

Supporters of ticket denied BJP candidates burnt flags and posters after announcement of BJP candidates

3 sitting MLAs not in the list

IT News
Imphal, January 30:

Protest erupted in different parts of Manipur minutes after the final list of BJP candidates for the upcoming poll was announced today afternoon. Minutes after the ticket was announced, protest started at Takhellambam Leikai of Sagolband Assembly Constituency. The protestors burnt flags, posters and other documents in front of the office of the Sagolband BJP Mandal located at Takhellambam Leikai.

The protestors also blocked Tiddim Road for a while by sitting in the middle of the road. Police dispersed the protestors by firing Tear Gas and Smoke Bombs.

A protestor said, "The BJP which has been against Family Politics done by the Congress is now following the same suit as the Congress. By giving ticket to a new comer and neglecting the ones who have been working heart soul for the part, it has come to the fore that Family politics is now existent in the Bharatiya Janata Party." It may be mentioned that the ticket race for the BJP between Rajkumar Imo and Khwairakpam Loken was a closely watched one by political analyst.

Meanwhile, in Kakching Assembly Constituency sup-



porters of M Rameshwar burnt flags and poster of the BJP after the ticket was given to Yengkhom Surchandra. The supporters of Rameshwar vow to abolish BJP from Kakching AC.

Shortly after the announcement of candidates, intending candidate of Wangkhei AC Thangjam Arunkumar convened an emergency meeting and also resigned from the primary membership of Bharatiya Janata Party. Also, ex-Minister Dr Nimaichand Luwang of Wangkhem AC also tenders

his resignation from the BJP in a Facebook post made from his account, after the ticket for the said AC was allotted to Yumnam Nabachandra Singh.

Three sitting MLAs namely Yumkham Erabot of Wangkhei AC, M Rameshwar of Kakching AC and P Saratchandra of Moirang AC were denied party ticket and was off the list of the candidates announced today. Altogether 3 women were included in the list of candidates namely Soraisam Kebi of Naoriya Pakhanglakpa,

Nemcha Kipgen of Kangpokpi AC and SS Olish of Chandel AC.

It may be mentioned that before the announcement of its candidates for the upcoming Election, securities were beefed up in and around the party office, Thambal Shanglein located at Nityaipat Chuthek. Also, security personnel were seen at the locality of Party president, A Sharda Devi at Bamon Leikai. As of now no untoward incident has been reported so far except for flags, posters and documents burning.

BJP releases final candidates list, to contest on all 60 seats

IT News
Imphal, Jan 30:

The finally Central Election Committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday announced candidates for all 60 Assembly seats in the upcoming 12-Manipur Assembly election, fielding Chief Minister N Biren Singh to contest from his traditional Heingang Assembly constituency.

Union minister Bhupendra Yadav earlier today said that the BJP will contest on all 60 seats, ruling out the possibility of forging a pre-poll alliance.

Yadav also exuded confidence that the BJP, which is already in power in Manipur, will again form a government in the state with a more than two-third majority on its own. Assembly elections in the northeastern state will be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3. The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the BJP had formed a government in the state even as it won just 21 seats compared to Congress' 28 by joining hands with two local parties - National People's Party (NPP) and Naga People's Front (NPF).

Later, BJP's own tally rose up to 30 after some MLAs switched over from Congress and other parties.

The announced candidates are: 1- Khundrakpam, Thangjam Mohendro Singh; 2- Heingang, Nongthombam Biren Singh; 3- Khurai, Leishangthem Susindro Meitei; 4- Kshetrigao, Nahakpam Indrajit Singh; 5- Thongju, Thangom Biswajit Singh; 6- Keirao, Lourembam Rameshwor Meitei; 7- Andro, Thounaojam Shyamkumar; 8- Lamlai, Khongbantabam Ibomcha Singh; 9- Thangmeiband, Jyotin Waikhom; 10- Uripok, Kh. Raghumani Singh, Retd IAS; 11- Sagolband, Rajkumar Imo Singh; 12- Keishamthong, Elangbam Johnson Singh; 13- Singjamei, Yumnam Khemchand Singh; 14- Yaikul, Thokhom Satyabrata Singh; 15- Wangkhei, Okram Henry Singh; 16- Sekmai (SC), Heikham Dingo Singh; 17- Lamsang, Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh; 18- Konthoujam, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh; 19- Patsoi, Sapam Kunjakeswor (Keba) Singh; 20- Langthabal, Karam Shyam; 21- Naoriyakhanglakpa, Soraisam Kebi Devi; 22- Wangoi, Oinam Lukhloi Singh; 23- Mayang Imphal, Kongkham Robindro Singh; 24- Nambol, Thounaojam Basanta Singh; 25- Oinam, Laishram Radhakishore Singh; 26- Bishnupur, Konthoujam Govindas; 27- Moirang, M. Prithiviraj Singh; 28- Thanga, Tongbram Robindro Singh; 29- Kumbi, S.

Premchandra Singh; 30- Lilong, Y. Antas Khan; 31- Thoubal, Leitanthem Basanta Singh; 32- Wangkhem, Yumnam Nabachandra Singh; 33- Heirok, Thokhom Radheshyam Singh; 34- Wangjingtentha, Paonam Brojen Singh; 35- Khangabok, Dr. Khundrakpam Menjor Mangang; 36- Wabgai, Dr. Usham Deben Singh; 37- Kakching, Yengkhom Surchandra Singh, Retd. IAS; 38- Hiyanglam, Dr. Radheshyam Yumnam; 39- Sugnu, M. Binod Singh; 40- Jiribam, Jiri Budhachandra Singh; 41- Chandel (ST), S.S Olish; 42- Tengnoupal (ST), Letpao Haokip; 43- Phungyar (ST), A.S. Hopingson; 44- Ukhrul (ST), Somatai Shaiza; 45- Chingai (ST), M.K. Preshow Shimray; 46- Saikul (ST), Yamthong Haokip; 47- Karong (ST), R. Yuh Jonathan Tao; 48- Mao (ST), S. Alexander Maikho; 49- Tadubi (ST), O. Lorho; 50- Kangpokpi, Nemcha Kipgen; 51- Saitu (ST), Ngamthang Haokip; 52- Tamei (ST), Wilubou Newmai; 53- Tamenglong (ST), Huri Golmei; 54- Nungba (ST), Dinglanglung Gangmei (Dipu), IAS; 55- Tipaimukh (ST), Dr. Chaltanliem Amo; 56- Thanlon (ST), Vungzang Valtre; 57- Henglep (ST), Letzangam Singh; 58- Churachandpur (ST), V. Hangkhanlian; 59- Saikot (ST), Paolienlal Haokip; 60- Singhat (ST), Ginsuanhau Zou.

