

Manipur Governor, CM among others wish people on 'Gaan Ngai 2023'

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 Gaan Ngai 2023.

"I convey my greetings and best wishes to the people of Manipur, particularly our Zeliangrong brethren on the joyous and auspicious occasion of Gaan Ngai, 2023. La. Ganesan writes in his message. The governor Zeliangrong community celebrates the 'Gaan Ngai' which is the 'Festival of Winter Season' for paying obeisance and homage to those departed souls who left this temporal world in the year before. The festival also symbolises bidding adieu to the old year gone by and heralding a New Year, full of hope and aspiration."

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in his greeting to the people of Manipur particularly to our Zeliangrong brethren on the auspicious and joyous occasion of Gaan-Ngai 2023.

"Gaan-Ngai, the biggest cultural and religious post harvest festival of the Zeliangrong Community, marks the end of the year when the farmers have stored their foodgrain in their granaries. The festival also marks the heralding of the New Year and new fire is produced by rubbing of dry wood and split bamboos pieces and distributed to every household. During the festival, the community shows their gratitude, with offerings to the Almighty for the good harvest and prayer for a better and prosperous life in the coming year."

Th. Satyabrata Singh, Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly in his greeting to the people of Manipur on occasion of the "Chakan Gaan Ngai" is the biggest festival of the Kabui and Zeliangrong which is celebrated for five days. The festival gives adieu to the passing year and welcoming the New Year along with an offering showing gratitude to the deity for giving a good harvest.

Nemcha Kipgen, Minister, Textiles, Commerce and Industry & Co-operation in his greeting to the people of Manipur on occasion of the Kabui/Rongmei community on the joyous occasion of Chakaan Gaan-Ngai, 2023 which falls on 4th January, 2023. Gaan-Ngai is the biggest and the most colourful ritual festival of Kabui/Rongmei. It is the time of expression of artistic talents, physical strength through martial arts, dance and music. Socially, Gaan-Ngai promotes peace and unity within the family system and the society as a whole. May this auspicious festival promotes the spirit of brotherhood, peace, happiness and prosperity for all the people of Manipur."

Open gym inaugurated Health is everything: Chief Minister

IT News
Churachandpur, Jan 3:

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled inauguration of Churachandpur Medical College on Jan 6, Chief Minister N Biren Singh today inspected the Medical College to take stock of the preparations.

Shri N Biren also inaugurated an open gym for the public at Peace Ground, Tuibong.

Interacting with the students and faculties of the medical institute, the Chief Minister assured that the institute will be provided the best facility and quality available once the construction of the Medical College is completed. He further instructed officials concerned to ensure that all preparations for the inauguration programme are completed well on time.

After inspecting the Medical College, the chief minister inaugurated an open gym at Peace Ground, Tuibong, wherein he interacted with the general public. Health is not



only wealth, but everything, the CM said.

The open gym was installed under the Chief Minister's Indigenous Martial Arts Akademi, Manipur with support from the government of Manipur.

Stating that health is everything, the Chief Minister stated that the Peace Ground at Tuibong will be developed to 'international standard'. He

also said the work for development of the ground will be taken up as soon as possible.

It may be mentioned that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Churachandpur Medical College on January 6, 2023. At present there are 99 medical students studying in the college.

Health & IPR Minister Dr Sapam Ranjan; RD & PR Min-

ister Y Khemchand; Local MLAs namely Vungzagin Valte, LM Khaute, Paolienal Haokip, Ngursanglur, Chinlunthang, Letzanghaokip; Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar; DGP P Doungel; DG (Prison) C Doungel, Addl CS Vumlungmang and other top officials of the Government including Sharath Chandra Arrojo, DC Ccpur and other district officials were present.

Chief Minister N. Biren inspects INA Complex at Moirang

IT News
Imphal, Jan 3:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has appealed to the people of the State to accord a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, scheduled to visit the State tentatively on January 6 to inaugurate and lay foundationstones for various projects and schemes.

N. Biren Singh today inspected the development of Heritage Site for INA Head Quarters, Moirang where the Union Home Minister will hoist the Indian National Flag.



The Chief Minister said that during the visit, the Union Minister is likely to inaugurate the Churachandpur Medical College, Kangla Nongpokthong, 122 feet high

Polo Statue at the Ibudhu Marjing complex among others. The Union Home Minister will also hand over the Olympian Park constructed in recognition of

sportspersons who brought laurels for the country and the State, to the sportspersons of the State.

Public Works Minister Konthoujam Govindas Singh, Health and IPR Minister Dr Sapam Ranjan; PHE and CAF&PD Minister Leishangthem Susindro Meitei; Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta Singh, Moirang MLA Thongam Shanti Singh, Thanga MLA Tongbram Robindro Singh, Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar; DGP P Doungel; Addl CS Vumlungmang and other top officials of the Government were also present during the inspection.

DESAM observes 21st Foundation Day

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Jan 4:

Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM), Jiribam District Council celebrated its 21st Foundation Day today at DESAM District Council Office, Babupara, Jiribam.

The observation function was attended by Naorem Nivaran Devi, WASED President; L. Romio, Ex-President DESAM; Y. Ragini Devi, General Secretary, WASED; K. Babulu, Ex-president DESAM, Jiribam District Council DESAM and DESAM President, Jiribam District Council Laishram Bilaks Meetei, shared the dais as a presidium members.

The function began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by hoisting of Union's flag by the Presidium members.

Speaking at the function, President of DESAM,



Laishram Bilaks Meetei said that in Jiribam district most of the time we can see that the teachers who were appointed at Jiribam from the other places seems to be not willing to attend in their posting places. He also questioned how the Government will bring quality education with an irregular teachers, he opined that the

government needs to take action against such irregularities of teachers who are not fulfilling their duties and to administer the educational institutions.

He added that Jiribam 50-bedded hospital is another sector which is very important for the people of Jiribam whereas any emergency case

arrived to the hospital, it couldn't provide require treatment as there is shortage of surgery and other advance treatment. It's only able to provide first aid treatment and it will not be wrong to say that it was a referral hospital. He appealed to all 'Let us work together for the development of Jiribam'.

The Editorial: Press Freedom assumed; But does it exist in Manipur

One of the most interesting news of 2023 that appeared in almost all Newspaper headlines published here in the state is Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's concerns about Press Freedom and Freedom of Speech and expression guaranteed by the constitution of India.

