

Anomalies in the recruitment of 38 Asst. Engineers in MSPDCL and MSPCL reflected in RTI application after 8 years

MANIPUR STATE POWER COMPANY LIMITED
Kohima Junction, Imphal - 795003

Corporate Office: Electricity Complex, P.O. No. 133, Kohima, Imphal
Phone: 985 000 0000
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ORDERS
Imphal, 18-08-2014

IN SUPPLY/RTI/MSPC/2014 In pursuance of the order of the Board of Directors of Manipur State Power Company Ltd. (MSPCL), the following persons are hereby appointed as Assistant Engineer (Electrical) in MSPCL in the post of Assistant Engineer (Electrical) in Power Department.

Sl. No.	Name	Category
1.	Lalchhuma Rila	2000 (M)
2.	Manjuprasanna Kanta Singh	2000 (M)
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37.	Manjuprasanna Kanta Singh	2000 (M)
38.	Manjuprasanna Kanta Singh	2000 (M)

MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
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ORDERS
Imphal, 18-08-2014

IN SUPPLY/RTI/MSPDCL/2014 In pursuance of the order of the Board of Directors of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd. (MSPDCL), the following persons are hereby appointed as Assistant Engineer (Electrical) in MSPDCL in the post of Assistant Engineer (Electrical) in Power Department.

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IT News
Imphal, April 29:

The adage in Manipuri – ‘you may hide for 10 days, but will be caught one day’, this is what seems to be happening the Power Department of the Manipur Government, now bifurcated and corporatized into two – the Manipur State Power Distribution Limited (MSPDCL) and Manipur State Power Company Limited (MSPCL).

For eight years no one notice that 38 Asst. Engineers have been appointed in both the corporation in October 30, 2024 in two separate orders besides the fact that the number post notified for recruitment of Asst. Engineers by the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) was just 25 (Twenty-five). Both

the then government and the higher ups of the MSPDCL and MSPCL manage to keep the matters without any complaints, the matter finally came to the notice of the watchdogs after various complications in connection with the careers of those employees of the Power Department (the Power Dept. as MSPCL and MSPDCL) felt violated. One employee of the Power Department had even petitioned to the Manipur High Court in connection with her career.

It may be recalled that the Manipur Public Service Commission through a notification dated May 7, 2013 had invited applications from eligible candidates to appear in the Manipur Combined Competitive Examination -2013 for direct recruitment of 84 (Eighty

four) Assistant Engineer at Power Works/ PHE/IFC departments. Among these 25 (twenty five) were for the Power Department.

Interestingly, the appointment orders of the newly recruited AEs was done after the Electricity department was unbundled and corporatized as MSPCL and MSPDCL w.e.f. from 1/2/2014. The recruitment examination was held on March 3, 2013, and the personal test was held from December 9 to December 14, 2013.

On July 18, 2014, after corporatization of the Electricity department as MSPDCL and MSPCL, the MPSC had submitted the list of candidates qualified in the Manipur Combined Engineering Service Examination -2013 to the Chief Secretary (DP).

The Deputy Secy (DP) then submitted a list of 25 qualified candidate based on the recommendation by the MPSC for the post of AE (Electrical) in Power Department on August 8, 2014 to the Commissioner (Power).

On October 30, 2014, the MSPCL issued appointment order for 15 candidates as AE. In the order, it is mentioned that – “the appointment of the 15 (fifteen) candidates in the MSPCL as Manager (Electrical) is made on the basis of the performance and ranking in the Manipur Combined Competitive Examination 2013”.

On the same day, i.e. on October 30, 2014, the MSPDCL also issued appointment order of 23 (Twenty Three) candidates as Manager (Electrical) of the corporation from among

those appeared in the Manipur Combined Competitive Examination 2013.

Now the total candidate recruited in the power department was 38 (thirty-eight) 15 in the MSPCL and 23 (Twenty Three) in the MSPDCL.

As per information from the MPSC, it has been informed that no notification has been issued for increase of post recruited.

Replying to RTI queries the MPSC said, “No notification or a like increasing the number of post of Assistant Engineer is found in the relevant files maintained by this commission”.

Whether the recruitment of 38 AEs instead of the 25 AE post notified for recruitment by the MPSC is legitimate is decided by the Government or by the Court of law.

PM Modi inaugurates Semicon India Conference-2022

Agency
New Delhi, April 29:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated Semicon India Conference-2022 through video conferencing. The three-day event is taking place in Bengaluru. Speaking on this occasion, Prime Minister underlined the critical role of semiconductors in today's world and said that our collective aim is to establish India as one of the key partners in global semiconductor supply chains.

He said, India wants to work in this direction based on the principle of Hi-tech, high quality and high reliability. During the programme, the Prime Minister underlined five reasons for India being an attractive investment destination for Semiconductor technologies.

Modi said, with steps like connecting six hundred thousand villages with broadband investment in developing capabilities in 5G, IoT and clean energy technologies, India is paving the way to lead the next technology revolution.

NSCN-IM & NNPGs must be brought together, says NPF president on Naga peace talks

Courtesy: NE New
Kohima, April 29:

President of the Naga People's Front (NPF) – Shurhozelie Liezietsu has batted for a common front by bringing NSCN-IM and NNPGs together in the Naga peace talks.

NPF president Shurhozelie Liezietsu said that both the stakeholders in the Naga peace

talks – NSCN-IM and NNPGs – must be brought together as the government might discontinue separate dialogues.

The former Nagaland chief minister further said that it is essential that both the groups put aside their differences and come together in the peace talks as the Indian government will not have “separate settlements”.

“Our primary task is to bring

both the groups together and form a common front,” said Liezietsu.

He added: “It is unlikely that the Indian government will continue separate talks for one final solution to the Naga issue.”

Notably, the government of India, thus far, has been holding separate talks with the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs on the vexed Naga political issue.

While, the Indian govern-

ment signed *Framework Agreement* with the NSCN-IM in August 2015, it signed *Agreed Position* with the (NNPGs) in November 2017.

