of decadal growth rate between hill and valley as the rate touched at a very alarming situation in the former while the reversed trend pertains to the latter. The decadal growth rates (%) for hill are 7.37, 11.35, 12.14, 10.07, and 9.52 for respectively decades of 1961-71, 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-01, and 2001-11. The highest occurred during 1971-1991 and still maintained the zenith. In case of valley, the number of inhabited villages decreases decade to decade whilst a sudden spurt (7.69%) occurred during 1991-2001. Inter-district variation was noticed within and between hill and valley areas. Chandel, Churachandpur, and Senapati districts were the districts having high decadal growth rate (%) of inhabited villages since 1961 (from where analyzable data available to the knowledge of the author) till 2011. The latest census figure (2011) depicts that Chandel has the highest growth rate (19.11%) followed by Churachandpur (9.15%), Ukhrul, (7.57%), Senapati (7.04%), and Tamenglong sustains the lowest (1.75%).

It is worthwhile to mention that the growth rate of valley during the mentioned census decades has negative growth except during 1991-2001 where spurt occurred. This is found true in all the valley districts of the state except in Imphal West district where four new inhabited villages were introduced during 1961-71. Unlikely during 1991-2001, highest growth rate pertained to Thoubal (18.39%), and Imphal West (14.52%) maintained next to the highest, followed by Bishnupur (8.88%) but Imphal East has a negative growth rate (-0.97%).

In terms of density of population (shown in Table-1), based on Census 2011, the state has 128 persons/ Sq. km., out of which hill has 61/ Sq. km. as against 780/ Sq. km. for valley districts. Among the hill districts, Senapati district has highest density of 146/ Sq. km. as against the lowest 32/ Sq. km. of Tamenglong district. Among the four valley districts, Imphal West and Bishnupur constitute highest and lowest density of population of 998/ Sq. km. and 479/ Sq. km. respectively.

VI. Influx of immigrants:

The country has its own Foreigner Act to regulate immigration process in the country such as *The Foreigners Act, 1946* which was enacted on 23rd November, 1946 before India became independent and subsequently amended on 20th February, 2004 by *The Foreigners (Amendment) Act, 2004*. The Act has been enforced in the state too but unfortunately it is not being implemented judiciously and effectively.

Taking the advantages of, more or less, similarity in terms of its language and dialect, culture and tradition, and habit and settlement, etc., to local inhabitants, a huge number of Myanmarese immigrants mostly Chin, Kuki & Mizo tribes (in broader sense) have been trespassing without much disturbance for the last many decades either through Moreh gate (international boundary with Myanmar) or through porous international border of 398 km. and settling them in hill districts of the state especially Tengenoupal, Chandel, Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Senapati, Kangpokpi and even in Ukhrul and Kamjong. The villages where they settled are mainly Chinghang of Ukhrul district, Bihang of Churachandpur, and Moreh of Tengenoupal district. They can easily assimilate and acculturate with the local population. At the same time, some local tribes who are from the same fraternity encourage and even invite them to migrate and help them to settle. Citing an example, a massive settlement of Myanmarese immigrants (Kuki) has been taking place in Churachandpur and Pherzawl districts. The immigrants trespass from Moreh of Tengenoupal district to Chandel district first then to Churachandpur and Pherzawl districts via *Khambath Road and Sugu-Churachandpur Road* as their safest route since they never encroach through Imphal, the capital of the state.

Again Manipur has a state boundary of 102 km with Mizoram connected by the Guite road at Tuima of Churachandpur district of Manipur and Ngopa of Mizoram side. Due to no proper check post and with advantages of porous boundary as well as supported by the local people a lot of in-migrants and some immigrants used to trespass through either Guite road or hill tracts without any disturbance into the state. Of course, there is a strong cultural and language bonds between the kukis, paites and other tribes of Manipur with various tribes of Mizos of Mizoram.

To be continued

Peace talks with ULFA-I impossible unless Paresh Baruah abandons sovereignty demand: Assam CM

Agency
Guwahati, Jan 2:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the possibility of bringing the Paresh Baruah-led ULFA (Independent) for peace talks will not be possible till the time the leader of the banned outfit keeps demanding sovereignty.

Talking to media persons, Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "The channel of communication with the ULFA(I) is not an issue. The bone of contention is the sovereignty issue with which I can't compromise. I have taken an oath to protect the integrity and sovereignty then how I can compromise with it."

AD"On the other hand,



ULFA(I) chief Paresh Baruah has been demanding sovereignty. Due to irreconcilable differences, the matter has not been solved. But from our side we are taking all possible steps to solve the ULFA(I) problem," Mr Sarma said, adding the channel of communication with the ULFA(I) is open.

Mr Sarma also added that the security forces recovered the highest number of arms in the state's history. "Even during the peak of ULFA (I), we were unable to recover so many arms. All this has been possible due to the silent operations, silent actions initiated by the security person-

nel," he said.

