INDIAN CHRONICLE City

18 October 2024| Friday www.indianchronicle.com Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) Pages: 8 (8+8)

Farmers await procurement of cotton produce in Adilabad

Adilabad: Farmers in erstwhile Adilabad district are waiting for procurement of cotton produce by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to begin this year.Officials stated that the cotton crop was raised in 10.15 lakh acres in the region in the Vanakalam season.While Adilabad topped in growing the cash crop by seeing 3.96 lakh acres, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district accounted for 3.30 lakh acres. Both Nirmal and Mancherial districts witnessed raising of the crop by 1.47 lakh and 1.42 lakh acres respectively.

Officials estimated that erstwhile Adilabad district would register a yield of 71.05 lakh quintals this year. The CCI has already fixed Rs.7,521 per quintal as Minimum Support Price, reflecting an increase by Rs.500 when compared to that of 2023.However, farmers are unhappy over the price and expect a higher rate than MSP."We learnt that CCI was offering MSP of Rs.8,257 per quintal to cotton farmers in Gujarat. We were clueless as to why the same agency did not quote the same price in Adilabad. Public representatives should take steps to ensure justice to the farmers. Else, the growers would register loss at least Rs.700 per quintal," a farmer opined.In the meantime, the farmers said they were facing inconvenience in storing the produce in houses due to delay in commencing the process of the procurement at the centres by the CCI. They urged the officials of the corporation to take steps to begin the process at the earliest.The farmers fear that the private traders and middlemen from Maharashtra would exploit the situation, causing losses to the growers."The traders and middlemen quote less price than the rate decided by the CCI, by forming a syndicate. They would pay the cost of the produce in a phased manner by levying commission," Shankaraiah, a farmer from Pippalkoti reasoned.CCI officials said that two procurement centres in

Adilabad, one each in Boath, Sonala, Indravelli, Pochera, Narnoor, Ichoda, Gadiguda, Gudihatnoor, Bela, Sirikonda and Jainath mandal centres were opened. They stated that the process of procurement would be commenced in a day or two.

Internal conflicts hit Congress in Telangana ahead of local body polls

Hyderabad: Even as the local body elections are fast approaching, the Congress leadership in Telangana is worried with internal differences among leaders and dissidence among cadre hitting the party hard in different assembly constituencies.As it is, the party has been facing severe criticism over the State government's failure in implementing the six guarantees assured to the people. Rubbing salt into the wound, the HYDRAA demolitions and the controversy over the Musi Riverfront Project and related demolitions have brought negative publicity for the government and the party.It is amidst this situation that internal differences among leaders cropped up again in the constituencies, leaving the State leadership anxious. The senior leaders are worried that those in districts and constituencies were not focusing on creating a good image for the State government or on countering the Opposition's charges. This is not confined to a particular constituency and is rampant in many constituencies. Be it erstwhile Medak, Nizamabad, Warangal, Mahabubnagar and even the GHMC limits, this is a common worrying factor for the State unit.These differences came to light even during TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud's recent meeting with leaders from different constituencies. During a meeting with Medak district leaders, he said the ensuing local body elections were critical to the party and wanted the leaders to set aside their differences and work as a team. He specifically instructed the constituency incharges to take along all the leaders into confidence and refrain from any sort of discrimination or favouritism.Apart from the differences among Congress loyalists, the widespread dissent among party cadre against turncoat MLAs and leaders from other parties is also posing a challenge to the State leadership. While, those in erstwhile Warangal are up in arms against Forest Minister Konda Surekha, those in Banswada are opposing Pocharam Srinivas Reddy's domination in the constituency. Similar is the case in Jagtial, Jogulamba Gadwal, Patancheru and Khairatabad constituencies.On Wednesday, corporators entered into heated arguments over protocol and lack of coordination during a meeting at Gandhi Bhavan. Vexed with the leaders' attitude, the TPCC president warned that disciplinary action would be initiated against those who work against the party's interests.