A solution to resolve the decades-old Naga political issue could not be reached upon, despite claims of talks being at final stages, as the NSCN-IM has remained adamant on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas.

The Editorial Strict measures to check the ‘virus’ to make sure that CM policies are for the people

Every one of us knows that it is next to impossible to get a government job by all the people. But many hope to get one. As per record with the Employment office, over 7,00,000 educated youths have registered to apply govt. jobs. That means literally there are over 7 lakhs educated but unemployed youths in the state. At present Manipur government can employ only around 80 to 85 thousand government employees. In addition, there are also some contract employees engaged by the government from time to time. A source said that governments spent around 300 crore for payment of salaries to the government employees.

Besides, paying salaries to the govt. employees the government has also had many more responsibilities. There are various things need to be taken up – like the construction of infrastructures, taking up of welfare project for the state and those who are living on hands to mouth. So, definitely, the state needs more money in addition to the payment of salary. For the past many years Manipur has been depending on to the central government's grant-in-aid for taking up development projects. There are reports of taking loans from international bank with prior permission from the central government.

This is all because the state government had failed to organised resource mobilization. There are various sectors that which the state government can generate revenue. Leaving aside the state own resource, certain monetary assistance sanctions as grant to the state for taking up development projects which will, in turn, help the state to generate it's revenue. For example, there are state shares in the GST. But the unfortunate part is that there are no reports of Manipur government benefitting from such state revenue, as some people in power or some who are near and dear one are not sincere enough to exercise their duty in the interest of the state.

Every development programs taken up by the state government for utilization of the human resource could not be implemented due to various problems created by some paid government staffs as they use any means to demoralise people in performing the rituals of the govt. programme. An example that can be cited here is the incident at which a start-up company who has been sanctioned a loan amount of Rs 70 lakhs plus Rs 30 thousand as subsidy. People and even the government authority know that the bank authority (MSBC Ltd) asked him to take the subsidy amount only after spending Rs. 2000 plus many days.

It was not only in the second coming of N. Biren Singh as the chief minister too but N. Biren Singh had assured to reduce corruption in the state. People across the country had seen his government taking up various measures. This time after becoming the chief minister for the second time, he had called on all his machineries to fight corruption in addition to the intensification of his government's mission – “war on drugs”.

N Biren Singh's essence of patriotism and his desire to uplift the Manipuri Society is easily noticed from day one when he became the Chief Minister of Manipur.

But something seems not right in the governance. There are reports of some few vested interested people who sometimes hindered the people-oriented policies of the Chief Minister – either intentionally or due to ignorance. These in short are “viruses” of the society which need to be exterminated.

One best thing we the people expect is that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh takes this matter with extreme seriousness. A media gimmick to draw the attention of the people will not serve the purpose to fulfill his dream in building a prosperous, corruption free and peaceful society.

New Central Committee of SOREPA formed

IT News
Imphal, April 29:

Proscribed Group Socialist Revolutionary Party, Kangleipak sends its greetings and respect to the brave hearts who fought against the mighty British coloniser on 1891.

A press release of the group said, “Following the footsteps of our brave forefathers to regain freedom of Kangleipak/Manipur, SOREPA Kangleipak formed a new Central Committee. The new Central Committee

will be responsible for the working of the group until National Congress of the group is organized. The new committee comprises of Toijam Ibohouba as Chairman, K. Koru as General Secretary, Chingyang Meitei as Military Affairs Secretary, Angou Khuman as Finance Secretary, Lamnaka Meitei as Cultural Secretary, M.C. Yaiphaba as Organisation and Publicity Secretary, Kh. Nongyin as Associate Member, Military Affairs, M. Malemnganba Khuman as Associate Member, Foreign

and Regional Affairs and L. Araba as Associate Member, Finance.

The month of April is very important in the history of Manipur. It is in this month where people of Kangleipak unitedly fought and sacrificed their lives against the mighty British to protect its sovereignty. Even in the face of defeat, our forefathers thought it was better to die than to bow down to the enemy, laying an example for the future generations. Following this example laid down by our forefathers, the new

Central Committee of SOREPA was formed on April 27 to fought for the freedom of the whole WESEA region.

The press release further said, to remove Armed Forces Special Power Act from some parts of the region is nothing but an act to fool the people of the region and in lieu of it, imposing Hindi as compulsory subject till Class X is nothing but using another soft means to spread colonialism. This is considered as an act of Cultural Genocide to the people of WESEA region. This is not

the first time such act has happened, Hindu Fanatics had already started it before. This was written on all major newspapers of India on July 24, 2017. The imposition of Hindi subject as a compulsory subject till Class X is nothing but to be used as weapon in the spread of Hindu colonialism. The movement for equality and freedom will move forward towards success if people from Luit, Narak and Ningthi valley can differentiate from Indo-Aryan people of the Indi-Gangetic region.

The armed revolutionary wing of Socialist Revolutionary Party, Kangleipak will now be called as People's Revolutionary Army, in short PRA. The name used in Press Release in the name of Publicity-in-Charge will now be sent out in the name of Publicity Secretary, M.C. Yaiphaba and while asking for help from the people, the name Keirungba, Finance-in-Charge will not be used anymore whereas it will be replaced by Finance Secretary, Angou Khuman instead.

The tiny blue Twitter bird got smarter over time

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



I created my Twitter account around 13 years ago in 2009. That time it was a new wonder on which people used to share small and irrelevant things of their

daily life like what they were eating, drinking, thinking or doing at the moment. Tweeting was fun and there was no hidden agenda in doing so. On the whole, it used to be a humorous global social hub full of positive thoughts and sometimes wisdom also. Gradually it caught the attention of clever players from the fields of politics, business, marketing and criminal activities and they started using it in their own crooked way. Today this platform carries tons of negative thoughts and has become a tool for bullying and harming others. About 25 million people actively use Twitter in India, while around 220 million people around the globe are active on this microblogging social platform. Political parties and their leaders use Twitter in their own discreet way. Antisocial groups spread lies, fake news and harmful content through this medium. After coming to power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave utmost importance to twitter and made it mandatory to have most of the government activities on twitter. It also inspired other political leaders to use twitter.