State observes Martyrs' Day

Mahatma Gandhi's life and ideals still resonate with the changing world - CM Biren

IT News
Imphal, Jan 30:

Manipur joined the Nation to observe Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day today on the 74th death anniversary of the father of the Nation- Mahatma Gandhi. On this day, India pays homage to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to secure freedom for India from the oppressive British regime.

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan led the people to pay homage by laying wreath to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Memorial Hall in Imphal. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar Singh, Education Minister S. Rajen Singh, N. Indrajit Singh, MLA, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, DGP P. Doungel and top civil and police officials also laid wreath to the statue.

Two minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the departed freedom fighters. Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajan "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" was also sung on the occasion.

As the nation observes the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh recalled the legacy of the Father of the Nation and said that his life and ideals about peace and non-



violence still resonates with the changing world.

"Remembering the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi Ji on his punyathiti. The life and ideals of #MahatmaGandhiji about peace and non-violence still resonates with the changing world. His legacy will always be an inspiration," Biren tweeted.

Born as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948, at Birla House in New Delhi.

It may be mentioned that

just before the observation of the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre stopped the playing of his favourite hymn - *Abide With Me* at the Beating Retreat of India's Republic Day 2022. It was replaced by a patriotic Hindi song - *Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon*.

The dropping of Mahatma's favourite Christian hymn *Abide With Me* which was played at the Beating Retreat ceremony every year in the honour the country's armed forces

sparked off quite a debate among the public.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and all the greats who courageously safeguarded the nation.

"Remembering Bapu on his Punya Tithi. It is our collective endeavour to further popularise his noble ideals. Today, on Martyrs' Day, paying homage to all the greats who courageously safeguarded our nation. Their service and bravery will always be remembered," Modi tweeted.

Mann Ki Baat: Corruption is like termite, need to get rid of it as soon as possible, says PM Modi

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 30:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged everyone to try and visit the National War Memorial with their family, saying "you will feel a special kind of energy and inspiration." He was addressing the nation through the 85th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

This is the first edition of the year and began after the Prime Minister paid obeisance to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary.

"This is the first Mann Ki Baat of 2022, today, we will take forward the inspiring stories of our citizens," the Prime Minister said in his address.

On the government's recent decision to extinguish and merge the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial, PM Modi said many countrymen and the family of martyrs had tears in their eyes at the emotional moment.

"Many have written letters to me saying that Amar Jawan Jyoti stands as an eternal flame of our martyrs who gave their life for the

nation. Some letters which I have received from the 'jawns' in the Indian Armed Forces emphasise the importance of 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' and the significance it holds in the lives of our martyrs and their families," he added.

The Prime Minister said that as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, he has received over one crore postcards from youngsters who shared their views on how India must be also remembered as our great freedom fighters.

"Over one crore children have shared their Mann Ki Baat from across India and the world through postcards. And I am amazed to see the ideas that our youth have and how they envision the India of their dreams," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that India is fighting the Omicron-driven new wave of COVID-19 aggressively, resulting in over 4.5 crore children getting jabbed with the vaccine. He further said that the number of COVID infections is declining, describing it as a "very positive sign".

"The faith of our people in our nation's vaccine is a great source of strength... Ap-

proximately 60 per cent of Indian youth aged 15-18 years old have been vaccinated. It will help this age group to focus on their studies without any hindrance and continue with their mundane rituals without fear," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister further said that where there is a sense of duty, corruption cannot exist. "We must give priority to our duties... Corruption is like a 'termite' that makes a country hollow; we have to get rid of it as soon as possible," he added.

On the Republic Day celebrations, the Prime Minister said, "Just a few days ago we celebrated Republic Day. Glimpses of bravery and capability of India shown at Delhi's Rajpath, filled every-

one with pride and enthusiasm." The Prime Minister in his address also mentioned the recent conferment of the Padma awards and urged citizens to read more about the awardees. "We have also honoured unsung heroes with Padma Awards. These ordinary citizens with exceptional stories are an inspiration to all. I urge citizens to read more about them."

Words have immense power, use wisely

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



It is said that there is immense power in words. Every written or spoken word carries a meaning and impact. That is why mantras, shlokas, hymns etc. have so much relevance since time immemorial. Words

may have different meanings in different places, and words can hurt someone's ego, self respect or religious feelings. Whether words are spoken or written, both have great power. Had it not been so, business tycoon Anand Mahindra and famous TV actress Shweta Tiwari would not have been in the headlines at this time. First, let's talk about Anand Mahindra, who is known to pay great attention to the habit of "jugaad" of the common Indian and often mentions them in his tweets. But this case is a bit different. Actually, a few days ago, a farmer from Karnataka, along with his friends, visited a Mahindra Dealer's showroom to book a car worth ten lakh rupees. Seeing his personality, a sales executive of the showroom reportedly mocked him saying that he probably did not have even ten rupees in his pocket and had come to book a car worth rupees ten lakhs. The matter got worse over this adverse comment and an argument followed. The police had to be called to resolve the dispute and the video of the incident went viral on social media. Some users tagged the company's chairman in the video.