The man leading the top position in the State government and who began his career as a renowned journalist recounted his days before joining politics, on how he struggled to protect freedom of speech and expression during his day while trying to convince a gathering on the occasion of the celebration of 42nd Foundation Day of Manipur evening vernacular daily "Kangleipakki Meira" held at Mongsangei here in Imphal yesterday.

What is more interesting to the concern of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh regarding Press Freedom was being delivered at a time when India's Press Freedom rank has dropped to 150th position from 142nd rank last year among the 180 nations across the globe. The ranking was done as per research by "Reporters Without Border".

Manipur, no doubt is an Indian state with just around 30 lakh plus population with just a geographical area of 22,327 sq.km. In this little state of India which occupies just around 0.24% as per the 2011 census report, there have been various instances of suppressing Pressman from discharging their duties. At least 6 journalists have been shot dead by armed groups or individuals, media houses were forced to close down. Reporters and Editors and those associated with media houses in the production of news had many times gone to the street pleading with authority to safeguard the press fraternity. Considering those as unfortunate and unforgettable events, before N. Biren Singh became the Chief Minister of Manipur. Let us try to go in depth about the condition of Media houses and those working in Media houses today.

There are no provisions that protect the Press in the constitution of India. Though the interpretation of Article 19(A) of the constitution by various courts of law have associated the Press Freedom. Having said so, unlike the Press Freedom guaranteed in country like the United States, the Indian system have not given absolute freedom to hide their news sources when asked by the court and various legal provision.

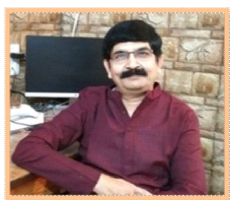
Coming back to what Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had stated his intention to protect the pressman, he is not mentioning the constitutional clause mentioned in Article 19(A) which guaranteed freedom of speech and expression. This provision does not limit to journalists alone but to all law-abiding citizens of the country.

Today, even though there has been no complaint from media houses of the state or journalists recognized by the DIPR or by various Journalist bodies like AMWJU, MHJU or EGM, there were instances of Government Agencies troubling the journalists. For instance, Journalists of the state staged protests by stopping the publication of news for 2 days for summoning various journalists including Editors and the President of the All Manipur Working Journalist Union. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was right when he said that, politicians or Ministers have the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression.

But then why college teachers are restricted from attending public discourse or panel discussions on Local TV shows? Why do teachers have to follow a lengthy process for attending public discourse on local TV? This perhaps is no other than silencing the voice of academicians. Besides this, why there should be a censor body at the state level for the publication of books?

As the Chief Minister has said that there should be healthy and constructive arrangements or criticism to move the state/nation ahead, let us hope that everyone is given the equal right to speak. If any anti-social or immoral speech has been delivered let the law of the land deal with it. State government should not interfere if our Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has a strong commitment to ensuring Freedom of Speech and Expression in the state.

Success is achieved step-by-step



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

It is rightly said that "Thinking: Ideas to succeed come from within" We all know that the world has always worshipped the rising sun. Nothing can defeat a man who is prepared to struggle on alone, with confidence against odds, poverty, misfortune and hardships. For him, there are no "ifs" and "buts". There are examples where people have started life as streets hawkers or sellers or penny novelties have risen to the position of multi-millionaires by dint of hard work and perseverance. **Success** provides confidence, security, a sense of well-being, the ability to contribute at a greater level, hope and leadership. Without **success**, you, the group, your company, your goals, dreams and even entire civilizations cease to survive. Some people spend their entire lives wondering how to be successful in life, but never figure it out. Without achieving any success, we might look back on our life disappointed by our lack of impact on the world. Striving to achieve a greater purpose is what keeps us fighting to survive and grow.

"Failure isn't the end of life" but would further add that "Failures are the pillars of success". The modern world is almost mad after the cult of success. Work is worship. One must take life as it comes. It is real, hard, solid work that takes a man to the peak of fame. Life is born out of pain and ends in pain. To attain glory no extraordinary merit or power is required except awareness and performance of duties. Many of character alone has vision, his perseverance alone is crowned with glory. Heaven helps those who help themselves by doing their duties. Obstacles melt before them making their path smooth. Moreover, people compare different people performance to evaluate their success. But success is not something that you can copy from others. You have to make your own path to achieving success. In modern-day, people are obsessed with success because of the glamour and lifestyle of successful people.

"Success is achieved step-by-step." Life is an uphill journey and at the top rests glory. If we want to reach the top of the mountain, we can reach it only by climbing and not by sitting down idly and looking at the sighing for it. Not in enjoyment, non in luxury, not in wealth and power, not in rank and position, but in the performance of duty alone lies success. Life is not a bed of roses but a grim field of action. We all know that we can't achieve something without sacrificing something. Success also demands various things from you. But these sacrifices will not go in vain if you achieve your goal.

No doubt, "Everybody may face defeating situation sometimes in life. It may require a little mental training to overcome them." If Mahatma Gandhi & Jawaharlal, Netaji and Bhagat Singh could shake the foundations of the British Empire, it is because they were men of courage. If a person is very sincere in his work, he is bound to win the admiration as well as help of others. Man's energies limited. If he goes on drifting from one aim to another, he is likely to achieve nothing. A rolling stone, they say, gathers no moss, in the same way man cannot have unity of purpose without clarity of vision. We should remember that fortune smiles only on those who strive hard.

Minority Appeasement and Majority's Mistrust



By: M.R. Lahu

Disengaging from all ambiguities, Congress veteran A.K. Antony has come out with a realistic narrative that most of the members in his political enterprise must have personally marked their disagreement for Antony, in a party event candidly expressed his view on his party's minority appeasement. According to him, the appeasement politics that the Congress has been infamous for has indubitably helped the Modi juggernaut to become a reality. This appeasement, he continued, had caused a huge rift to happen between the Congress and the majority, the Hindus in India. And this fissure, according to him, was the space the BJP with all its political intelligentsia intruded into and flavoured and filled and captured with its celebrated Hindu nationalism. The saffron brigade menacingly ensured the ouster of the Congress from India's electoral spectrum turning it into a ramshackle of hope. Today, Antony is the Buddha in Congress whose political wisdom though late cautioned the party for unjustifiably taking the minority alone in its caravan.