Police filing false cases against BRS cadre in Andole, says former MLA Kranthi Kiran

Sangareddy: Former Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran said the police were filing false cases against BRS leaders and cadre in Andole constituency over posts on social media on an issue that was not criminal in nature.After coming to know that the Jogipet police had registered a case against BRS leader Ch Naveen Reddy for a post on social media, Kranthi Kiran along with other BRS leaders visited the Jogipet police station and confronted the police on Thursday.When the police said they would register an FIR if anyone lodged a complaint on any issue, the former MLA submitted a complaint against Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha for making inappropriate comments during his visit to Gandhi Hospital recently.Kranthi Kiran also filed another complaint against Congress leaders for making comments on the "Alai Balai" programme in the Andole constituency. The BRS leader said officials were acting at the behest of the Minister and filing unnecessary cases against the BRS cadre across the constituency.

A Nobel prize for explaining why nations fail or succeed

The story so far: The 2024 Economics Nobel prize was awarded to U.S. economists Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson on Monday "for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity." The prize committee credited the winners for enhancing our understanding of the root causes of why countries fail or succeed.

What is the significance of the work of this year's economics Nobel prize winners?

Why some countries are rich while others are poor is a question that has been debated by economists for a long time now. According to the Nobel committee, the richest 20% of countries in the world today are 30 times richer in terms of average income than the poorest 20%. Ever since the Industrial revolution led to the "Great Divergence" in living standards between the East and the West, various theories have been proposed to explain the huge difference in living standards in rich versus poor countries.Some have blamed Western colonialism as the primary reason for the Western world's prosperity even today. Other scholars have argued that disparities in natural resource endowment explains differences in economic prosperity across countries. Some others have argued that intelligence and even historical accidents could explain a nation's fate.The 2024 Nobel laureates, however, have argued that differences in the quality of economic and political institutions is what best explains the divergence in the economic fates of countries. This thesis is most famously elaborated in the 2012 book Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty written by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, and also in the 2004 paper Institutions as a Fundamental Cause of Long-Run Growth, written together by all three of this year's Nobel laureates.Explore this year's Nobel winners, and their achievements with this interactive guide

Why is the quality of institutions so important?

According to Douglass North, a Nobel laureate and a pioneer of New Institutional Economics, institutions are the "rules of the game" that define the incentives that human individuals face when dealing with each other. For example, institutions that stop the State from seizing the property of honest citizens would give ordinary citizens the incentive to work hard without the fear of expropriation and that in turn would lead to general economic prosperity. Institutions that legalize expropriation, on the other hand, would affect individual incentives negatively and cause economic stagnation.

Now, Acemoglu and Johnson argued in their book that institutions can either be "inclusive" or "extractive". Inclusive institutions are characterized by secure private property rights and democracy while extractive institutions are marked by insecure private property rights and the lack of political freedom. They tried to empirically demonstrate that inclusive institutions lead to long-run economic growth and higher living standards while extractive institutions lead to economic degradation and poverty.To this end, they studied the kinds of institutions that colonists set up in different colonies and the impact that this had on the long-term economic fate of these colonies. When a colonial power did not want to settle in a certain country for various reasons (such as higher mortality rates due to geography), it set up institutions that were extractive in nature and inimical to long-term economic growth. This may have been the case in India where the British set up institutions that were mostly devised to plunder the maximum resources within a short span of time rather than to promote long-term economic growth. But in countries where colonists wanted to settle for the long-run, they set up inclusive institutions that encouraged investment and long-term economic growth over short-term plunder. This may have been the case in the United States where the British set up inclusive institutions that promoted long-term economic prosperity.It should be noted that institutions can also include factors like culture, which influence the more explicit "rules of the game" expressed by political and economic institutions.

If inclusive institutions are so good for growth, why don't we have more of them?

The Nobel laureates have also shed light on why inclusive institutions, which are found to be extremely important for long-term economic growth, have not been adopted by more countries in the world. They attribute this to the different choices that rulers face in their respective countries. When the rulers of a country are able to safely extract sufficient resources for their personal gains through extractive institutions, the laureates argue, they have little reason to bring in political and economic reforms (or inclusive institutions) that can benefit the wider population over the long run. In such cases, extractive institutions may prevail for a really long time as long as the masses do not revolt against the status quo. But if there is a real threat of a popular uprising against extractive institutions, at least some rulers may decide to yield to popular demand and reluctantly set up more inclusive institutions which aid economic growth.