When Anand Mahindra came to know about the incident, he took immediate action, saying that upholding individual dignity is one of the core values of the Mahindra Group. 'Any aberration from this philosophy will be addressed with great urgency.' Later, apologising to the farmer, Mahindra Group regretted the incident and gave the farmer the car of his choice. Due to inappropriate words spoken in jest, the matter became a ruckus. Similarly, actress Shweta Tiwari has got into trouble by uttering a few words laughingly. Madhya Pradesh Police has registered a case against Shweta for insulting religion and hurting religious sentiments. Shweta inadvertently spoke a few words in a press meet in Bhopal to promote her web series and created a big problem for herself. The actress had made a comment referring to her garments and God. However, she had said this in a light-hearted manner, which became a reason for police and legal action. A video of Shweta's remarks went viral on social media and members of a social organisation staged a protest in the city. Later someone lodged a complaint with the police against the actor.

It is not that these days the police have become super active or people have become more alert. In earlier times also a lot was spoken, but then not everyone could get to know about it and the matter used to get buried there. Now is the age of social media and everyone, big or small, carries a smartphone. You don't know when and who would shoot a video and post it on social media. That's why, it's important to be careful while speaking or writing anything in haste. Whatever is said or written, a little thought should be given about what could be the aftereffects. Words should be used responsibly.

Remove Faulty Programming



By: Fr Paul Lelen Haokip

"All programming is maintenance programming because you are rarely writing original code." (Dave Thomas)

As we come to the end of January 2022, let us take a retrospective and sincere look at how we have spent the first precious month of the year. We all know that life is actually a combination of minutes, what we call 'time'. The preciousness and irrevocable value of time is what makes life valuable. A life that is directed by a Vision, Mission, and Values brings meaningful existence. The next important thing is to set right past programming we all have received (willing or forced upon) towards a progressive pathway. Appreciating the good programming we have received will make us grateful. Identifying any trace of faulty programming we have acquired will enable us to overcome them and seek better paths towards progress. Removing faulty programming is not a one-time exercise but a continuous process for lifetime. Identification of faulty programming takes us to design ways and means to treat the maladies of life. Why do you choose the colour of clothes, choose clothes for dining, choose your picnic spot to relax, select your phone brand or apps to install on your phones? These are done because you want to decide for yourself. In simple terms, you want to programme your life according to your wish or in the best way you think it should be. You are programming your self in many ways already. But when it comes to thinking and living your precious life - Why do you generously allow others to programme your life? Why are you so much affected by others' negative talks about you (if you are not in the wrong spot)? Why do you believe the words spoken by others as someone and your conscience is not so true? In simple words, why do you want someone to ruin you?

Many faulty programming that we have received in life is threatening our personal growth. They negatively influence us for the worse. They make us shy. They make us cowards. They slow down our pace. They consume our time and blur our vision. They are parasites eating up our energy. They need to be uprooted and replaced with positive programming for healthier mental life and faster growth. Therefore, we need to set up our own goals for life and stop accepting those faulty programmes injected by others.

No single community, tribe, language or civilization is good enough to impart the perfect kind of programming an individual requires. But the beauty of the twenty-first century is that we can imbibe good things (evil things too) from others. This is a blessing indeed. There is always a room to improve and grow. The world is just a global village and each of us are global citizens living in our local areas. Let us move from 'mere acceptance of the faulty programming' to 'judiciously sieve what is good and helpful for growth'. Life is in your hands. You can make the change if you decide to do it.

Resolve today: I shall remove the faulty programming I have received; I shall remove them one by one, day after day; I shall programme my life with the help of elders and experts; I don't want to be programmed by others when I can programme myself.

(The author is a PhD research scholar, Department of Sociology and Social Work, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Email: paulthowkeep20@gmail.com)

Teacher Resource Repository

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was adopted on 29th July 2020, which envisages the provision of quality education and equitable access to all students in a sustainable manner. During the past year and a half, schools across the world have adopted numerous innovative practices to ensure the continuity of education in the prevailing COVID 2019 pandemic. To widely disseminate school education related to quality, inclusive practices and sustainability, ShikshakParv was organized wherein the teachers from both government and private schools shared various innovative practices adopted by their schools during and afterwards the pandemic. The initiatives were appreciated by both policy makers and practitioners.

In the light of the encouraging response and to further increase the width and depth of dissemination, a National Teacher Resource Repository (NTRR) at national level and State Teacher Resource Repository (STRR) at state levels are being created. The objective of TRR is to enhance the quality of education and highlight the contribution of educators so that they can take pride in their profession and further train many teachers in their respective states. It also aims at recognizing and appreciating the good initiatives of teachers.

Peer-to-peer learning or mutual learning of participants of the same level in a group helps in constantly

improving the skills of the whole group. Peer learning is especially well-suited for sharing innovations. The peer sharing of innovative school practices among TRR participants has the potential to inspire and motivate a large number of schools and teachers across the country. Learning from each other's experiences, teachers can be encouraged to collate their resources to improve the teaching learning process in their classrooms. Sharing innovations from time to time and on a continuous basis will provide the desired impetus towards quality of education for all students. This will help all the teachers, especially those in the remote areas, to improve their pedagogy. Amenities are not evenly distributed in our vast nation. The innovation and dissemination of such practices will help in meeting the resource constraints, facilitate peer-to-peer learning, leverage technology to disseminate best practices amongst other teachers.

The TRR will be equipped with teachers from ten themes that align with the policy objectives of NEP 2020, namely (1) Early Childhood Care and Education - The Foundation of learning, (2) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy - An Ur-



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

gent & Necessary Prerequisite to Learning, (3) Curricular Drop-out Rates and Ensuring Universal Access to Education at all levels, (4) Curriculum and Pedagogy in Schools - Learning should be Holistic, Integrated, Enjoyable and Engaging, (5) Teachers, (6) Equitable and Inclusive Education - Learning for All, (7) Efficient Resourcing and Effective Governance through School Complexes/clusters, (8) Standard Setting and Accreditation for School Education, (9) Technology in Education - NDEAR, (10) Reimagining Vocational Education and Skill Building.

