

# Court sends man to jail over temple donation box theft in Miri

**MIRI:** The Magistrates' Court sentenced a 40-year-old man to six-month imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to stealing a donation box from a Buddhist temple in Tudan.

Magistrate Ashok Linggam handed down the sentence yesterday after taking into account the accused's guilty plea, mitigation, the seriousness of the offence and the public interest.

Ranjit Singh of Tudan Phase 2 was charged under Section 379 of the Penal Code, which provides for a maximum sentence of seven-year imprisonment, a fine, or both, upon conviction.

The management secretary of Guan Yin Temple lodged a police report on June 21 after being informed by a security guard that a donation box had gone missing from the temple.

The security guard then saw a man dressed in black, riding away from the temple's junction on a bicycle.

A review of the closed circuit television (CCTV) footage later showed the suspect climbing over the fence before taking the donation box from the premises.

Acting on the information, a team from Miri Central police station raided a house in Tudan Phase 2 at 11.50am on June 23, where they arrested the suspect and seized several items believed to have been used when committing the offence.