Does this cautioning bring any civilisational change in Congress? The party has often been blamed by its right-wing opposition for being a party with minority appeasement in its DNA. Not only the Congress but regional parties and parties with national reach also inexcusably jump into spreading the marzipan of appeasement for the collective vote bank of the minority communities. Inheriting most of the divide and rule policy of the British, the Congress, since the days of Nehru

has been echoing this style of political propitiation. Nehru had the least acceptance for the Somnath rejuvenation which he counted as Hindu revivalism. When 'Uniform Civil Code' was proposed by veterans in his party, Nehru stressed upon the political compartmentalisation of religions in the country which later defined the Muslims a particularly protected class. Stretching the appeasement further, Indira Gandhi's regime brought the Muslim Personal Law Board into existence. Illegitimately supporting Muslim infiltration from the neighbouring Bangladesh to Assam and West Bengal was another step the Congress calibrated for electoral advantage. Both states since then were pushed into a dangerous demographic trend and the area has become a hotbed of Islamic radicalization.

Though Congress began the appeasement politics, other political parties such as Trinamool Congress, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Aam Aadmi Party diligently followed the suit. Modi's entry into the national politics could mostly demystify the narratives of appeasement by the Congress and to a large extent he remodelled the political interventionism that remained a custom in India. That minority appeasement alone would bring electoral dividends and majority, a divided house could be easily silenced as it never became a vote bank. Indeed, secularism has never been an idea that India ideally incorporated in its core political practice. Parties post independence, maybe the BJP an exception, were seen competing to make inroads into minority vote banks and the political gimmicks have gone to the extent of the country's Prime Minister in the UPA regime batting for the Muslims to have the first right to exercise the claim on the country's resources.

A particular community to be rated as the vote ki mandhi ka

maal (vote banks) was a revered approach of the ruling elite in India. Modi's stormy initiatives exposing the Congress' double standard during his election campaign in 2014 went deeper into the conscience of the Hindus and the rattling among the electorate was seen in the results of the general elections. Modi began to dismantle the conventionalism existed in Indian politics one by one. All his schemes were elucidatory on his balancing act among the communities. Not only did he balance but also valiantly struck hard on the hypocritical male dominance existing in the Muslim community by abolishing the Triple Talaq. This move could have serious implications if the government did not enjoy complete majority. Parties are now pressured to find alternatives to the Muslim appeasement to strike a balance between the Hindus and Muslims. Irrespective of the minority emotions simmering against its political agenda and the Muslim orthodoxy's unequivocal opposition to debate the Uniform Civil Code, the BJP in its states began initiative processes.

The success of BJP is seen as counterproductive to the implementation of minority appeasement by other parties and the entry of the Modi era seamlessly proved the power of the majority vote bank that the party excavated from the half-buried Hindu consciousness. Antony, while speaking at the 137th foundational day of the Congress at Thiruvananthapuram had proclaimed that the minority alone would not bring the party to power. "Along with the minority we should bring the flock of majority with us in the fight against Modi", he said. Running from temple to temple Rahul Gandhi, affirming his brahminical identity was playing the same card that A.K. Antony avowed in the party conclave. Rahul Gandhi's high visibility halts at Hindu shrines were to

sensitise the Hindu sentiments to its side playing parallels with the BJP's Hindutva card. Political pundits would see this as an attempt of the Congress to change the recipe that it usually ran its political restaurants for decades, a new pattern to garnish its outdated cuisines to an unconvinced clan of people that intellectually stayed away from the Congress' double standard.

The party with its irritable insensitivity questioned the existence of Lord Ram in India where maximum of its populace adores and idealises him to be the supreme. Modi has practically cemented the burrows through which the Congress would thrust its soft Hindutva magic wand. Revamping Hindu heritage sites by strengthening their sanctity was one of the most noticeable things that Modi accomplished. His saffron clad appearance with sandal paste on his forehead and genuine devotion superimposed the clandestine intentions of the Congress and other parties. The Hindu Terror narrative concocted by the Congress months after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack was an outcome of its deep-rooted enmity for the majority. Congress leader Digvijay Singh along with filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt launched a book "26/11: RSS ki Sazish". The book was authored by Aziz Burney, Editor-in-Chief of Urdu Sahara newspaper. Antony's lamentations and the temple visits by Rahul Gandhi would further enable the BJP's saffron camps to sharpen their weapons to extract the Congress double standard. The Ram Temple inauguration before the 2024 general elections would be the best weapon the BJP can use to dig out the Congress hypocrisy. Modi has a garden of success to see his butterflies of political vision flutter and dance around. But for the Congress, the Hindu majority is again going to be a tough nut.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Author of "India @ 75- A Contemporary Approach")

Entire proceedings can't be quashed in corruption case just because informant turned hostile at investigation stage: Orissa HC

By: Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While ruling on a significant point of law, the Orissa High Court has in a most progressive, persuasive, powerful and pragmatic judgment titled *Brahmananda Sahu vs State of Orissa* (Vigilance) in CRLMC No. 5247 of 2015 that was pronounced finally on December 16, 2022 has clearly, cogently and convincingly held that entire proceedings cannot be set aside in a corruption case merely because the informant, who participated in the trap in connection with the demand of bribe, did not support the prosecution case during investigation. This is what must be adhered to in similar such cases by the Courts. No denying it.

At the very outset, this learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment authored by the Single Judge Bench of the Orissa High Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice RK Pattanaik sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 1 that, "A petition under Section 482 is moved at the behest of the petitioner invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of the criminal proceeding in connection with G.R. Case No.29 of 2011 corresponding to Berhampur Vigilance P.S. Case No.29 of 2011 pending in the file of the learned Special Judge (Vigilance), Berhampur on the stated grounds."

To be sure, the Bench then dissolves in para 2 that, "The Vigilance case was instituted on the basis of a written report lodged before the DSP

(Vigilance), Phulbani Unit on 23rd June, 2011 with the allegation made therein regarding the illegal demand of Rs.23,000/- as bribe by the petitioner from the informant towards new electricity connection for a welding shop and in that regard, a trap was laid by the Vigilance team and allegedly the said amount was recovered from the petitioner and the same was seized. After completion of investigation, the petitioner was chargesheeted under Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) besides Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (in short 'the P.C. Act')."

To put things in perspective, the Bench then envisages in para 3 that, "The challenge in the present case is that the informant did not support the alleged trap and recovery of the bribe amount from the petitioner while being examined during investigation and therefore, the entire prosecution would now have to depend on the evidence of the over-hearing witness but the same is not sufficient to prove and establish the fact of illegal demand of bribe and its acceptance which are the essential ingredients to be satisfied. According to the petitioner, after such hostile testimony of the informant not supporting the trap, no cogent and credible evidence left to criminally prosecute the petitioner with regard to the demand and acceptance of illegal gratification."