Now when the world's richest man, SpaceX founder Elon Musk has bought it for \$ 44 billion (appx Rs 3.37 lakh crore), everyone wants to know how its future will be. The deal is done, but legal and regulatory aspects are yet to be reviewed, after which the microblogging platform will go completely under Tesla CEO Musk. Musk thought the existing Twitter management was running the company poorly. He first acquired a 9 percent stake in twitter, then offered to buy the entire company. Now it is being speculated what kind of changes are on the cards. It is likely that by verifying Twitter's original account holders, all users will get a blue tick, which is currently considered a symbol of prestige. Till now only a few fields like films, music, politics and media come under the purview of blue tick. Musk thinks that Twitter has a lot of potential, which is yet to be fully tapped. Following Musk's advice, Twitter had thought of adding a feature to edit tweets, but in the meantime, the entire company went to Musk.

The facility to edit posts is already available on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, whereas Twitter users were still facing the problem of deleting a tweet if there was some mistake in typing. However, the problem with the new feature is that the original tweet will also be present in memory. There will be many more changes in Twitter now. Musk is an advocate of 'free speech' and therefore wants to allow everyone on Twitter to have their say. Such open relaxation can be dangerous in a democratic country like India. By misusing it, trolls and miscreants can spread anarchy in the country by spreading false information. They can edit their tweets by spreading lies, which will be even more dangerous. Musk had said in his previous tweets that users should be aware of which tweet gets promoted and which is left behind. Let's see what happens next.

Rumblings in Pakistan

By: Sauro Dasgupta

The new Pakistan government of PM Shahbaz Sharif has taken a break from the past by appointing a young leader, Bilawal Zardari as Foreign Minister and Hina Rabbani Khar as his Deputy. Till date, it was focusing more on social spending.

Till now, most Foreign Ministers of Pakistan have been quite aged and aggressive. In fact, it was Zardari's grandfather ZA Bhutto who threatened to snatch off a piece of India after the humiliating loss of Pakistan in 1971 war.

Incidentally, Khar was the Foreign Minister of Pakistan during the Abbottabad operation of US, resulting in the end of Osama Bin Laden. Abbottabad, where he was hiding, is just a short distance away from GHQ, Rawalpindi.

Though Khar denied any US operation and Pakistan claimed that it had no idea that Laden was hiding there, the world understood the Pakistani duplicity and they were condemned globally.

Pakistan has become a Frankenstein's monster for US. It was the US which made Pakistan an ally in 1950s by inducing it in CEATO, CENTO and other groups. Pakistan was supplied arms and ammunition by the West. Pakistan acted as an interlocutor between China and US. In fact, Kissinger's visit to China to meet Chairman Mao was facilitated by Pakistan.

Pakistan was US Frontline state during the First Afghan Jihad against Soviets. Again, it gave much needed support to US in the War on Terror.

Pakistan Foreign Policy has always been guided by the political-military complex. The powerful Army Chief and ISI dictated all terms to Pakistani political leadership and those who refused to toe their line were ousted.

The current dispensation in Pakistan is notoriously corrupt. Unlike the Imran Khan government, this government consists of very pro-US liberals, Muslim clergy, industrialists, etc.

This government will have to pass the litmus test of the Army. If PM Sharif has the misfortune of being on the wrong side of General Bajwa, just like former PMs Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan, his government will fall.

Talking of an independent Foreign policy as articulated by Imran Khan, as exemplified by his long-pending visit to Russia amidst the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and his anti-US stance cost him heavily. PM Sharif should be careful not to commit such errors. For that, he must not attempt to disturb the status quo of the civilian government vis-a-vis the Army. The Foreign policy dominated by the Army has benefited it for long. It must not change. The duo of Zardari and Khar must also herald a peaceful relation with India. They must not be brash like the previous government and must take decisions carefully. This must be a new beginning in Pakistani Foreign Policy.

(The author is a PG 1, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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For a better Manipur



By: Mangkhonun Touthang

From time immemorial, hatred and war between nations and communities have been existing on this planet. Till today, it seems there could be no end to racism, religious intolerance, killings, fraud, colonialism, narcissism, oppressionism and other such terrible things on the world we live in. But there is no guarantee that humans should hate and do terrible things to each other despite the existence of all these evils among us. We could simply avoid them by seeing all people as our real brothers and sisters, spreading love, tolerating other people's religion, respecting their custom and culture, land boundaries, and views. A place where there is absence of religious tolerance and respect of other people's tradition and land boundaries, nothing other than hatred and war could be expected. We all know the reason why the Second World War started. But I want to raise a question here: "Are we not fed up of the hatred we have for each other?" I can't tell what you think about it but if you ask me what I reckon I would say, "I think I am tired of all these hatred, killings, and hostility. I want to replace them with brotherly love and tolerance."

In Manipur, there are several tribes, communities, and religions. There are the Kukis, Meiteis, Meitei Pangals, Nagas, and other communities, and when it comes to religion there're the Christians, Hindus, Muslims and many others. And when we take a look closely, it seems we have forgotten one thing: that despite our different religions and cultures we're all humans created by God. We have lived together for decades but we never get along. One of the reasons why we cannot coexist is because of the fact that we consider our own community as superior to others, we consider other communities as inferior to us. It's a good thing there are no serious problems and conflicts relating to religion in the state, it's a great thing we respect others' religion. But when it comes to politics and land related matters, we become so fanatic to our own tribe or community that there were even times we fought bloody wars because of it. People seem to forget that by being too fanatic and chauvinistic towards a particular community, tribe, religion or cause, we are only making our territory smaller. I mean it's okay to love and uplift your nation or tribe, but it shouldn't be done at the expense of other tribes. That will only create problems after problems. And this is one of the main reasons hatred and discrimination prevail over brotherly love in the state.