An innovative exercise by a teacher engages all the students in the classroom and makes the teaching-learning process enjoyable. A variety of practices has been applied during the COVID 2019 pandemic. Addressing the issue of connectivity, teaching children using different material available at home (Angana Me Shikshak), teaching children under an umbrella on a bike (Chhatra wale Gururji), Mera Doordarshan Mera Vidyalaya, Bal Samvidhan, Bal Sansad, Bal Bachat Bank, Question Bank and Bal SamacharPatrika for shaping the personality of the children in right direction, eco-friendly activities

like "Best from waste", Alternate assessment models in lieu of regular examinations including self-evaluation, peer feedback & parent feedback. Career Mitra Portal and other innovative practices on different themes, known for improvement in quality of education needs to be propagated, which will spur the teachers across the country to innovate.

The teachers from the repository will serve as a resource from which master trainers will be identified to train the teachers of other schools. The teachers of STRR will be trained by SCERTs and those under NTRR will be trained by NCERT. A WhatsApp or other group on social media of identified teachers will be created for each theme, which will share innovative practices adapted in their schools in a virtual mode.

There is no doubt that the pandemic has badly affected the human life and created hurdle to the education of the learners, but it has also opened the door for alternative and innovative ways of learning and thinking. Efforts have been made to cope up the alarming situation with local available resources. Several methods adopted in scattered regions, when cumulated through TRR, will certainly strengthen the education system of the nation in the long run.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)

How to Improve Writing Skills

How to Improve Writing Skills As a Beginner

1. Write Every Day

One of the best writing tips I can give you is to write every day. You need to practice writing to become a better writer. Can you write about anything? Well, yes, you can.

I own several blogs and write about various topics from parenting tips to pregnancy tips to freelancing tips to budgeting tips.

The fact that I'm writing online content in various topics helps me maintain my writing skill and helps me gain more experience writing for an online audience. As a new writer or freelance writer, it's probably best to kill two birds with one stone by writing every day in your niche.

This can help you build your writer portfolio and improve your overall writing skill.

Other ways to incorporate writing every day is to write social media posts. If you have a Twitter profile or a Facebook profile, start creating a post a day and write two or three sentences on what you're promoting or doing.

This can help you with copywriting techniques and parsing down your words to fit a social media post.

2. Create an Outline

One of the best ways to improve your writing skill is to create an outline of everything you write.

This is especially true if you land a freelance writing job.

Clients want a coherent and complete post, so having an outline can help make sure you include everything your client wants.

For me, I think about what I want to write about and create subtopics and then other ideas I want to write about. For more help, you can see how other freelance writers and bloggers develop their writing process.

3. Read What You Want to Write About

Okay. Reading can also help

with improving your writing skills as many of you know. This is the same for freelance writers. If you read what you want to write about - your writing niche - then you'll effectively become a better writer overall.

Why?

Well, you'll understand your niche better. You'll also read from other bloggers and writers and marketers on their take on your writing niche. How do they talk about the popular health food called Keto bombs, for example?

You also get to read how these writers use their words and write sentences for an online audience. All of this can help you develop your writing skills.

When I began as a freelance writer, I read a WHOLE LOT about freelance writing and blogging.

I absorbed HOW each blog post was written, how they structured their sentences and the type of language they used into my own writing.

4. Choose Simple Words

Keep it simple, Sam (K.I.S.S.)! You may think you sound smarter if you use complex words - but that's not true.

In the online world, you want your writing to be at a 4th-8th grade reading level.

That's right!

There's no need to write a blog post like your thesis paper for college. In fact, that probably won't help you gain blog traffic or clients.

What's better is to ditch those big fancy words and use simple, yet effective words when you write. It's almost like you're writing as you would be talking - just without much slang and ums.

5. Convey Your Message Easily

Clients want smart writing that's engaging and will capture their message perfectly.



By: Vijay GarG

As a writing tip, you need to learn how to convey that message from your client easily in your writing. This means not being too wordy when describing things.

Now, don't get me wrong - I've been known to be a tad wordy at times

in my writing, but I think I make up for it with my ease of writing.

That's why it's important to have that first draft. Write and then let it sit.

You have to take the time to transform that first draft into the article you'll submit to your client. This may mean cutting entire paragraphs, or changing ideas around.

6. Avoid Filler Words

Filler words like: that, very, just, really, etc.. are just that... filler.

There is no need to add those extra words in your sentences, unless it's there for intention. I work hard not to have those extra filler words and I often do, but I'm still editing my work and trying to catch all those extra words before I hit publish!

I know I'm not the best writer. I don't have an English degree. But, that hasn't stopped me from making a living as a writer! If I can do it, you can too!

There's a balance of using enough words to convey your message. This will take time to develop and help you improve your skills as a new writer.

7. Keep Sentences and Paragraphs Short

If you've noticed in this blog post, I'm generally writing one sentence paragraphs.

This makes it easy for you - the reader - to read my content. If you want to become a freelance writer and write online, then write shorter paragraphs and shorter sentences.

Online users don't have the best attention spans, so make your writing easy on the eyes!

8. Invest in an Editing Tool

I personally use Grammarly for all my edits online. From blog writing to client pieces to social media posts and more.

It's my go-to editing tool and has helped me fine-tune my writing. As a freelance writer, one of the tools you need is an editing tool. You may think you just need a proofreader like your partner or friend, but I also urge you to have an editing tool first.

For me, I edit my writing with Grammarly, proofread it myself and then have my husband read it as final read through.

9. Just Write

The first step to help you improve your writing is to just write and keep on writing. Try not to edit while you work (I still do this) and let your creative juices flow. After I create my outline, it's much easier to just write it all out.

Since I blog every day, I am used to writing a lot and it's getting easier and easier to... just write!