As it turned out, the Bench then specifies in para 5 that, "Mr. Mund, while advancing an argument refers

to the statement of the over-hearing witness recorded under Section 161 Cr.P.C. as at Annexure-3 to contend that by such testimony, it would not be possible for the prosecution to prove the demand and acceptance of bribe by the petitioner as he was not present at the spot but at a distance along with the members of the Vigilance unit. It is further contended that when the informant has not supported the alleged trap and since the testimony of the over-hearing witness is of no use and of any value to prove the demand and acceptance, the continuation of the vigilance proceeding would become an abuse of process of law and therefore, it should be quashed by exercising the Court's inherent jurisdiction. In fact, Mr. Mund apprised the Court that the informant was also prosecuted as an accused after having turned hostile which was challenged in Criminal Revision No.1021 of 2017 and this Court by judgment dated 25th July, 2018 quashed the proceeding and discharged him."

It is worth noting that the Bench then on the other hand hastens to add in para 6 that, "Mr. Pani, learned counsel for the Vigilance Department on the other hand submitted that on such a ground, the prosecution against the petitioner cannot be quashed even though the informant did not support the trap, inasmuch as, there is other evidence on record to prove the demand and acceptance of bribe by the petitioner. While contending so, Mr. Pani placed reliance on a decision of the Supreme Court in *Vinod Kumar Vrs. State of Punjab* reported in (2015) 3 SSC 220."

Needless to say, the Bench then points out in para 8 that, "No doubt

the informant has been discharged by this Court judgment in Criminal Revision No.1021 of 2017. It is also not in denial that the informant offered a testimony not supportive of the claim of demand and acceptance. In fact, during investigation while the statement of the informant was recorded, he turned hostile. But the question is, whether, the prosecution against the petitioner should be quashed when the informant has not corroborated the alleged trap in connection with demand of bribe?"

While citing the relevant case laws, the Bench then succinctly mentions in para 9 that, "In *Anup Kumar Srivastava* (supra), the Apex Court concluded that evidence regarding demand and acceptance of bribe if leaves room for doubt and does not displace wholly the presumption of innocence, the charge cannot be said to have been established, inasmuch as, the proof of demand is always held to be an indispensable essentiality and of permeating mandate for an offence under Sections 7 & 13 PC Act. While referring to a decision in *P. Satyanarayan Murthy Vrs. District Inspector of Police, State of AP* (2015) 10 SCC 152, it has been held in the decision (supra) that mere acceptance of any amount allegedly by way of illegal gratification or recovery thereof deforms the proof of demand, ipso facto, would not be sufficient to bring home the charge under Sections 7 and 13 of the PC Act. In the above decision, it was held and observed that axiomatically in absence of proof of demand, legal presumption under Section 20 of the PC Act would also not arise. Mr. Mund, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that in view of

the law laid down by the Supreme Court in *Dr. Anup Kumar Srivastava* (supra) reiterated the settled law as enunciated in *P. Satyanarayan Murthy* ibid and in *CBI, Hyderabad Vrs. K. Narayana Rao* reported in (2012) 9 SCC 512 and in absence of any credible evidence left after the informant turned hostile with no direct or circumstantial evidence on record even by considering the testimony of the over-hearing witness, the criminal prosecution vis-à-vis the petitioner would be a futile exercise and hence, it is required to be quashed."

Most significantly and most remarkably, the Bench then mimes just no words to hold in para 10 that, "No doubt the essential ingredients of demand and acceptance shall have to be established to bring home the charge but even when a material witness does not support the prosecution after being a part of the alleged trap at whose instance it was laid, the Court is of the considered view that notwithstanding his hostile testimony during investigation, the whole of the evidence cannot be discarded. The demand and acceptance may be proved from other materials during the trial connected to the alleged trap and also by subjecting the informant to examination in terms of Section 154 of Indian Evidence Act. Whether there was a demand and acceptance of illegal gratification by an accused can still be proved by incriminating evidence even when the prosecution case does not receive any support from a witness like the informant. Mr. Pani, learned counsel for the Vigilance Department rightly therefore submits that in the informant's testimony though has in the meantime become inconsistent

with the prosecution claim cannot be a ground to quash the entire proceeding. While contending so, Mr. Pani refers to a decision of *Deepak Mohapatra Vrs. State of Orissa* 2002 (23) OCR 369 to contend that contradictions and discrepancies in the statements of the witnesses cannot be a ground for quashing of a criminal proceeding. The decision in *Vinod Kumar* (supra) strongly favours the contention of Mr. Pani wherein it has been held and observed that the earlier decisions in *B. Jayaraj Vrs. State of AP* (2014) 4 SCALE 81 and *M.R. Purushotham Vrs. State of Karnataka* (2014) 11 SCALE 467 do not lay down a proposition that when the complainant turned hostile and does not support the case, the prosecution cannot prove its case otherwise and the Court cannot legitimately draw the presumption under Section 20 PC Act and therefore, the contention in that regard that whole of the prosecution would collapse on such account is not acceptable. In view of the settled position of law, the conclusion is inevitable that the vigilance proceeding before the learned court below cannot be quashed even after the informant's hostile testimony during investigation as the demand and acceptance of illegal gratification by the petitioner would still depend on the probative value of other evidence including that of the over-hearing witness."

As a corollary, the Bench then directs in para 11 that, "Accordingly, it is ordered."

Finally, the Bench then aptly concludes by holding in para 12 that, "In the result, the CRLMC stands dismissed."

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com.

For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

A Pan-India Cybercrime Racket Busted by the Mumbai Police

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 3:

The Mumbai North region cyber police, in an operation conducted over the last five days in coordination with the Rajasthan police, arrested four people involved in running a pan-India cybercrime racket by cheating OLX users to the tune of Rs 17.82 lakh, by posing as potential buyers.

The accused involved in over 750 cases for the last one-and-a-half year, were booked under sections 419, 420, 465, 467, 471 and 120 B of Indian Penal Code and sections 66 (c) and 66 (D) of the Information and Technology Act 2000. The FIR (No 39/2022) was earlier registered on August 30, 2022 based on the complaint received between August 28, 2022 and August 29, 2022.

The accused have been identified as: Sarvasukh Rujdar (37), Tulsiaram Meena (25), Ajit Poswal (19) and Irsad Sardar (25), all natives of Bharatpur

(Rajasthan). The first three were arrested from their hometown, while Sardar was arrested from Uttar Pradesh. They were remanded to police custody till January 4.

The police recovered Rs 20 lakh in cash, 09 mobile phones, 32 bank debit cards, one passbook each of "Yes Bank" and "AU Small Finance Bank" and four SIM cards of different companies from the accused.