In a state like Manipur where different peoples and cultures live together, it's crucial all people act wisely and think twice before they speak. For something bad you say about a particular community could create chaos in the state and could even lead to a serious conflict. There have been many incidents when unnecessary conflicts took place between two or more communities because of some people who have failed to think before they speak.

And it's sad to say that conflicts and fights between us have become something very normal. It seems we are used to it. But the thing here is that we have forgotten the fact that there is more to life than fight and hate each other. We could build a better

Manipur by using social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Twitter for spreading brotherly love and care among us instead of posting things that could hurt others' feelings. I think we all have experienced that feeling of joy and contentment when somebody who is not from your community posts something positive on social media about your community. But unfortunately these days all these social media platforms are used to instigate communal conflict and for spreading lies and hatred.

When we look at our condition now, we feel insecure when we step into other people's land. For instance, despite the fact that we live together in a small state, a Meitei is insecure when he walks into a Kuki or Naga land, a Kuki is insecure when he walks into a Meitei or Naga land, and a Naga is feeling insecure when he walks into a Meitei or Kuki land. Why the insecurity and mistrust when we could treat every land, village, or town in the state as our birthplace, when we could treat everybody as our own brother and sister. This is the boundary we set by ourselves between us, not by the

government or by our forefathers. And only us can remove this boundary that we set by ourselves, not by the government. So, let's start throwing away our hatred feelings towards another person or community and start promoting brotherly love in lieu. It's really a great thing that there are a lot of good people who don't discriminate people by their looks, religion, and race. I've known people who consider everyone as their own kin and kin. If we could all be like them, I believe Manipur would be a much better place.

I believe majority of the people would want peace and tranquility although there are some people who often think of ways to incite communal conflicts between the settlers of this state. It's true there are some individuals and organisations who are tirelessly working for the instigation of violence and chaos in the state. It would be best if we do not pay any attention to what they say or do. The more we pay attention and listen to them, the more misunderstandings between us will continue to rise. Instead, let's come together and start working together throwing away all these animosity and misunderstandings behind us. A lot of things could be done to strengthen our relations. Students and civil society organisations such as AMSU, COCOMI, KSO, KIM, NSF, and UNC could play a great role in strengthening the relationship between the peoples living in the state. Therefore, through us working together and trusting each other, we could make Manipur a very much better place than before.

Conquest of the Last Frontier

By: Vishal Kapoor

Ensuring Energy Access by 2030 is one of the major outcomes envisaged under the SDG-7 goals adopted by the United Nations. Energy-deprivation has a detrimental effect on the quality of life for the people. Apart from reducing economic opportunities for employment, energy poverty leads to poor social outcomes in the health and education sectors. Lack of energy access impacts the vulnerable sections of the society the most. Apart from having gender inequality related implications of increased rudeness amongst women, lack of electrons flowing in households also leads to a proverbial disconnectedness impact of the unelectrified population from the rest of the world.

Up until 2014, a total of 18,374 census villages in India were devoid of electricity access. On the 15th of August 2015, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced from the ramps of Red Fort a resolve of electrifying the remaining unelectrified villages across the

country within a timespan of 1000 days. It was a mammoth task to be completed within a challenging timeline under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY). After months of perseverance put in by the Power Sector of the Country, on the 28th of April 2018, with the lighting up of the first electric bulb in Leisang, a small village nestled in the rocky mountains of Manipur, India touched the historic milestone of achieving 100% Village Electrification.

The story of this electrification is not merely that of numbers, but of grit and toil and overcoming the insurmountable odds. The last leg of rural electrification involved the toughest terrains - deserts, mountain ranges and rivers and LWE-hit areas. Taking electricity to the darkest corners of a country as huge and diverse as India, was a task of epic proportions.

To take on this task, a country-wide 'Team Power' was formalized, with a single-minded resolve

to illuminate every corner of the country. An all-new milestone-based monitoring system was developed to ensure transparency and accountability. The end-to-end process was monitored and every detail was captured including conduct of surveys, procurement, erection of infrastructure and energisation. Innovative off-grid solutions were employed to electrify those villages which could not be connected to the national grid. Many of the far-flung areas were not even connected by road. In several areas, the equipment needed for electrification of such villages was dropped with the help of the Indian Air Force. It was a paragon of seamless collaboration between the various entities and agencies across the Centre and the States involved.

Almost two thirds of India's population resides in Rural areas. However, with increasing access to basic amenities, and in wake of a transforming face of rural India, the lines between total and urban areas

are progressively blurring. Modern amenities including usage of electrical appliances, television and mobiles are no longer limited to the urban areas. Children do not depend on daylight to study. With a sustained focus on development of our hinterland, the villages are increasingly getting connected to the mainstream.

The success of DDUGJY paved the way for the rollout of the household electrification scheme - SAUBHAGYA, which aimed to electrify every home. International Energy Agency (IEA) describes India's Village electrification program as a clear success story and highlights the same as a bright spot for energy access in their publication "Energy Access Outlook 2017". As we celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - 75 years of India's independence, we must see each feat as a step closer to India realising the vision of Antyodaya.

(The author is a Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power)

Third Generation of Internet

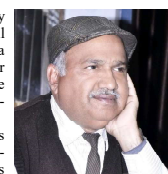
(From the third generation of the Internet, major changes have been seen in 'scientific inventions')

Today Web 3.0 is being called a revolutionary change. It is believed that this will start the decentralization of the web world. This means that in the future, Facebook, Google, Instagram will be run by the common people who use them instead of the owner-operators of their companies.

In the history of thousands of years of human civilization, the most changes have come in the last two hundred years. These also accelerated more when science and technology developed and in the last three-four decades the Internet spread. To say that the Internet is the only technology of its kind, but it has become a companion to almost every technology and opera-

tion of every activity and the center of all activities. But here a question is whether the world of the Internet i.e. the web itself is also changing. This question has arisen especially because now there is talk of 'Web 3.0' as a new form of the Internet, that is, the third generation Internet, which is different, better and with new rules and regulations in every respect of the earlier two generations. Will happen.