What's special about the Nobel prize given to Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson?

The economics Nobel prize is usually awarded for ground-breaking academic research into topics that are of significant real-world importance. In the last two years, for instance, the Nobel prize was awarded to scholars who worked on important questions such as the gender pay gap and the fragility of the banking system. While these topics are no doubt important for economists to think about, they still do not delve deep enough into the more fundamental questions that economics as a discipline was founded to answer. This year's Nobel prize corrects this flaw by bringing the world's focus back onto the crucial topic of institutions, which determine the very "rules of the game" in any economy and thus affect literally everything that happens in it.

SpaceX launches Starship rocket in bold test flight aiming to catch returning booster

Boca Chica: SpaceX launched its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday on its boldest test flight yet, striving to catch the returning booster back at the pad with mechanical arms.Towering almost 400 feet (121 metres), the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea. The last one in June was the most successful yet, completing its flight without exploding.This time, SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk upped the challenge and risk. The company aimed to bring the first-stage booster back to land at the pad from which it had soared several minutes earlier. The launch tower sported monstrous metal arms, dubbed chopsticks, ready to catch the descending 232-foot (71-metre) booster.It was up to the flight director to decide, real time with a manual control, whether to attempt the landing. SpaceX said both the booster and launch tower had to be in good, stable condition. Otherwise, it was going to end up in the gulf like the previous ones.Once free of the booster, the retro-looking stainless steel spacecraft on top was going to continue around the world, targeting a controlled splashdown in the Indian Ocean. The June flight came up short at the end after pieces came off. SpaceX upgraded the software and reworked the heat shield, improving the thermal tiles.SpaceX has been recovering the first-stage boosters of its smaller Falcon 9 rockets for nine years, after delivering satellites and crews to orbit from Florida or California. But they land on floating ocean platforms or on concrete slabs several miles from their launch pads — not on them.

Innovation Meets Elegance: Versuni India Launches Its New Range of Air Purifiers Offering Silent & Powerful Protection

Versuni India, a leader in the domestic appliances industry and home to legacy brands Philips Domestic Appliances and Preethi, has announced the launch of its new range of air purifiers, including the 3200, 4200 Pro, and 900 Mini Wifi and 900 Mini. Designed to be the ultimate "Silent Protectors", the new range seamlessly blends power, efficiency, and modern aesthetics. Whether tackling pollutants in large spaces or maintaining a quiet, clean environment for restful sleep, each model is tailored to meet the unique needs of consumers. These models reflect Versuni's commitment to innovation and a deep understanding of consumer well-being, ensuring that homes are not only protected but enhanced by cleaner air.

Commenting on the launch, Ms. Pooja Baid, Chief Marketing Officer at Versuni India Home Solutions Ltd, said, "At Versuni India, we remain deeply committed to delivering innovative, intuitive products that cater to the ever-evolving needs of our consumers, and our latest range of air purifiers is a perfect reflection of this promise. This new range embodies our dedication to merging advanced technology with premium, ergonomic design, offering consumers a balanced and enhanced air purification experience.

Staying true to our philosophy of 'Turning Houses into Homes,' these air purifiers seamlessly blend into any living space, thanks to their efficient yet silent performance. It's this thoughtful balance of performance and discretion that has earned them the title of 'Silent Protectors,' allowing consumers to breathe easier while enjoying a peaceful, undisturbed environment. At Versuni, we continue to lead the way in providing products that make life simpler, healthier, and more comfortable for our consumers. Our new range of air purifiers is not just about cleaner air; it's about delivering a superior home experience, where technology and design come together to create a sense of harmony and well-being."The new air purifier range features advanced double-fan technology and a 360° open structure, boosting purification efficiency by 30-50%. The 3-layer filtration system captures 99.97% of particles as small as 0.003 microns, offering robust protection against viruses, pollutants, and allergens.

The SilentWings blade design, inspired by owl wings, ensures 50% quieter operation even at maximum power. Integrated with the Air+ App for remote control, the purifiers also include a ring light that doubles as ambient lighting, combining smart technology with sleek design for an enhanced home experience.