Bonus: Spend Time On Your Headline and Introductions

One of the best ways to improve your writing skills is to take the time for your introductions.

Your headline and introduction will be the first thing people will see on social media or as soon as they click over to your post from Google or from other sites.

While there are amazing headline templates you can use, you don't have to be so fancy to have a really good headline.

What I like to do with my headlines is to:

Use Juicy Words (simple, easy, fast, brilliant, amazing, quick, etc.) - these are adjectives and superlatives that you can inject in your headline for more click throughs.

Highlight the benefit - What will people get out of your post? For this one, it's improving your writing skills.

Identify a person - for many of my headlines I identify who this post is for - beginners, freelance writers, new bloggers, etc..

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India sees another dip in Covid tally with 2.34L new cases; Over 75% of adults now fully vaccinated

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 30:

With 2,34,281 people testing positive for the coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of cases increased to over 4.10 crore, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Sunday. The death toll climbed to 4,94,091 with 893 fatalities reported during the 24-hour period, the data updated at 8 am showed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated fellow citizens for the "momentous feat" of achieving 75 per cent vaccination of adult population and said he is proud of all those who are making the vaccination drive a success. Tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in which he stated that India has achieved its goal of vaccinating 75 per cent adult population against Covid, the prime minister said, "75% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Congratulations to our fellow citizens for this momentous feat." "Proud of all those who

are making our vaccination drive a success," he said.

The second Sunday lockdown comes into force in Kerala today even as the state logged 50,812 new infections and eight COVID-19-related deaths on Saturday. Shops selling essential items such as milk, newspaper, fish, meat, fruits and vegetables and provisions are allowed to function from 7 AM to 9 PM. Most of the private vehicles kept away from the road except for those who were traveling for emergency purposes and that too after providing necessary documents proving the nature of emergency to the police.

The "third wave" of the coronavirus pandemic seems to be declining in the state though in some cities cases are showing an uptick, Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope said on Saturday. With the count of new daily cases dropping from the peak of 47,000 to about 25,000, "it seems the COVID-19 third wave has come down," Tope told reporters here. "But some other cities

like Pune, Nagpur and parts of rural area are reporting more and more cases, the minister noted. Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Palghar districts were reporting "very high numbers" earlier while Nashik, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad are currently reporting more cases, Tope said. "People are generally getting discharged within seven-eight days even if they have mild symptoms, he said.

Maharashtra on Saturday reported 27,971 new coronavirus positive cases, including 85 Omicron infections, and 61 pandemic-related deaths, the health department said. With the new additions, the overall caseload in the state mounted to 76,83,525 and the death toll to 1,42,522. The case fatality rate stood at 1.85 per cent in Maharashtra.

Tamil Nadu inoculated 10,17,919 people against Covid-19 in the 20th mega vaccination drive on Saturday with 2,55,902 people receiving the first dose and 7,27,417 the second dose of the vaccine, the Health De-

partment said. With the drive, the total number who got the first dose stood at 90.30 per cent and the second at 68.66 per cent, a press release said.

Punjab on Saturday reported 31 deaths and 3,325 fresh COVID cases, a daily bulletin said. With the latest addition, the overall infection tally rose to 7,38,405, it said. The deaths were reported from several districts including Amritsar, Bathinda, Faridkot, Gurdaspur and Mansa. So far, 17,190 have lost their lives to COVID in the state. The number of active cases in the state stood at 29,466. Of the fresh cases, Mohali reported 605 cases, followed by Ludhiana and Amritsar, which reported 387 and 301 cases, respectively. A total of 1,107 patients are on oxygen support while 99 critical patients are on ventilator support, the bulletin said.

Authorities on Saturday announced the end of weekend curfew in Rajasthan. The weekend curfew that begins from 11 pm Saturday to 5 am Sunday will no longer be imposed on Sunday, they said.

Don't lower guard, be vigilant: Health Minister's advice to states amid drop in active COVID cases

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 30:

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday advised five eastern states not to lower their guard and be vigilant even though the active cases of COVID-19 in most of the states and the positivity rate have shown a fall in the last two weeks.

Mandaviya held a COVID review meeting with state health ministers, principal sec-

retaries/ additional chief secretaries and information commissioners of Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, according to an official release.

The Health Minister urged the states to monitor the case positivity rate on a daily basis and increase the RT-PCR testing rate as most of the states exhibited a lower share of such tests.

"While the active cases in most of the states and the posi-

tivity rate have shown a fall in the last two weeks, we still need to be vigilant and not lower our guard," he stated.

The states were also advised to keep a close watch on the number of hospitalisations and deaths.

"It is important to analyse at the state level the proportion of vaccinated and unvaccinated of the hospitalised cases, the deaths and those on ventilators and oxygen support," he advised them.

Mandaviya reiterated that irrespective of the COVID variants, 'test-track-treat-vaccinate and adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour' continue to remain the tested strategy for COVID-19 management.

Noting that vaccination is a critical tool for pandemic management, Mandaviya urged the states to accelerate vaccination of all eligible populations, especially of the 15-17 age group and those whose second dose is due.

Petition filed in SC seeking probe into Pegasus issue, FIR against concerned officers

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 30:

A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court on the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus, seeking that the court take cognisance of a New York Times report on it and order a probe into the 2017 defence deal with Israel.

Advocate ML Sharma moved the Supreme court over the Pegasus issue and demanded that an FIR should be registered against the concerned officer or authority for the transaction and an investigation should be initiated.

The application cited a New York Times report that said the Indian government had purchased Pegasus in 2017 as part of a \$2 billion package for weapons, including missile systems.

The NYT, in a report titled 'The Battle for the World's Most Powerful Cyberweapon', said the Israeli firm NSO Group had for nearly a decade been "selling its surveillance software on a subscription basis to law-enforcement and intelligence



agencies around the world, promising that it could do what no one else — not a private company, not even a state intelligence service — could do: consistently and reliably crack the encrypted communications of any iPhone or Android smartphone."