There is no doubt that since the advent of the Internet, the world has seen great changes due to scientific inventions. Many tasks became easier due to technological improvements. Even from shopping, studies to office work, now



By: Vijay GarG

they are sitting at home. But as fast as has been seen in all the work due to the convenience of the internet, the same speed did not happen in the realm of the internet itself. For example, the technical aspects of internet and social media like Google, Facebook, Instagram etc. did not change much during this period.

But since Facebook has taken a new initiative in the name of Metaverse, there has been talk of a new change in the realm of the Internet called Web 3.0. Although Web 3.0 was being talked about for a long time. Many Internet companies were advocating to consider its need. But with the advent of the

Metaverse, tech companies have also started saying that according to the needs of Internet users, the way for a change called Web 3.0 should be paved.

Today Web 3.0 is being called a revolutionary change. It is believed that this will start the decentralization of the web world. This means that in the future, Facebook, Google, Instagram will be run by the common people who use them instead of the owner-operators of their companies. This means that all the data related to these services will be the right of the users of them. This is a new thing, but it has been debated for a long time as to why internet companies like Facebook don't share in the data collected and the revenue earned from the users on whom these companies are actually run.

contd. on page 3

3,377 new cases in India in highest daily surge since mid-March

Agency
New Delhi, April 29:

India on Friday reported 3,377 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the highest tally since mid-March. The country also reported 60 covid-19 related deaths, the ministry of health affairs said.

The 60 new fatalities include 42 from Karnataka, 14 from Kerala, and two each from Delhi and Maharashtra. The overall death count across the country stands at nearly 5.24

lakhs, with Maharashtra reporting nearly 1.50 lakh deaths. Kerala reported 68,966 fatalities.

The active cases increased by 821 while 2,496 people recovered from the contagious virus. The total number of infections now stand at 4,30,72,176. The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.74 per cent, the ministry said.

The health ministry bulletin pegged the daily positivity rate at 0.71 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.63 per cent. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,30,622, while the case fatality rate was 1.22 per cent.

Delhi continues to report over 1,000 cases daily. On Thursday, the national capital witnessed 1,490 new infections. Two fatalities related to the contagious disease were reported, while the positivity rate soared to 4.62 per cent.

Maharashtra recorded 165 new coronavirus cases including 90 in Mumbai alone, the health department said.

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.

44 AR organises Financial Management Lecture

IT News
Imphal, April 29:

Understanding the lack of awareness among own troops in managing their finances a two day capsule on financial management was organised by 44 Assam Rifles under aegis of 22 Sect AR/IGAR (East). The two day capsule ended yesterday. The main aim of the capsule was to educate the troops about the importance of financial management and how to manage their salary effectively.

The capsule was conducted by representatives from Punjab National Bank. It educated the troops on the advantages of defence salary package, various schemes available for the welfare of girl child, loan schemes, insurance schemes, health schemes available for civilians and defence personnel. The officials of the battalion speaking on the closing ceremony brought out the importance of savings and how to invest smartly with specific reference to defence personnel. The capsule ended leaving the troops of the battalion more learned and knowledgeable.

AR conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, April 29:

Keithelmbati Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted a medical camp at Keithelmbati, Imphal West district on April 28.

In continuation with the efforts of Assam Rifles to reach out a helping hand for the local population and assist them in humanitarian aid, the medical camp was specially organised to provide medical checkup and treatment to local women and children. Medical team from Assam Rifles carried out health checkup of 81 women and children.

Assam Rifles promotes tree plantation

IT News
Imphal, April 29:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) carried out tree plantation drive in Tuimkhongkai, Churachandpur yesterday.

The plantation drive was organised to spread awareness and encourage villagers about growing environmental concerns and ways to prevent it by tree plantation. Total 45 villagers & troops of Assam Rifles planted 80 new saplings. The gathering was also educated about the importance of trees in maintaining the ecological equilibrium.

AR renovates Bakhshi Memorial at Parbung



IT News
Imphal, April 29:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) renovated Bakhshi Memorial at Parbung village, Churachandpur on April 27.

'Bakhshi Memorial' was constructed in the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Rajeev Bakhshi, Sena Medal (Posthumous) of 13 DOGRA who laid down his life in a counter insurgency operation on 20 January 2006 in Parbung village.

The operation led by Colonel Bakhshi uprooted a major insurgent base in Parbung and thus, paved the way for the restoration of civil administration in this remote area of Manipur.

For his remarkable courage, exceptional leadership and supreme sacrifice, the officer was conferred with Sena Medal (Posthumous).

The valor and sacrifice of Colonel Bakhshi is still etched in the hearts and minds of the people of the area who have conferred on him the epithet, 'Tiger of Parbung'.

Defence Minister Emphasises On Self-Reliance, in Navy Commanders' Conference

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 29:

While addressing the concluding session of the first conference of Indian Navy Commanders in New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized on the self-reliance without dependencies on Thursday.

The Commanders' Conference was held from April 25 to April 28, in the newly set up state-of-the-art facility at the IHQ MoD (Navy) offices at Defence Offices Complex at Africa Avenue, New Delhi. This Complex was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September last year, as part of Phase I of the Union Government's Central Vista Project.

The Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence also attended the conference.

Singh referred to the ongoing Russia and Ukraine conflict and stated that this has once again highlighted that self-reliance. He complimented the Indian Navy for being at the forefront of the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' initiative of the Government and said that the Navy must continue to lead the way and remain a necessary guarantor of India's Maritime Trade, Security, and National Prosperity.

"It is heartening to note that in consonance with the



'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' initiative of the Government, the Navy has re-invested over 64% of its Capital budget into our economy and the percentage share of modernization budget is bound to grow up to 70 percent towards indigenous procurement, in this current financial year" Singh added.