JSW MG Motor India unveils its third pilot under 'Project Revive'

JSW MG Motor India has been at the forefront of innovation in EV technology and has made significant progress in the field of repurposing used EV batteries. Continuing this momentum, the brand has announced – India's first high-voltage (HV) second-life battery with a homegrown Battery Management System (BMS), in collaboration with Vision Mechatronics as part of 'Project Revive'. This product is showcased at The Battery Show from October 3-5, 2024, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida.

This is the third pilot project for second-life battery applications from JSW MG Motor India, signalling its proactiveness in promoting circular economy and creating a sustainable EV ecosystem. The company is forging meaning partnerships with organisations with a common goal of harnessing the potential of EV batteries beyond their primary lifespan. This project will initially be deployed as a UPS backup solution for an industrial facility in Pune, demonstrating the versatility and effectiveness of second-life EV batteries in large-scale energy storage.

Vision Mechatronics, a leading Indian technology company, which has made significant strides in the field of second life batteries, has played a key role in the development of this project. The product is designed with an indigenous BMS, that is tailored for industrial use of various stationary applications, offering flexibility and efficiency. It includes advanced monitoring systems to ensure optimal battery performance and early detection of potential issues. It also comes with high safety standards with rigorous measures in place to protect against thermal runaway and other hazards.

Commenting on the new project, Gaurav Gupta, Chief Growth Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, "Our partnership with Vision Mechatronics is a testament of bringing circularity in the EV batteries, by providing it a second life for large-scale industrial application. The launch of this project, India's first high-voltage second-life battery with an indigenous BMS, is indeed an innovation and makes us future ready. We are a responsible OEM with innovative values and this project highlights our continued work to drive momentum in building a sustainable EV ecosystem. This is our third project in the space of providing a second life to EV batteries. The successful initiatives under 'Project Revive' are paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future."

Congress Govt. failed to keep its promise of crop loan waiver: BJP leader Eatala Rajender

Khammam: The Congress government failed to deliver its promise of unconditional waiver of crop loans which it promised to the farmers, alleged BJP leader Eatala Rajender.The government, which assured to waive off Rs 2 lakh loans taken by 48 lakh farmers failed to deliver the promise, he said. The government said the worth of the loans taken by the farmers was Rs 34, 000 crore but it waived off only Rs 17, 000 crore worth loans.

Speaking to the media here on Thursday, the BJP leader wanted a road map for unconditional loan waiver for all the farmers.He said, "When the opposition parties were questioning the government, the ruling party leaders were hitting back at the opposition leaders instead of addressing the issue."

Rajender stated that a large extent of farm lands have become useless due to heavy sand deposits caused by floods in the rainy season. But the government was not making plans to help the farmers and also failed to repair breached tanks in several villages.

Many families affected by Munneru floods in Khammam and surrounding areas were yet to receive the financial assistance from the government. Except for free travel in RTC buses the government has not delivered many of its six guarantees, he said.The State's revenues have been declining while debt was mounting up as the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy failed to manage the State's affairs properly. Huge amounts were being spent on the media advertisements thus wasting the public money, he noted.Later in the day, speaking after inaugurating Chatrapati Shivaji statue in Khammam the BJP leader said some were trying to dismiss the recent vandalising of a Hindu temple in Hyderabad as a minor incident. But it was an attack on the faith of Hindus, he said.

5 Game-Changing SUVs That Shaped the Market

The Indian automotive landscape has undergone significant transformation over the past decade, witnessing an unprecedented shift in consumer preferences. From modest family hatchbacks to commanding road presence, SUVs have emerged as the ultimate symbol of mobility and status. From congested city streets to winding mountain roads, these commanding vehicles have captured the imagination of Indian buyers across segments. As manufacturers race to meet this surging demand, below is the list of five revolutionary SUVs that not only shaped consumer preferences but fundamentally redefined India's automotive aspirations, creating a movement that transcends mere transportation to represent achievement, adventure, and sophistication in modern India.