The Supreme Court has already stayed the Justice Lokur Commission set up by the West Bengal government to probe the Pegasus case. Lawyer Abhishek Manu

Singhvi had said that the commission is a statutory body and the government cannot issue orders to it.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana asked the Lokur Commission to issue a notice to the Commission of Inquiry, prohibiting any kind of investigation by the Lokur Commission.

NV Ramana also told West Bengal's lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, "You said that you will not do anything in the

investigation work now."

Singhvi responded saying, "According to your order, we informed the Commission about it. The court has ordered that the Commission will not investigate till the matter is pending in the Supreme Court." Singhvi told the CJI that he should also issue a notice to the Commission.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court had also said that the state cannot get a "free pass" every time the spectre of national security is raised and it cannot be the "bugbear" that the judiciary shies away from.

The court had said it is appointing the committee in view of the six compelling circumstances— Right to privacy and freedom of speech are alleged to be impacted, which needs to be examined; the entire citizenry is affected by such allegations due to the potential chilling effect, no clear stand taken by the Centre regarding actions taken by it and seriousness accorded to the allegations by foreign countries and involvement of foreign parties.

Assam Rifles foils cross border narcotics trafficking

IT News
Imphal, Jan 30:

Tengnoupal Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) foiled cross-border narcotics trafficking at Tengnoupal yesterday.

During routine checking at Mobile Vehicle Check Post, Tengnoupal troops of Assam Rifles recovered 15 packets containing 1,50,000 WIY tablets from a vehicle.

The recovered narcotics are assessed to be of worth Rs 7.5 Crore.

The seized narcotics along with the vehicle and the drug peddler were handed over to Tengnoupal Police for further investigation.



Assam logs 2,294 new COVID cases, 22 deaths

Agency
Guwahati, Jan 30:

Maintaining a declining trend, Assam reported 2,294 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, pushing the tally to 7,13,685, according to the bulletin issued by the National Health Mission (NHM).

The state had registered 2,861 new cases on January 28, 3,677 less than the previous day.

Altogether 22 people died due to coronavirus on Saturday, taking the death toll to

6,422, while 1,347 COVID patients have died due to other causes.

The current death rate in the state is 0.90 per cent with Kamrup Metro district reporting five deaths and Sivasagar three.

The positivity rate declined marginally to 6.41 per cent as against 6.96 per cent on Friday with the number of samples tested during the day also being less at 35,777, compared to the previous day's figure of 41,134.

The number of active cases currently is 28,788, the bulletin said.

Kamrup Metropolitan district reported 535 new cases followed by 143 in Lakhimpur, 113 in Darrang and 100 in Jorhat, among others during the day.

The number of recovered patients discharged from hospitals on Saturday is 5,497. A total of 6,77,128 have been cured of the disease so far with a recovery rate of 94.88 per cent in the state.

The number of persons vaccinated during the day is 79,482, lower than the previous day's 94,747.

Assam-Meghalaya border row: CMs Himanta Biswa Sarma & Conrad Sangma discuss issue

Agency
Guwahati, Jan 30:

Chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya — Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma, on Saturday, met in Guwahati and held a closed-door meeting.

The meeting was held at a hotel in the city.

Earlier Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma had said that Assam and Meghalaya have reached 98% agreement on settling border dispute between the two states in six areas of difference.

Following Saturday's meeting, both the chief ministers are now expected to sit in a joint meeting with union home minister Amit Shah.

Six out of 12 areas of difference will be taken up for resolution in the "first phase" to bring an end to



decades-long Assam-Meghalaya border dispute.

The areas of differences that will be taken up for settlement in first phase are: Hahim, Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pillingkata and Ratacherra.

According to the recommendations of the regional committees, out of the 36.79 sq km of disputed area taken up for settlement in the first phase, Assam will get control over 18.51 sq km while Meghalaya will get control over 18.28 sq km of land.

Naga political issue: Government working against finding solution, says Nagaland Congress

Agency
Kohima, Jan 30:

The Nagaland Congress has accused the state government of working against finding a permanent solution to the vexed Naga political issue.

Nagaland Congress president K Therie said: "The truth is that they (government) are against the implementation of

solution."

"When we pressed for the implementation of solution to the Government of India... it replied, 'Yes, but we also have to respect people's government'; Therie said.

He added: "But this people's government has lied... Nagaland people have accepted and honoured the Agreed Position but the

people's government does not want to implement."

The Nagaland Congress chief further accused the state government of betraying the people's trust in regards to Naga political talks.

"...if the state government wants solution, they should agree with the Agreed Points... and urge the Government of India to implement (it)," Therie

PACL Defies Supreme Court Directions, Sells Attached Properties

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 30:

In a contempt of Supreme Court (SC), the Pearls Agrotech Corporation Limited (PACL), which duped nearly 5.50 over people, in a Rs. 49,100 crore investment fraud, has sold its plot of land at Juhu in North West Mumbai, which was attached and listed for sale by auction by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The SEBI, wound up the collective investment scheme run by PACL on August 22, 2014 and Justice (retired) R.M. Lodha Committee set up under the direction of the SC on February 02, 2016, is in the process of auctioning PACL's properties spread across India and refund the investors' money. The Committee has listed 27,133 properties for sale by the auction.

Although the main accused Nirmal Singh Bhargoo is behind the bars, those associated with the PACL are engaged in clandestinely selling its properties in defiance of the Committee's directions.

The plot measuring 2386.7 square mtrs bearing CTS No 39-B, located at Military Road, at Juhu is one of the PACL's properties listed for auction. However now the plot is in the possession of the third party which has begun construction activities on the plot.

The above plot was purchased by PACL on July 30, 2010 from Swastik Coop Housing Society Ltd. The Juhu Vile Parle Development Coop Housing Society Association Ltd was confirming party to this deed of conveyance.