Expressing happiness that out of 41 ships and submarines which are on order, 39 are being built in Indian shipyards. It is important to leverage the momentum that has been gained he said and urged the senior leadership to maintain their focus on futuristic capability development, to ensure that the nation's maritime power grows in tandem with the nation's economic interests.

On the progress of the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier and the successful completion of the three sea

trials, Singh stated that the delivery of, "Vikrant", would be another milestone event and that an all-out effort need to be made so that the ship is delivered and commissioned in the 75th year of our Independence, which would be a fitting tribute to the 'AzadikaAmritMahotsav'. The festival will conclude on August 15, 2023.

He also commended the Navy on the commissioning of major Naval units since the last Commanders' Conference namely INS Visakhapatnam, the first ship of the P15B project, the fourth P75 submarine INS Vela and the Navy's second P81 squadron INAS 316 at INS Hansa, Goa.

He appreciated the Indian Navy's numerous initiatives to progress military diplomacy, which included gifting of two Fast Interceptor Craft to Mozambique, technical

support towards refit of ships from Friendly Foreign Countries, Joint Surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone of friendly nations, and conduct of bilateral and multilateral exercises in the last six months.

Stating that he has interacted extensively with officers and sailors of the Indian Navy in the last three years, Singh commended the sea warriors for their professionalism and dedication with which they continue to perform the duty of safeguarding the maritime interests of the nation and for maintaining a high operational tempo. He also congratulated the Navy for the successful conduct of MILAN with the participation of 39 Friendly Foreign Countries.

The Defence Minister appreciated the Navy for having a visible, credible, and responsible presence in the Indian

Ocean Region and establishing itself as the 'Preferred Security Partner' and complemented the Navy for the successful rescue operations of Seychellois national at sea, the anti-Narcotics operations in February this year and deployment of the Navy's Flood relief teams in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Expressing confidence that the Conference and the deliberations over the last three days would have presented the opportunity to Commanders to introspect on the ongoing activities; take stock of progress made, debate fresh ideas and reflect on how best to achieve objectives in the future, Singh wished Indian Navy success in all its endeavours.

The conference presented an opportunity to the Naval Commanders to introspect on important Maritime matters at the Military Strategic level. They also shared views on key issues that confront our National Security with Senior Government Functionaries. The Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of Air Force Staff also interacted with the Naval Commanders and discussed avenues of augmenting Tri-Services synergy and readiness, in the prevailing Security environment. The Naval Commanders, during the conference also interacted with 'Think Tanks' on Strategic issues, along the sidelines of the conference.

Contd. from Page 2

Third Generation of

It is noteworthy that in March this year, Instagram and Facebook-owned company-Meta filed trademark relationship applications for Web 3.0 software. Not only Meta, but some other companies like Microsoft and Spotify have talked about hiring the services of Web 3.0 experts, which has sparked debate about whether the third generation internet is on the way.

The Internet i.e. the World Wide Web has been roughly thirty-five years old. The World Wide Web is actually a collection of websites or web pages stored in a server, which is connected through a network of Internet to local computers, laptops, smartphones, etc. The first generation of the World Wide Web i.e. Web 1.0 is believed to have been invented in the year 1989. From the year 1993, Web 1.0 started revealing its utilities to the world. In the

beginning, users found a variety of static information on the Internet on web pages that did not have many links to the pages. That is, users could not add anything new on their behalf.

With the end of the nineties and the beginning of the twenty-first century, users on the Internet began to receive services that allowed ordinary people to create, post content themselves. Talking, uploading pictures, photos on social media, watching movies and chating online - all these facilities were available to people in the age of Web 2.0, which continues in its modern form even today.

It is noteworthy that the term Web 3.0 was first coined by computer scientist Gavin Wood in the year 2014 and termed it as the Internet of the future. As such, the biggest feature of Web 3.0 is being told

that in this users will get the right to use, control and ownership of their data. This will lead to a decentralized and fair internet, which is needed the most today. Since it will eliminate the role of intermediaries and with the help of new technologies like blockchain, all types of edits and transactions will be recorded time and place with accuracy.

Therefore, a fair and neutral Internet can be created in which its users and creators will get adequate rights. It can be understood with an example. Facebook usually runs on information (content like articles, photos and videos) from the same people that its users share on it on a day-to-day basis. But users do not have the right to control these information i.e. data.

Even the operators-owners of social media platforms keep a large part of the earnings with themselves. But these condi-

tions may change in Web 3.0. In the new system, all types of information exchange and transaction rules will be transparently available to anyone, which will be written and made available through a software. In such a situation, there will be no need for any central system, regulator or operator to certify the rules.

Similarly, there may be differences in the operation of Web 3.0. Currently, Web 2.0 operates on mobile, social network and cloud technologies, while Web 3.0 may be based on edge computing, artificial intelligence and decentralized data networks. The way smartphones, computers, all electronic devices, sensors and even Internet-based vehicles have turned into powerful devices, raising the possibility that in the future they will be serving as a data center in itself. This will lead to faster and

wider decentralization of the Internet.

It is also being claimed that all these devices will become capable of consuming one hundred and sixty times more data in the year 2025 i.e. just three years from now as compared to the year 2010. When these devices will process such a huge amount of data, the need for a centralized system of internet will naturally disappear.

Talking about Web 3.0 sounds quite exciting, but it has to be kept in mind that it is still in its early stages. The truth is that there is no broad consensus on whether it is actually going to debut like Web 1.0 or Web 2.0. A different side of the problem is that there is a lot of skepticism among companies in the Internet industry themselves, at academia and among tech giants, whether Web 3.0 can solve any of the Internet's current problems.