"The people of Assam have a larger role to play to solve the decade-old insurgency problem," he added.

The banned ULFA (I) had announced a unilateral ceasefire for three months in 2021 after Mr Sarma took charge as the chief minister of the state and called the outfit to come forward for talks.

The outfit has been extending the ceasefire every three months since then but there has been no announcement regarding negotiations with the banned organisation.

Mr Sarma had last year said peace talks with the banned outfit could progress if it was prepared to discuss grievances and issues other than sovereignty.

India sees decline in daily cases, logs 173 fresh Covid-19 infections

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 2:

India saw a decline in daily Covid-19 cases as the country reported 173 new coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours, taking the cumulative tally to 4.46 crore (4,46,78,822), according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

On Sunday, the country logged 265 fresh coronavirus infections.

Currently, India's active caseload stands at 2,670, that comprises 0.01% of the total infections. A decrease of 36 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The total tally of Covid cases has been recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,78,822) and the death toll stands at 5,30,707 with two fatalities — one reconciled by Kerala and one reported by Uttarakhand — in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

As per official data, the national recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,41,45,445, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.19 per cent, it said.

The ministry on its website

stated that 220.10 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

India crossed the two-crore mark on May 4, three crore cases on June 23, 2021, and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

Contd. from Page 1

Manipur's oldest vernacular....

"Sometimes we as politicians can also give critical comment to individuals or newspapers writing which are against the policy that the government considered genuine," N. Biren Singh said.

The 42nd Foundation Day of the Kangleipakki Meira was also attended by Works Min-

ister K. Govindas, MLA Kunjakshore @ Keba and Chief Editor of the Kangleipakki Meira newspaper as dignitaries on the dais.

As tradition Kangleipakki Meira also honoured reporters and senior journalist, newspaper hawkers as well as person with excellence in their

respective field.

Sr. Reporter of Poknapham Newspaper Th. Premchand, Reporter of ISTV Urthitbanam Indra and reporter of Imphal Free Press Phurailatpam Kenny Devi were awarded best journalists. Senior journalist were also honoured with cash award and citation along with Shawl.

India's G20 Presidency 'very big deal': EAM Jaishankar to critics

Agency
Vienna, Jan 2:

Terming India's G20 Presidency a "very big deal", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said the country has taken up the responsibility to host the meetings of the powerful grouping at a time when there is great economic stress on the global supply chains and strong political polarisation in the world.

India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1. The next G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi.

Addressing the members of the Indian diaspora here in the Austrian capital on Sun-

day, Jaishankar said India intends to use its presidency for the benefit of the international community.

"I sometimes get the question, you can imagine from which quarters, saying, well, it was bound to come your way anyway. So, what's the big deal? It is a very big deal. Because in our diplomatic history, we have never had this many powerful nations, the top 20 economies of the world who among them today account for the bulk of the global GDP to dominate world trade, their leaders, come to India," he said.

"More than who is coming, it is when are they? Because it is a difficult time. The world is under great economic stress on the supply chains. There is

very strong political polarisation, even getting all the major countries to sit around the table itself requires a lot. So, for us to take up this responsibility at this time, is something truly exceptional," he said.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Austria from Cyprus on the second leg of his two-nation tour, said India will be a "voice of fairness and justice".

He said the country will ensure that it emerges as a voice for societies and countries that would otherwise get left behind and not have somebody else to speak for them.

"We will take it as an opportunity to present India and all the changes that I have tried to describe to the people. This G20 presidency is not as would

normally be done. It's not something that is just going to be done in the capital city or even in two or three metropolises. We are going to take it across the country to more than 55 cities.

"We are going to make sure that the diversity of every region, every culture, every local cuisine, and local products will be on display to the world," he said.

Jaishankar said there will be tens of thousands of officials and leaders who will be coming to India to have an opportunity to see the length and breadth of the country.

"So, in a sense, I would say you can think of it as a marketing of India to the world," he said in his lengthy address to the Indian community.

Supreme Court upholds 2016...

Sudden ban

To weed out black money, the decision to demonetise the old 500 and 1000 rupee notes was announced in the evening on November 8, 2016. Subsequently, the new 2,000 rupee currency note along with a 500 rupee note was introduced.

33 deaths, directly or indirectly linked to the demonetisation move were reported across the country. While a few deaths were out of shock, some deaths were

stated to be due to exhaustion after standing for long hours in queues to exchange notes. The people had tough time to exchange Rs 2000 notes. In some parts of Maharashtra, daily wage earners working under the Employment Guarantee scheme faced extreme difficulties since they were asked to bring in change, before they were given Rs 2000 notes (since their wages were much less than Rs 2000). There have also been reports of sui-

cide and even a murder over demonetisation in West Bengal.