Now as per the agreement entered into by N P Singh on December 28, 2021, with one Mangesh Madhukar Gaonkar

(Aadhar card No. 747696864030), the plot was sold for Rs 7 crore. Gaonkar who made part payment of Rs 30 lakh has agreed to pay remaining amount within 12 months. Gaonkar's colleague Nilesh More is also stated to be part of the agreement.

In the agreement Singh has claimed to be the owner of the plot and has the right sell it. Surprisingly the agreement was notarised by R Yadvav (Registration No 7538) in Thane far away from Mumbai. According to Vishal Mhetre, Secretary of the Janhit Association, spearheading the cause of the duped investors, the power of authority to sell the plot, claimed by Singh is fake and the deal is suspicious.

Today the plot has been covered with tin sheets from all the sides for construction activity and the board of one Safar Ali Sheikh is displayed at the site. Simultaneously the work related to distribution of LPG cylinders is going on at the plot.

According to the records, some time back the "Elite Dym" an event management company was also functioning from the same plot. The plot figures in the list of the PACL properties attached by the R.M. Lodha Committee. The replies to the e mail sent to the R.M. Lodha Committee and to the spokesman of the SEBI was awaited.

According to Mhetre, the Committee's process of auctioning the attached properties is very slow and the Committee does not serve as a deterrent against the PACL. Besides, despite the notifications by revenue authorities, the collectors have remained lenient and no notices have been published about the attachment of properties in newspapers.

The PACL's properties located in Delhi, Bangalore

(Karnataka), Raigad (Maharashtra), and other places across the country have been sold in similar way. PACL's properties in Chandigarh, which were in the name of his relatives and third parties. The properties worth Rs 27,000 crore have been listed for sale by the Lodha Committee. But despite this, the PACL, has already disposed of properties worth Rs. 1,200 crore.

Till now the Lodha Committee was able to refund very little amount to the duped investors. Also, Rs 370 crore repatriated by the Federal Court of Australia after selling PACL properties in Australia have not been utilised to refund the investors' money. This unchecked sale of the attached property by the PACL is blatantly illegal and strict punishment should be awarded to all those involved in such clandestine sale, Mhetre said. Besides, the SEBI did not take prompt action to attach all the properties and freeze PACL's bank accounts, he added.

Bhargoo, the chief promoter of PACL duped the investors across India, by promising them land at a cheaper rate although he and co-promoters did not possess even an inch of land.

The principal recoverable amount which was Rs 49,100 crore, has now swelled to over Rs 55,000 crore, with interest and other costs. Bhargoo and others had also collected over Rs 5000 crore from the investors, in the name of the Pearls Golden Forest Ltd (PGFL). As such the Justice (Retired) Vikramjit Sen committee was appointed for recovery and refund PGFL investors' money.

History
PACL was incorporated on February 13, 1996, in Jaipur (Rajasthan). SEBI on August 22, 2014, ordered immediate wind up

of the scheme and refund of investors' money by the PACL within three months. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed an FIR against PACL in 2014. The SEBI issued an order to attach the PACL's properties on December 11, 2015. The CBI arrested PACL CMD Bhargoo, promoter-director Sukhdev Singh, directors Gurmeet Singh and Subrata Bhattacharya in January 2016 and filed a charge sheet under Section 120B and 420 of IPC, in April 2016. Subsequently a few more people were arrested.

In 2015, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed the money laundering ECIR against Bhargoo and other accused that included PACL and M/s Pearl Infrastructure Projects Ltd. (PIPL).

On February 02, 2016 the R.M. Lodha Committee was set up. On December 11, 2016, SEBI initiated recovery proceedings and on September 06, 2017 it imposed a fine of Rs 2,423 crore on PACL and its four directors.

In September 2018, the ED filed a charge-sheet against PACL and attached its Australia-based assets. In the same year, SEBI filed a petition in the Federal Court of Australia (FCA), to recover the money stashed away by the PACL using shell entities in Australia and also sought repatriation of the assets.

In September 2020, the SEBI stated that over Rs 429 crore were refunded to over 12 lakh PACL investors with claims of up to Rs 10,000.

On November 25, 2021, the Special CBI Court, New Delhi granted bail to Bhargoo and others in connection with ED's money laundering case. But they were re-arrested based on the FIRs filed by SIT of Punjab police.

President, PM Modi pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat



Agency
New Delhi, Jan 30:

The nation on Sunday remembered Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying floral tributes to the Father of the Nation at Raj Ghat here.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla too joined Kovind and Modi and a two-minute silence was observed in honour of Gandhi, who was as-

sassinated on January 30, 1948. His death anniversary is observed as Martyrs' Day.

"Remembering Bapu on his Punya Tihi. It is our collective endeavour to further popularise his noble ideals," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

"Today, on Martyrs' Day, paying homage to all the greats who courageously safeguarded our nation. Their service and bravery will always be remembered," he said.

An interfaith prayer service was held at Raj Ghat and Mahatma Gandhi's favourite devo-

tional songs were rendered to mark the 74th death anniversary of the father of the nation.

A gun salute was given at the memorial where school students and people from different walks of life gathered to pay respects to Mahatma Gandhi.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat on his death anniversary.

Several other leaders from both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress were present to pay tribute to the 'Father of the nation'.

24 women among 61 candidates in Cong's 4th UP list; SP, BSP leaders & Triple Talaq victim join BJP

Agency
Lucknow, Jan 30:

BJP MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi's son Mayank Joshi may join the Samajwadi party. The MP had earlier said she would resign so her son would be provided a ticket by the saffron party. According to sources, BJP is all set to deny a ticket to Mayank from Lucknow Cant., and that Mayank is likely to be fielded as a SP candidate from the same seat. BJP has still not declared its candidates on 9 assembly constituencies of

Lucknow. SP too is waiting for BJP to declare candidates, before the party goes ahead with its list, sources said.