Maruti Brezza – The Maruti Brezza is available at the starting price of 8.34 Lakhs. The Brezza struck the perfect balance between practicality and affordability, offering the high seating position and road presence of an SUV while maintaining the efficiency and easy maintenance that Maruti Suzuki is famous for. Brezza's sporty and glamorous styling struck a chord with Indian customer and it was the first compact SUV to introduce a dual color scheme, floating roof, and SMARTPLAY infotainment system. With its sleek and sophisticated styling, Brezza introduced a bold new design language, breaking away from the traditional bulky look typically associated with SUVs. In terms of feature, it gets a 9-inch touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, a 6-speaker setup (including 2 tweeters), paddle shifters (AT variants), a sunroof, wireless phone charging, cruise control, automatic AC with rear vents, and a heads-up display.

MG Hector – The MG Hector has not only contributed to India's SUV craze, but has fundamentally redefined what consumers expected from a modern SUV. The MG Hector stands out as a premium state-of-the-art SUV, starting at an attractive price of Rs 13.99 Lakh. Featuring India's largest 14-inch touchscreen, along with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, and a wireless phone charger, it sets a new benchmark for convenience. It offers 8 infinity speakers along with over 100 voice commands and i-Smart technology providing 75+ connected features for easy access to navigation, music, and communication apps. The new Select Pro variant offers Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof and Shine Pro comes with Single Pane Electric Sunroof making the Hector one of the best options in the SUV segment with exceptional value. In the segment where features and technology increasingly drive purchasing decisions, the Hector emerged as a game-changing force that compelled even established manufacturers to upgrade their offerings.

Mahindra Thar – The Mahindra Thar has successfully bridged the gap between hardcore off-road capability and urban usability, making it appealing to a broader audience. The recently launched Mahindra Thar Roxx is Built on Mahindra's All-New M_GLYDE platform delivering an exceptionally smooth ride with crisp handling and class leading dynamics. The Mahindra Thar Roxx celebrates Mahindra's off-road legacy with enhanced 4x4 capabilities, rugged design, and advanced technology, catering to serious adventurers. It reinforces Mahindra's brand in the adventure vehicle segment and aligns with the growing trend toward experiential lifestyles.The Mahindra Thar Roxx is available at 12.99Lakhs. It features twin 26.03 cm HD screens, a panoramic skyroof, and a sophisticated interior with ivory ambiance, leatherette trims, and a leather-wrapped dashboard. These premium touches make it appealing to both adventure seekers and city drivers.

Half of UAPA investigations pending for over three years: Data

Three recent developments have put the spotlight back on prolonged detentions, stalled investigations, and inordinate delays on bail matters under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.On October 12, former Delhi University Professor G.N. Saibaba died just months after getting acquitted in a UAPA case, following a decade of incarceration. Last week, the bail plea of Jawaharlal Nehru University student, Umar Khalid, who was arrested under the UAPA four years ago, was once again postponed, as the Bench could not assemble with the judges on leave. Last month, the Supreme Court granted bail to a UAPA accused, who was in prison for more than four years, citing the delay in trial.

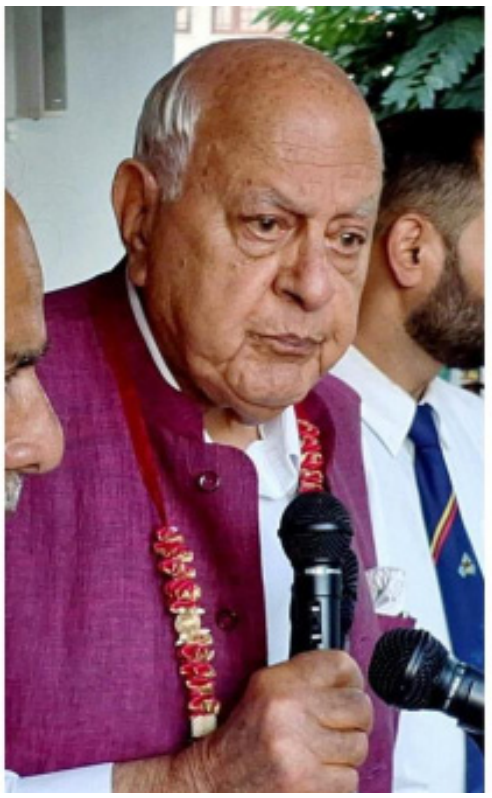
Twice this year, the Supreme Court made observations related to bail denials and delays in trial in UAPA cases. In August, the Court reiterated that "bail is the rule and jail is the exception" even if the offence is under the UAPA. In September, the Court observed that the graver the offence and the more the restrictions on bail, the faster the trial should be completed.Data show that half the cases filed under the UAPA were pending at various stages of police investigation for over three years, at the end of 2022. This is the second highest such share across 122 crime heads, such as murder and gambling.Chart 1 shows the number of cases (horizontal axis) and the share of cases (vertical axis) pending police investigation for over three years under all the 122 crime heads of the Indian Penal Code (now called the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) and the Special and Local Laws, at the end of 2022.