The investigations into the racket were initiated in August 2022, after a senior employee working in a private firm fell prey to the fraud. He had shifted from Surat Gujarat to Mumbai and wished to sell off some of his furniture, for which he posted an ad on the OLX. The accused contacted him and expressed willingness to buy it.

The accused told the victim that they were sending Rs. 9,000 as an advance in order to seal the deal and sent him a QR code and asked him to scan it. He was unaware that it was a reverse QR Code, designed to receive

rather than to send money and the amount of Rs. 9,000 was pre-loaded in it. He scanned the code and the amount was debited from his account, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber) Baling Rajput told media.

In the next two hours, while pretending to refund his money, the accused kept sending QR codes of increasing amounts, ultimately siphoning off Rs. 17.82 lakh from his account. The victim subsequently approached the police and an FIR was registered.

The police came across 835 mobile numbers and 38 handsets linked to the bank accounts in which the money had gone. After three months of investigation, the police zeroed in on the Bharatpur district in Rajasthan.

There were four modules involved in the racket. The first module established initial contact with the targets as soon as they uploaded advertisements on OLX, convincing them to "sell" their furniture to them. The targets' contact numbers would then be

passed on to the second module, which would talk to them on the phone and send them the QR codes, fleeing them for every rupee.

The third module would be roaming around in localities having plenty of ATM kiosks, withdrawing the money in varying amounts even as it was coming in. The fourth module would set up bank accounts using forged documents and hand over their control to the second and third module, DCP Rajput said.

There are 10 FIRs and 13 applications received by the Mumbai police so far which match with this modus operandi used by this gang. Besides, the Telangana police have sent details of 577 cases registered with them in which this gang is suspected to have been involved. Also there are nearly 270 other complaints received in the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal from other parts of the country. All these complaints are being examined, DCP Rajput said.

India reports 134 fresh Coronavirus infections in a day

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 3:

India reported 134 new coronavirus infections and zero deaths in the last 24 hours, the Union health ministry said in an update on Tuesday. The country's active caseload currently stands at 2,582 cases, with total reported cases since the pandemic hit in 2020 at 44.6 million and death toll at 530,707.

Active cases comprise 0.01% of total infections, while the recovery stands at 98.80%, according to the ministry.

As of now, Karnataka has 259 active cases, Kerala has 1,435 active cases, Maharashtra has 159, Odisha 88 cases, Rajasthan 48 active cases, Tamil Nadu has 89 active cases, Uttar Pradesh 51, and West Bengal has 55 active cases.

The country conducted over

1,51,186 tests in the last 24 hours. Under the covid vaccination drive, more than 220.11 crore vaccine doses have been administered to the people across the country so far. In the last 24 hours, around 45,769 doses were given.

Meanwhile, INSACOG under the supervision of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has kept up with genome sequencing to track any new variant.

Hospitals are also being constantly monitored to keep a tab on Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases.

Meanwhile, given the fresh surge in infections some countries, RT-PCR tests have been made mandatory for flyers coming from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand from 1 January 2023. They will have to upload their reports on the Air Suvidha portal before travel.

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

For the first time Nepalese came into Manipur as a gift servants to the then Nepali Maharani Ishwari and they were allowed to settle in Kanglatongbi, Kangpokpi reserve area (KK) by the then Maharaja of Manipur. A huge number of immigrants from Nepal like Gorkha were already settling in several parts of hill districts of the state like in Irang part-I & II, Saitu, Kalapahar, Santalibari, Charhajare, Koubru leikha, Geljing in Sadar Hills and the immigration process is still going on. The same process is being persisted in some parts of valley districts of Manipur too especially in Serou and Sugnu of Kakching district and Khundrakpam of Imphal East. A spotted case is illustrated herewith that at Seroulamkhai, once a fertile paddy lands and *Khash* lands which were the sources of livelihood of the local people, turned to a big colony of outsiders – Kukli, Nepali and Bengali including both Muslim and Hindu. Now, the local people couldn't move freely in those areas in weird hours. It is a clear example of *Loumapu Yongnatale*.

Those migrants used primarily National Highway No-2, Imphal-Dimapur through Mao gate (state boundary with Nagaland) as their transit route.

In earlier days, Muslims were migrating from neighboring Cachar, repartitioned Sylhet and undivided Bengal. Now they are intruding directly from Bangladesh via Assam. Out of 4, 096 Km. of Indo-Bangladesh border, Assam has 262 Km. porous border with neighboring country, Bangladesh. First they (illegal Bangladeshis) used to stay some time anywhere in Assam and then enter Manipur through mainly National Highway No-37, Imphal-Jiribam via Jiri ghat (state boundary with Assam) and also through National Highway No-2, Imphal-Dimapur via Mao gate. They entered using fake documents including Aadhaar card, Voter ID card or bribe the officials manning the gate, and/or silently trespassed through truck paying the drivers. Manipur has a long state boundary of 172 Km. with Assam and therefore the intruders used Barak River as their safe illegal transit route to enter into the state. Again National Highway No-2 passes through Nagaland which has a 226 Km. long boundary with Manipur. Muslims have already dominated Jiribam district and consequent upon, one outsider had become the people's representative in the State Assembly. According to 1951 Census, the then Jiribam sub-division had a population of hardly 7,541 persons out of which 3,979 were male. The population exploded during 1951 – 2011 with a decadal growth rate of 80.22%. At Census 2011 the population of Jiribam was 43,838 persons out of which 22,539 are male. The growth was far-beyond the natural growth and can only be ascribed to influx of migrants. Out of the total population (43,838), Muslim (14,934) as against Hindus (21,323), Christian (5,846), Sikh (13), Buddhist (27), Jain (6). Other religions and persuasions (including Unclassified Sect.) (1,652), and Religion not stated (37).

Immigrant Muslims, mostly illegal Bangladeshis and as recent as illegal Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar are also fraternizing in vast number with the local Muslims in several parts of all the valley districts of Manipur especially in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur as some local Muslims encourage and even insist them to migrant and arrange their settlement.

The continuous influx of illegal immigrants mainly from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal has been of deep concern as the state has experienced a comparatively high population growth rate in the Post Independence period.

VII. Influx of in-migrants:

There is no Act or System enforced to regulate inter-state migration in the state whereas some neighbouring North-eastern states have been implementing their own systems like Inner Line Permit System (ILPS) or its modified forms.