Registration Certificate Lost

I have lost my Original Registration Certificate, bearing Registration No. A-4811, issued by the Uttar Pradesh Dental Council, Lucknow in Gandhi Avenue area, Imphal West, Manipur on April 27, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Dr. Koijam Sashikumar Singh
Contact No. 8974067254

Registration Certificate Lost

I have lost my Original Registration Certificate, bearing Registration No. A-7296, issued by the Uttar Pradesh Dental Council, Lucknow in Gandhi Avenue area, Imphal West, Manipur on April 27, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Dr. Gargi Yumnam
Contact No. 8794258936

Heatwave to intensify in next five days in several parts of country, Orange alert for 3 States

Agency
New Delhi, April 29:

The ongoing heatwave sweeping through vast swathes of the country will intensify in the next five days, with the IMD issuing an "orange" alert for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Maharashtra, and predicting a rise of another two degrees Celsius in the northwest region.

According to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast issued on Thursday, a heatwave spell will persist over northwestern and central India during the next five days and over east India during the next three days.

A rise of about two degrees Celsius in the maximum temperature (is) very likely over most parts of northwestern India during the next two days and no significant change thereafter, it said. An orange alert has been issued for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh,

and the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra for the next four days. The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings—green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared), and red (take action).

Maximum temperatures were 3.1 degrees Celsius to 5 degrees Celsius above normal in Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday; with the mercury hitting 45.6 degrees Celsius at Rajgarh in Madhya Pradesh. Temperatures may even leap to 47 degrees Celsius in parts of north-west India, weather experts said.

"A maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius is normal at places like Churu, Barmer, Bikaner, and Sri Ganganagar, but 45-46 degrees Celsius in the plains of north India by April end is quite unusual," independent meteorologist Navdeep Dahiya said. The IMD said the

heatwave could lead to "moderate" health concerns for vulnerable people—infants, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases—in affected areas.

"Hence people of these regions should avoid heat exposure, wear lightweight and light-coloured cotton clothes and cover the head by hat, umbrella, etc.," it said. There is an increased likelihood of heat illness symptoms in people who are either exposed to the sun for a prolonged period or doing heavy work, an IMD advisory read. A heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A severe heatwave is declared if the departure from normal temperature is more than 6.4 notches, according to the IMD.

Based on absolute recorded temperatures, a heatwave is declared when an area logs a maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius. A severe heatwave is

declared if the temperature crosses the 47-degree mark. Dileep Mavalankar, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG), said: "People need to watch out for IMD advisories, stay indoors, keep themselves hydrated and rush to the nearest health centre if they feel moderate signs of heat-related illness."

"There's a special need to monitor the old and vulnerable, just like we did during COVID-19 waves as they can develop heat strokes even when sitting at home," he said. Mavalankar said that cities should monitor all-cause mortality data daily along with data for hospital admissions and ambulance calls to compare it with the last five years of data to get a real indication of heat stress on mortality. The early heatwaves have a higher rate of mortality since adaptation and preparedness is lower during the months of March and April, he said.

Covid virus could evolve in animals: scientists

Agency
New Delhi, April 29:

The role of animal reservoirs in the spread of Covid is still being studied but evidence of zoonosis, or the virus jumping from animals to humans, is growing and scientists are concerned this new frontier could potentially spawn dangerous and difficult to monitor mutants.

While there is no consensus about the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, many scientists believe it likely jumped from bats to humans, either directly or through another species being sold live in a market in Wuhan, China.

Some experts also forward the theory that the highly mutated Omicron variant, which caused a deluge of cases globally, including in India, emerged from animals, potentially rodents, rather than an immune-compromised human.

As the virus multiplies in infected hosts, it can mutate slightly, and the worry is that over time, minor genomic tweaks in hundreds or thousands, if not millions, of animals, could eventually add up to changes that make the virus more contagious or deadlier in people, or able to evade treatments and vaccines, US-based public health expert Amita Gupta told PTI in an email interview.

Smaller mutations of SARS-CoV-2 in animals may add up to make the virus more contagious or deadlier in people, said the chief of the Division of Infectious Disease, and professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The role of wildlife in the global epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 may currently be insignificant but the Covid pandemic is a stark reminder of the close connection between human and animal health. Although the number of people infected with coronavirus variants evolved in animals has not been quantified yet, the evidence of zoonosis is growing.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that at least four people in Michigan, US, were infected with a version of the coronavirus observed mostly in minks during the first year of the pandemic.

Farmed minks and pet hamsters have been shown to be capable of infecting humans with the virus and a potential case of transmission between white-tailed deer and a human in Canada is currently under review.

Flagger the concern, the World Health Organisation (WHO) last month said the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 to wildlife could result in the establishment of animal reservoirs of the virus.

Current knowledge indicates that wildlife does not play a significant role in the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in humans, but spread in animal populations can affect the health of these populations and may facilitate the emergence of new virus variants, the WHO said in a statement.

In addition to domestic animals, free-ranging, captive or farmed wild animals such as big cats, minks, ferrets, deer, lions and great apes have been observed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2.

According to veterinarian Gaurav Sharma, a successful reservoir host is one where the virus can get established in the animal population with the help of efficient intra-species transmission. Such animals reintroduce the virus into the human population.

During the replication of virus in new host it undergoes adaptation process which can lead to some mutation in wild type virus due to which new variants of virus can emerge, Sharma, from the Centre for Animal Disease Research and Diagnosis (CADRAD), in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, told PTI.

In the face of decreasing community transmission among human populations due to various control measures, the significance of a potential animal reservoir among wild mammals increases. In such a case, the implications of spillback to humans from animals would be more significant, he said.

The researcher noted that this may also lead to the emergence of new variants as the virus adapts in the new animal host. This was seen in mink farms in Denmark where transmission of the virus from humans to minks led to the establishment of the virus in the new host and, in turn, the emergence of a mink-associated variant circulating in humans.

This finding prompted culling of minks in Dutch mink farms in early June 2020. This mink derived lineage touted as cluster 5 variant and showed evidence of immune escape, he said.

Though the magnitude of concern is difficult to gauge at this point it is a cause of concern to humans due to various reasons, agreed epidemiologist Dhamaveer Shetty.

If there are animal reservoirs, it becomes relatively more difficult to eradicate the virus, it becomes relatively costlier to monitor the virus, and the probability of getting new variants increases as well, Shetty told.