In March 2017, the government claimed that there have been no official report on deaths connected to demonetisation. However in December 2018, the then Union Finance Minister late Arun Jaitley told Parliament that four people, three bank personnel and one customer of the State Bank of India, died during demonetisation.

Sports

No Messi, no Neymar as PSG suffer first loss of season

Agency
Lens, Jan 2:

Paris Saint-Germain, without World Cup winner Lionel Messi and Neymar, lost for the first time in any competition since March 20 last year when they were defeated 3-1 at Lens on Sunday.

"Lens deserved their win," said PSG coach Christophe Galtier.

Lois Openda scored one and set up another as Lens, who have only lost once in Ligue 1 this season, closed the gap on PSG at the top to four points after 17 rounds.

"We are happy to be four points behind," said Lens coach Franck Haise. "This victory proves that we can beat anyone in this championship."

PSG's last loss was more than nine months ago when they fell 3-0 at Monaco in Ligue 1, although that still left them 12 points clear at the top of the table.

On Sunday at Lens, PSG were without Messi and suspended Brazilian Neymar, but Kylian Mbappe, the Golden Boot winner in Qatar, received a rousing welcome from the Lens fans as he warmed up.

Galtier said he hoped French



fans would give Messi a similar reception.

"He's going to join us on January 3, in 48 hours," said Galtier. "I hope Leo will be well received. He won the most beautiful trophy by being very good. We know he's a great and decisive player so we hope he'll be well received obviously."

"Kylian worked hard," said Galtier. "He showed a very good attitude."

"Leo and 'Ney' were not there but that is no excuse."

Lens took the lead after five minutes when PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma blocked an effort from Massadio Haidara to Przemyslaw Frankowski who scored.

Hugo Ekitike replied three minutes later, swinging hard as Brice Samba drove to gather a cross and driving the ball

through the Lens goalkeeper's grasp.

Lens took control after 28 minutes. Seko Fofana won possession on the edge of his own box, drove through a couple of challenges then measured a pass between the PSG central defenders to Openda. The Belgium sprinted clear, and squeezed a shot under Donnarumma.

Lens pressed from the start of the second half and in the 48th minute won possession deep in the PSG half.

The ball reached Openda in the box, his backheel left the defence flat-footed and allowed Alexis Claude Maurice to take a touch and score from close range.

The French league normally takes the holiday season off but with matches to make up following the World Cup, it played one

round immediately after Christmas and another on Sunday and Monday.

They have dubbed the games "Celebration Week", in English, as a nod to the English tradition of Boxing Day games, but many fans are suspicious or hostile.

Among protest banners unfurled by fans in an almost empty stand at Nantes, where the home team beat Auxerre 1-0, was one that complained that the league and broadcasters were "killing" them.

In Monaco, Aleksandr Golovin smashed in the only goal from outside the penalty area as the home team did just enough to beat Brest 1-0 and tighten their grip on fourth place.

Angers remain anchored to the bottom after suffering a ninth straight loss, falling 2-1 to visiting Lorien who broke their own run of six games without a victory.

The home team's Moroccan World Cup stars Sofiane Boufal and Azzedine Ounahi, who have just returned from vacation and reportedly been promised lucrative transfers, were honoured before the match but did not appear.

Premier League: Aston Villa down Tottenham Hotspurs 2-0, deny top four spot to hosts

Agency
London, Jan 2:

Aston Villa worsened Tottenham Hotspurs woes as the hosts slumped to a 2-0 defeat at their home ground of Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in their Premier League tie on Sunday.

With this win, Aston Villa is now in the 12th spot in the points table with 21 points. They have won six out of 17 matches, lost eight and drawn three. Hotspurs, who suffered their fourth loss in seven games, is in the fifth spot with 30 points. They have won nine out of their 17 games. They have lost five and drawn three matches.

Spurs was absolutely listless in the first half. Aston Villa produced some superb defending, keeping all kinds of threat from Spurs at bay. At the end of the first half, the scoreline was goalless.

The hosts fell behind for the 10th consecutive match when Emiliano Buendia took

full advantage of an error by goalkeeper Hugo Lloris after the break in the 50th minute.

Spurs missed the services of Dejan Kulusevski and could not muster much response.

They could not even register a shot at the target in the second period.

Douglas Luiz scored for the Villa in the 73rd minute to double the lead.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Rahaman Begum, do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished, and abandoned the use of my old name **Rahaman** as I have assumed my new name **Rahaman Begum** from now onwards.

Sd/-

Rahaman Begum

Lilong Haoreibi Chandakhong

PO & PS - Lilong

Thoubal District, Manipur

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Saikhom Bishworjit Singh, do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished, and abandoned the use of my old name **Saikhom Bishworjit** as I have assumed my new name **Saikhom Bishorjit Singh** from now onwards.

Sd/-

Saikhom Bishworjit Singh

Naharup Makhapat, Imphal

Imphal West, Manipur