Thus, an enormous amount of in-migrants has been entering in the state from other big states of India for the last many decades through road surfaces as well as by air. Affluent communities like Marwaris and Sikhs mainly dominate the entire trade and commerce in the state while Bengalis and Biharies are also sharing the race. They occupied entire Imphal market, the main business hub with more than 95% population ratio. The market seems to be a market of only *Mayang* (outsiders). In *Moreh* (literally means "I'm tired" in Burmese dialect) town, the International Border Trade Centre, Tamil is the majority business group followed by Punjabi, Marwari, Telugu, Bihari and Nepali. These in-migrants from other big states of India make Manipur their breeding ground to enhance their population and spread-

ing business activities in all the districts and settling in big colonies then and there.

On the other hand, enormous non-skill and skill in-migrants (Bihari, Oriya, Assamese, etc.) have been coming to join the work force through either National Highway No-2, Imphal-Dimapur via Nagaland or National Highway No-37, Imphal-Jiribam via Assam. They already grabbed the entire semi and non-semi skilled works; these are one time livelihoods of the local common people, from the natives. They have settled in and round the big and small (local) markets all over the state. One can find those in-migrants anytime – day or night and anywhere – hill or valley, rural or urban, city or locality in the state. Their population is multiplied year by year with compound growth rate. As Manipur is their safe haven, now they are ready to face any odd situation arising against them.

In the bargain, some local politicians deliberately invite migrants (both immigrants and in-migrants) to their respective constituencies and make them settle only for their vested interest of mere political gains. They are the fathers of outsiders rather I call them self-articulated architectures of the so called modern assimilated and acculturated Manipuri society. Examples are very much loud and clear. Citing one is the situation of Jiribam district where more than half of the population is now Muslims. At one point of time there was a meagre amount of Muslim, a very negligible amount but now they become absolute majority. According to 1951 Census there was only 66 inhabited villages in the district but the figure touched to 115 in 2011 (Census).

Indeed, Meitei Pangals are indigenous and Muslim community settled in Manipur since the 17th Century. According to their occupation, profession or habitation the then king of Manipur assigned their lineage (Sagei) and they have adopted the Meiteilon as their mother tongue. Up to the beginning of 19th Century, they had assimilated with Meitei society in all socio-economic ways of life even in cultural activity except maintaining their Islamic faith. While after 1910, they become religious fanaticism and enforce to inculcate their identity as Islamic entity in Manipur.

In 1932, the Manipur State Darbar approved 42 Sageis of Meitei Pangals but All Manipur Meitei Pangal Welfare Association claimed that there are 62 Sageis which was finally endorsed by the Committee of Meitei Pangal. None of the Muslim who is residing and settling in the state other than Meitei Pangal having one of the Sageis is definitely treated as a migrant.

VIII. Estimated population of migrants:

It is quite natural that human population growth follows certain phenomenon as it either increases; remain stationary or decreases steadily but not fluctuate over the times. It is the outcome of three components – fertility, mortality, and migration. When one considers world population growth, the last component (migration) is kept constant for obvious reason and therefore change take place only due to the first two components. Nevertheless, any population growth other than world population is subject to change due to migration, over and above of fertility and mortality components. The trend of world population growth may therefore be treated as *gold standard* to compare with the trend of any country or state.

Table-12
Comparison of decadal population growth rate (%)

Census year	Total population: Manipur	Decadal population growth rate (%)		
		Manipur	India	World
1901	2,84,465	-	-	NA
1911	3,46,222	21.71	5.75	NA
1921	3,84,016	10.92	-0.31	NA
1931	4,45,606	16.04	11.00	NA
1941	5,12,069	14.92	14.22	NA
1951	5,77,635	12.80	13.31	18.9
1961	7,80,037	35.04	21.64	22.0
1971	10,72,753	37.52	24.80	20.2
1981	14,20,953	32.45	24.66	18.5
1991	18,37,121	29.28	23.86	15.2
2001	22,93,896	24.86	21.54	12.6
2011	28,55,794	24.50	17.64	10.7

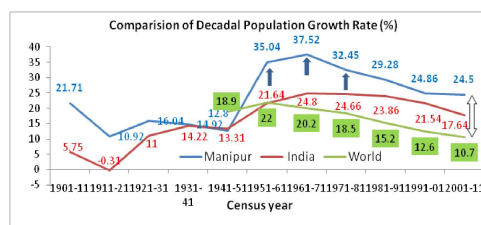


Fig-7: Showing comparison of decadal population growth rate (%) among world, India & Manipur

The population growth rates of state of Manipur and India as a whole was quite varied as the trend of former fluctuated more with high rates while it was not so in the latter but still high while comparing to the gold standard. During the last 30 decades from 1901 to 1931, the decadal population growth rate (%) of the state was much higher than that of the national figure while the next successive 20 decades (1931-51), the two rates were found almost similar with declining trends. Nevertheless, after 1951 the growth rate was found spurring like anything keeping too behind the corresponding national as well as international figures till date. For instance, during 1951-61, 1961-71, 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-01, and 2001-11, the decadal population growth rate (%) of the state was too high to the gold standard as well as to the national figures and it further indicates that the variation took place, was caused by the invasion of migrants in the state not by the fertility and mortality of the natives.

During 1941-51 decadal population growth rate of the state was just 12.80%, in simple term, approximately 13 more individuals were added to the volume of 100 people during the decade, and during the next decade i.e., 1951-61, the figure touched 35.04%, it means roughly 35 more individuals was added to the volume of 100 people which was approximately 3 times more than the previous decade. That can't be possible through natural phenomenon in any case, but only through migration. Further, more invasion took place during 1961-71 as decadal population growth rate touched its zenith (37.52%) that was never achieved barely by any country in the world. The shift trend has still been maintaining to 24.50% even at the last Census, 2011 as against 10.7% for corresponding gold standard. The visible gap of 13.8%, a real cause of worry among the natives, is definitely contributed by the inflow of migrants.

The net volume of migration in Manipur during 1951 – 2011 could be estimated very effectively by one of the sound demographic tools like direct method and indirect method. The former is feasible only when accurate data on birth and death are available. In the context of inaccuracy of data of Manipur, indirect method is the only option left over to use. There are two approaches under the latter method – Vital Statistic Method or Residual Method, and Survival Rate Method. Out of the two, the Survival Rate Method is a commonly used variant in statistically underdeveloped countries because it does not require accurate vital statistics. The method is based on the Census data of age-sex and estimating very reliable number of migrants. However, a very important census data like age-sex data of Census 1951 is not available to the knowledge of the author despite several attempts made to track the ill-fated data and therefore it is hard to estimate very reliable number of migrants, both immigrants and in-migrants, who are already settled in Manipur state during 1951 – 2011.