Hindi nothing but a link language, local language is our identity: Karnataka Minister Ashwathnarayan

Agency
Bangalore, April 29:

Karnataka Minister CN Ashwathnarayan on Friday said that Hindi is nothing but a link language and that his government was there to promote the local language as it is their identity. "We need to love our language and at the same time, respect other languages and coexist. Hindi is nothing but a link language but we're here to promote the local language as it is our identity," was quoted as saying by ANI.

Ashwathnarayan is the latest to join the raging debate over Hindi in Karnataka.

The whole controversy began after Kannada actor Kiccha Sudeep while speaking at an event said Hindi is no longer a national language. Sudeep said that Bollywood is making pan-India films but it is struggling to find success. He then said that their films were going everywhere. He said when asked about the success of Kannada film 'KGF Chapter 2'.

Reacting to this, Bollywood actor-director Ajay Devgn

tweeted in Hindi saying if Hindi is not our national language, "then why do you release films made in your mother tongue after dubbing them in Hindi?" "Hindi is our mother tongue, and our national language, and it will always be. Jana Gana Mana," he said.

On Thursday, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Sudeep was right as the regional language is the most important. "What Kiccha Sudeep said was correct. A regional language is the most important as a state is

formed on linguistic bases," the chief minister said while speaking to reporters.

He was soon joined by former chief minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah. Replying to Devgn on Twitter, the former Karnataka chief minister said: "Hindi was never & will never be our National Language. It is the duty of every Indian to respect the linguistic diversity of our Country. Each language has its own rich history for its people to be proud of. I am proud to be a Kannadiga."

Sports

Santosh Trophy: Kerala thrashes Karnataka 7-3 to enter final; Jesin nets five



Agency
Malappuram, April 29:

The full house at the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium could not have asked for more. Not only did host Kerala enter the final of the Santosh Trophy National football championship, it did so in style.

The former champion thrashed Karnataka 7-3. T.K. Jesin, who came on as a substitute in the opening half, was the architect of the resounding win.

He netted five goals, including an old-fashioned hat-trick. His show began after

Karnataka gave Kerala a scare, taking the lead in the 25th minute through Sudheer Kotikela, off a superb square pass into the goal area from N. Solaimalai.

Jesin found the equaliser just ten minutes later for Kerala, as he beat Karnataka's advancing goalkeeper Kevin Koshy with a neatly angled shot after receiving an excellent long ball from Muhammad Rashid into the box.

Jesin then struck twice inside the next 10 minutes. An injury-time goal from Shihil made the scoreline 4-1 at half-time.

Nine minutes into the second

half, P. Kamalesh gave a glimmer of hope as he made it 2-4 with a long-ranger. If the Karnataka men thought it could make a match of it, they were proved wrong, as Jesin scored two more goals; there was one from Arjun Jayaraj too.

In the final to be played on May 2, Kerala will take on the winner of Friday's semi-final between Bengal and Manipur.

The result: Kerala 7 (T.K. Jesin 35, 42, 45, 56 & 74, Shihil 45+1, Arjun Jayaraj 62) bt Karnataka 3 (Sudheer Kotikela 25, P. Kamalesh 54, N. Solaimalai 71).

Manipur to take on West Bengal in second semi-final today

Agency
Malappuram, April 29:

Group 'B' topper Manipur will take on 32-time champion West Bengal in the second semi-final of the Santosh Trophy Football Championship at Payanad Stadium in Manjeri tonight. The match will start at 8.30 p.m.

Both teams lost one match each in the final group encounter, before reaching the semi-final. Manipur lost to Odisha in the group stage, but won the other three games to reach the semi-final. Although West Bengal lost to Kerala, it won against Punjab, Meghalaya and Rajasthan in the group matches.

The winning team will take on hosts Kerala in the final match scheduled to be played on Monday.

TRAU annihilate hapless Kenkre FC in I-League 2021-22

Agency
Kalyani (West Bengal), April 29:

TRAU (Tiddim Road Athletic Union) FC climbed to the sixth spot on the table after clinching a win in their match against Kenkre FC in the I-League 2021-22 here on Wednesday. TRAU FC scored three past Kenkre in the final game of the 5th round of matches to cap off a magnificent performance at the Nahati stadium.

TRAU now have seven points in five games with the help of two wins, a draw and two losses. On the other hand, Kenkre's troublesome season continued as they've now lost three out of four games and find themselves at the bottom of the table.

The game kicked off with both sides vying for the ball in the middle of the park. TRAU slowly gained momentum and looked like the side to score first. The breakthrough came for them in the 14th minute of the game. Douglas Veloso headed in a looping delivery into the back of the net to make the score 1-0.

Ranjit Pandre had a chance to double his side's lead in the 26th minute but his header was



saved by the Kenkre goalkeeper, Amrit Gope. TRAU FC dominated the proceedings in the game, keeping the ball and playing out from the back as the first half whistle blew.

TRAU began the second half on the up, pressing high in search of another goal. They got their goal just three minutes into the half through Manash Gogoi. Buanthanglung Samte floated in a beautiful corner which Gogoi was able to smash into the goal through a bicycle kick to double TRAU's lead.

The third and final goal of the evening came in the 64th minute through captain Krishnananda Singh. Samte guided another assist as he provided a sumptuous pass to Krishnananda who struck it

well from his left foot to kill the game off.

Kenkre FC tried different things to change the outlook of the game but were unable to cause any significant trouble to TRAU's defense in the final 20 minutes of the game. Kenkre even sent in Siddharth Colaco and P C Rohitpua just after the third goal but weren't able to get a consolation goal as the game finished 3-0.

TRAU's captain Krishnananda Singh was awarded the Hero of the match for his fantastic effort. TRAU FC now face Gokulam Kerala in their next game. While Kenkre FC have a daunting task ahead of them in their clash against table-toppers Mohammedan SC in the next round of fixtures.