The Election Commission has banned all exit polls pertaining to the coming Assembly elections from 7.00 am on February 10 to 6.30 pm on March 7. In a statement issued here on Saturday, UP's Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said that conducting the exit polls, its publication in print or electronic media or its publicity has been banned from 7.00 am on February 10 to 6.30 pm on March 7.

Any person who violates the order will be punished with a two-year jail term or fine or both.

The Uttar Pradesh elections will throw no surprise result, the real surprise would come up in the Gujarat assembly polls due later this year, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav claimed on Saturday exuding confidence of forming the government after the UP assembly polls. Making a slew of poll promises, he said his alliance government would open "Samajwadi Canteens" for the poor to get subsidized meals for Rs 10.

Sports

Ashleigh Barty Wins Australian Open Women's Singles Title

Agency
Melbourne (Australia), Jan 30:

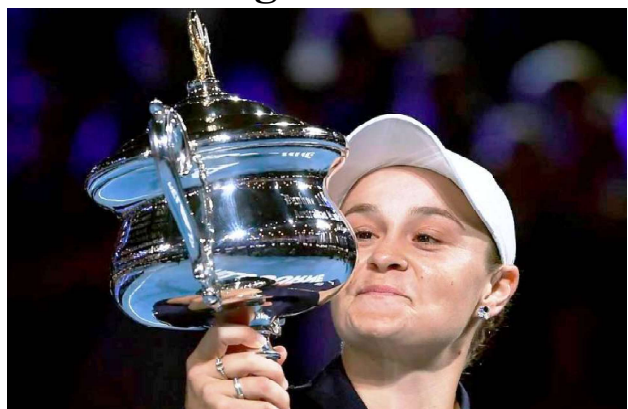
The 44-year drought was over in Ashleigh Barty's sun-burned country. Barty, often inscrutable on a tennis court, had just finished letting her guard down with a full-flex howl of delight that could almost be heard above the roars in Rod Laver Arena.

Now, Barty, Australia's first Australian Open singles champion since 1978, was motioning to someone on the other side of the deep blue expanse, beckoning with both hands and a relaxed smile.

Casey Dellacqua emerged from the sidelines. They have been close for a decade — since Barty summoned the mookie at age 15 to ask her to play doubles — and it seemed appropriate on this fulfilling Saturday night that Dellacqua, now retired, be the first to embrace her.

"She brought me into the sport again," Barty said.

Dellacqua supported Barty's decision in September 2014 to leave the tennis tour. Barty, just 18, was depressed, lonely and desperate to live a more normal life than that provided by hotels and practice courts. And when Barty had spent more than a year away



from the game, playing professional cricket and leaving the jet lag behind, it was Dellacqua who invited her out for a hit and helped her realize that she did indeed want to fully explore her prodigious tennis talent.

Barty returned to the tour in 2016 with no ranking but full commitment, and Saturday's 6-3, 7-6 (2) victory over Danielle Collins of the United States was the latest proof that she made the right decision, for herself above all, but also for her sports-mad country.

"She knows how proud I am of her," Dellacqua said as

she sat next to Barty on the set of Australia's Channel Nine on Saturday. "Everybody thinks I have done a lot, but I cannot explain what Ash has done for me."

For a tennis nation like Australia, home to Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall and to grass courts in country towns and fancy clubs, it beggars belief that it would take 44 years to win any tournament, much less their own. But the drought was real in Australia, as homegrown champions like Patrick Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt and Samantha Stosur

won major singles titles abroad but came up short in Melbourne.

Barty, now 25, has solved the riddle — aced it actually — by not dropping a set in any of her seven matches at this year's Australian Open.

Born and raised in the steamy Australian state of Queensland, Barty has been ranked No. 1 for more than 100 weeks and has become a hugely popular figure in her home nation. Her matches during the Open this year have attracted large television audiences.

ISL: Kiyan Nassiri's hat-trick leads ATK Mohun Bagan to 3-1 win over SC East Bengal

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 30:

In a breathless Kolkata Derby, a sensational hat-trick by Kiyan Nassiri-led ATK Mohun Bagan to a memorable 3-1 win over arch-rivals SC East Bengal in the 2021-22 Indian Super League (ISL) match at the P.J.N Stadium, here on Saturday.

The win was single-handedly delivered by the youngest ever hat-trick scorer in ISL, Nassiri (6'4", 90+2, 90+3), ironically the son of East Bengal legend Jamshid Nassiri. Super-sub Nassiri's goals cancelled out the strike from Darren Sidoel (56'), who gave the Red & Gold Brigade a shock lead in the second half.

The Kolkata Derby began with a measured approach by both teams. The best early chance fell to SCEB's Marcelo Ribeiro five minutes before the half-hour mark who found acres of space behind the ATKMB backline. However, the forward sent his shot wide off the mark from a one-on-one situation.

The Mariners also had a handful of chances as they strived to score the opener with Liston Colaco and Subhasish Bose coming close with their respective attempts.



The Mariners dominated more of the possession but a lack of end product meant that the outfits went into the half-time break on level terms. The second half began on a fiery note with Colaco hitting the top corner with a right-footed curler within minutes from the restart.

On the other end, Antonio Perosevic made Amrinder Singh pull out a crucial save on his near post with a strong left hand. However, the deadlock was finally broken against all odds by SC East Bengal through Darren Sidoel. The midfielder attacked the near post from a corner, got to the ball first, and guided it past the goalkeeper cleverly.

The Mariners scored the

equaliser after the hour mark through Kiyan Nassiri, who came off the bench to make his second appearance for the club.

A couple of minutes later, ATKMB then had the chance to take the lead from the penalty spot through David Williams. The Australian, however, managed to send his spot-kick into the stands. Hira Mondal then turned up and made a goal-line clearance to deny Colaco a goal.

Six minutes were added for stoppages by the officials which were enough for more moments of magic. A header from Williams hit the post and fell to Kiyan who made no mistake with the volley and scored the crucial goal.