In fact, the Census figures on migration are not acceptable at any circumstances as none of the migrants reported his correct place of birth while census enumeration took place, instead reporting any name of an area of Manipur as his place of birth. Though the actual number is being concealed but the correct figure is still remain there in census data that everybody wants to know. Estimation is therefore the only alternative to census migrant figures. It might be done from many angles adopting suitable demographic tools. Out of them, the tool is to be accepted the best which gives nearest to the correct figure.

Under the present circumstance, the number of migrants who had already entered and settled in the state can roughly be estimated decade-wise during 1951 – 2011 by the following method. The process adopted is very simple and straightforward, and might give near to reliable result.

To be continued

PM addresses 108th Indian Science Congress via video conferencing

“India’s scientific community will ensure a deserving place for our country” - PM

**PIB
New Delhi, Jan 3:**

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) via video conferencing today. The focal theme of this year’s ISC is “Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment” which will witness discussions on issues of sustainable development, women empowerment and the role of science & technology in achieving this.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister highlighted the role of India’s scientific strength in India’s story of development over the next 25 years. “When the spirit of national service gets infused in Science along with passion, results are unprecedented. I am sure, India’s scientific community will ensure a place for our country of which it was always deserving”, he said.

Pointing out that observation is the root of science, and it is by such observation that scientists follow patterns and arrive at required results, the Prime Minister mentioned the importance of gathering data and analysing results. He highlighted the abundant availability of data and technology in 21st-century India and said that it has the potential to take Indian Science to new heights. He also informed that the field of data analysis is moving forward at a meteoric pace which is of great help in converting information into insight and analysis into actionable knowledge. “Be it traditional knowledge or modern technology, each one plays a crucial role in scientific discovery”, the Prime Minister remarked. He also

emphasised the need to strengthen the scientific processes by applying various techniques of research-led development.

Speaking about the result of India’s trust with the scientific approach, the Prime Minister said that India is being counted among the top countries of the world as India moved to 40th place in the Global Innovation Index in 2022 from 81st place in 2015. India is among the top three nations in the world in terms of the number of PhDs and startup ecosystems.

Expressing happiness about the theme of the Science Congress this year which combines sustainable development with women empowerment, the Prime Minister emphasised the complementarity between the two areas. However, he stressed, “Our thinking is not just that we should empower women via science but also empowering science by the contribution of women.”

Informing that India has been enshrined the opportunity to preside over G-20, the Prime Minister pointed out that women-led development is one of the high-priority subjects taken up by the chair. He informed that in the last 8 years, India has taken up extraordinary tasks ranging from governance to society to economy which is being discussed all over the world today. Highlighting the women who showcase their strength to the world, be it in a partnership in small industries and businesses or leadership in the start-up world, the Prime Minister gave the example of Mudra Yojna which has been instrumental in empowering women of India. He also

pointed out the doubling of women’s participation in the field of extramural research and development. “The increasing participation of women is proof that women and science are both progressing in the nation”, Modi said.

Talking about the scientists’ challenge of turning knowledge into actionable and helpful products the Prime Minister said, “Efforts of science can turn into great achievements only when they come out of the lab and reach the land, and their impact reaches from global to grassroots, when its ambit is from journal to jameen (land, everyday life) and when change is visible from research to real life.” He said when science’s achievements complete the distance between experiments to people’s experiences, it gives an important message and impresses the young generation who get convinced of the role of science. In order to help such youth, the Prime Minister emphasised the need for an institutional framework. He called upon the gathering to work on developing such an enabling institutional framework. He gave examples of Talent Hunt and Hackathons through which children with scientific temper could be discovered. The Prime Minister talked about India’s stride in the field of sports and attributed the success to the emerging robust institutional mechanism and guru-shishya parampara. The Prime Minister suggested that this tradition can be the mantra of success in the field of science.

Pointing out issues that will pave the way for the development of science in the

nation, the Prime Minister remarked that fulfilling India’s requirements should be the root of all inspiration for the entire scientific community. “Science in India should make the country *atmanirbhar*”, the Prime Minister remarked as he noted that 17-18 percent of the human population resides in India and such scientific developments should benefit the entire population. He emphasised the need to work on subjects that are of importance to the entire humanity. To address the growing energy needs of the country, the Prime Minister informed that India is working on a National Hydrogen Mission and stressed the need to manufacture critical equipment like electrolyzers in India to make it a success.

The Prime Minister also emphasised the role of the scientific community in developing ways of dealing with emerging diseases and the need for encouraging research in developing new vaccines. He talked about integrated disease surveillance for the timely detection of diseases. For this, he stressed the need for coordinated efforts of all the ministries. Similarly, LIFE i.e. Lifestyle for Environment movement may greatly be helped by the scientists.

The Prime Minister noted that it is a matter of pride for every citizen that on India’s call, the United Nations has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. He pointed out that work can be done to improve India’s millets and its use while effective steps can be taken by the scientific community to reduce post-harvest losses with the help of biotechnology.

40-year-old woman, youth arrested with brown sugar

**IT News
Imphal, Jan 3:**

A 40-year-old woman and a 21-year-old youth were arrested on the charge of unauthorized possession of 422 grams of brown sugar worth around Rs 50 lakhs in the international market.

The two alleged traffickers have been remanded into judicial custody till January 10 for further necessary investigations, the police said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Wangoi police as-

sisted by the locals of the Paobitek village about 15 km from Imphal, rushed to the house of one Sesant Rasejar alias Petru, 40 at Paobitek Mamang Likai village in Imphal West district and recovered 422 grams brown sugar from her possession.

Based on the inut provided by the woman after preliminary interrogations, police found that Sesant Raseja, wife of Allaudin, 43, was running a illegal drug trafficking racket with a local youth identified as Md Wangmayum Chaoba alias

Nurul Islam, a resident of Mayang Imphal Bengool Makha Leikai, about 20 km from Imphal.

The police managed to arrest Md Wangmayum from his residence on Sunday.

This is the first time in the year they were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. In 2022, a total of 450 kgs of the brown sugar had been seized from different smugglers and a total of 621 cases have been registered under the ND&PS Act, the police said.

India will not shy away from war: Rajnath Singh in Arunachal Pradesh

**Agency
Itanagar, Jan 3:**

India is a country that believes war brings no good and seeks to avoid it till the last moment.

This was stated by union defence minister Rajnath Singh in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh said that India always wants to maintain cordial relations with all its neighbouring countries.

However, the defence minister said that India does not hesitate to go to war if it is provoked.

India has every kind of capability to face any situation, said Rajnath Singh in Arunachal Pradesh.

“India is a country, which never encourages war and always wants to maintain cordial relations with its neighbours. This is our philosophy inherited from Lord Rama and from the teachings of Lord Bud-

dha,” said Rajnath Singh in Arunachal Pradesh.

“The country has every capability to face any kind of situation if provoked,” he added.

The union defence minister made this statement while inaugurating the strategically important Siyom Bridge in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

He also launched 27 other infrastructure projects built by the border roads organisation (BRO) in Arunachal Pradesh.

“The world is witnessing a number of conflicts today. India has always been against war. It is our policy,” said Rajnath Singh in Arunachal Pradesh.

“We do not believe in war, but if it is forced upon us, we will fight. We are ensuring that the nation is protected from all threats. Our Armed Forces are ready and it is heartening to see that the BRO is walking shoulder-to-shoulder with them,” Singh said.

Notably, troops of the In-

dian armed forces clashed with Chinese troops in Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.

Both sides were involved with a few soldiers suffering minor injuries.

At least six Indian troops were injured.

“Both sides immediately disengaged from the area,” the Indian army said.

Commanders from both sides had held a meeting immediately after “to restore peace and tranquillity”.

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh, who addressed lawmakers in Parliament, said the encounter started when Chinese troops “encroached into Indian territory” and “unilaterally tried to change the status quo” along the disputed border near the Yangtze area in Arunachal Pradesh.

He said the Indian soldiers responded with firmness and prevented the Chinese army from “transgressing into our territory”, and forced them to return to their posts.

Sports

2022 Men’s National Boxing Championships: Shiva Thapa and Rohit Tokas move into quarters

**IT Correspondent
Hisar, January 3:**

The record six-time Asian medalist Shiva Thapa and 2022 and Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Rohit Tokas produced sensational performances on the third day and progressed to the quarter-finals of the 6th Elite Men’s National Boxing Championships in Hisar on Monday.

Representing Assam, Thapa (63.5kg) was squaring off against Jaswinder Singh of Delhi in his round-of-16 bout. Living up to his name, the 2015 World Championships bronze medalist utilized his experience and supreme technical ability to dominate the entire bout and blanked his opponent to secure the win by unanimous decision. He will face the winner of the bout between Sanu T of Kerala and Ashutosh Kumar of Punjab in his quarter-final bout on Wednesday.

Tokas (67kg) who is representing Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) faced Jai Singh of



Chhattisgarh and similar to Thapa, put up a stellar performance. Courtesy of his attacking brilliance, Tokas had the upper hand over his opponent and managed to keep him quiet throughout the bout. He sealed a well-deserved 5:0 win and will take to the ring against the win-

ner of the bout between All India Police’s Nishchaya and Haryana’s Aman Duhani in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

The 2019 Asian Games silver medalist Ashish Kumar (80kg) of Himachal Pradesh also made it past the round of 16 stages as he made

lightwork of Rajasthan’s Sumit Poonia. Powering his way to a 5:0 win, Ashish will compete in the quarters on Wednesday.

The 2016 World Youth Champion Sachin (57kg) also prevailed in his bout against Neeraj of Haryana. The RSPB pugilist was at his attacking best and overpowered his opponent to win the bout 5:0. He will take on S Sahil of Chhattisgarh in his round-of-16 bout on Tuesday.

All India Police’s Shivam Tiwari (60kg) registered a thumping 5:0 victory against Telangana’s Savio Michael to advance to the round of 16 where he will go head-to-head against Prashant Yadav of Delhi.

While Rushikesh Goud (57kg) of Maharashtra cruised past Sonu of Bihar with a 5:0 win, Pavan Kumar N (51kg) of Karnataka triumphed over Pawan Kumar Arya of Uttarakhand with the same scoreline.

A total of 386 boxers across 13 different weight categories are participating in the championships.

**Agency
London, Jan 3:**

Brentford pulled off their latest Premier League shock by beating Liverpool 3-1 at home on Monday, bringing Juergen Klopp’s side’s four-game winning streak to an end and rattling their top-four ambitions.

Liverpool’s first defeat in five league matches left them in sixth place in the standings on 28 points after 17 games, four behind fourth-placed Manchester United who can increase the gap to seven points when they host Bournemouth on Tuesday.

Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate knocked the ball into his own net in the 19th minute while Yoane Wissa doubled Brentford’s advantage before halftime after his side had two goals disallowed following VAR reviews in a frantic opening 45 minutes.

Darwin Nunez struck for Liverpool early in the second half but his goal was then ruled out for offside.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain did give Liverpool hope when he headed in a fizzing cross from Trent Alexander Arnold soon after but Bryan Mbeumo

clinched all three points for Brentford in the 84th minute.

The victory added to a shock 4-0 win at home to Manchester United in August and a 2-1 triumph at champions Manchester City in November, taking Brentford up to seventh in the standings on 26 points after 18 games.

Brentford were missing their top scorer Ivan Toney through injury but made their more illustrious opponents suffer with their intense game plan and also capitalised on some slack defending from the visitors.

“Ivan is such a key player for us and has been fantastic in many ways,” said Brentford coach Thomas Frank. “If you ask me if I want to play him I’ll say ‘Yes, of course’. But we need more than 11 players and I’m so pleased that Wissa came in and scored.”

Liverpool could have taken the lead in the fifth minute when Nunez saw his shot cleared off the line by Ben Mee while Mbeumo was then denied down the other end by Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson.

Brentford took the lead with the help of some good fortune,

Konate connecting with a corner with his knee and sending the ball trickling into his own net.

Wissa thought he had doubled Brentford’s advantage when he bundled the ball into the net but the effort was ruled out as the forward had left the pitch.

There was yet more frustration for Brentford when they had a second goal disallowed after Mee deflected a Wissa shot into the net.

But just 13 seconds later, Wissa made it third time lucky by heading the ball past Alisson and over the line.

Liverpool coach Klopp took drastic action at halftime, telling off Virgil van Dijk, Harvey Elliott and Konstantinos Tsimikas. The team improved in the second half and after Oxlade-Chamberlain had reduced the deficit they hemmed Brentford into their own half in search of an equaliser.

But Brentford hit them on the counter attack, Christian Norgaard launching a long diagonal ball towards Mbeumo, who outmuscled Konate before slotting into the net.