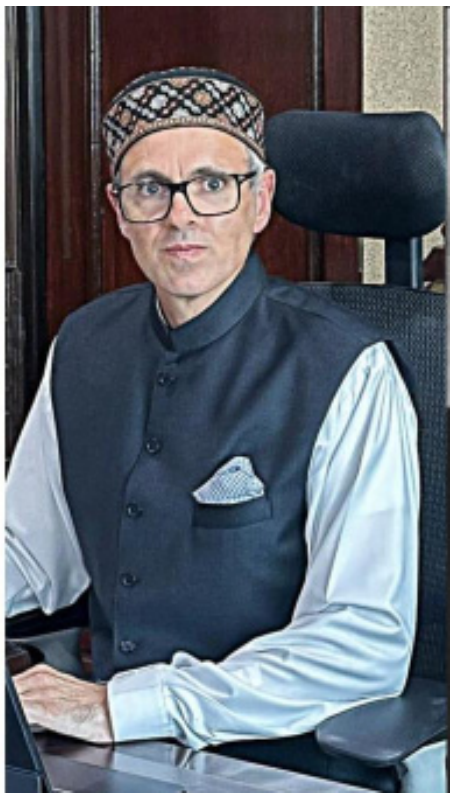
Over 2,020 UAPA cases were pending investigation for over three years, 50% of the total such cases pending at the end of 2022 (4,037). The UAPA is a stark outlier in the share of such cases. Cases registered under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act, 1981 (57%) and Passports Act, 1967 (43%) had the next highest shares.Chart 2 shows the share of UAPA cases between 2019 and 2022 whose investigations have been pending for more than three years.Not only is the share of UAPA cases pending investigation for more than three years high, but it has also increased in the recent past. The share of UAPA cases pending for over three years increased from 40% at the end of 2019 to 50% at the end of 2022.Chart 3 shows the number of persons arrested under the UAPA, persons charge sheeted, discharged, acquitted, and convicted in the 2017-2022 period.

While it is important to recognise that those arrested during this period may not necessarily be the same people who were convicted or acquitted in the period, the data still provides a useful approximation of the overall trend. The number of those convicted, acquitted, and discharged formed less than 10% of the people arrested in the period, pointing to delayed trials.While stalled police investigations and delayed trials are par for the course in the Indian justice system, what makes laws such as UAPA draconian is that the people arrested are rarely let out on bail. Chart 4 shows the number of people arrested under the UAPA between 2018 and 2020, and the number of people who were convicted, acquitted, got bail, and those who did not feature under any of the three categories.

Abdullahs rule Kashmir: A look at three generation of CMs in the Valley

Story so far: 54-year-old Omar Abdullah took oath on Wednesday (October 16, 2024) along with four other ministers as Jammu-Kashmir's (J&K) Chief Minister at Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in the presence of the Union Territory's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Since J&K's loss of special status and statehood, these were the first Assembly polls to be held and Mr. Abdullah's the UT's first CM.Ushering in his second term, Mr. Abdullah remarked, "I was the last Chief Minister to serve a full six-year term. Now, being a CM of a Union Territory is different. It has its own challenges. I hope that the status of a Union Territory is a temporary one". None of the six Congress legislators took oath as a protest against the delay in restoring J&K's statehood.The swearing-in ceremony was attended by several INDIA bloc leaders such as Congress's top brass Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi party chief Akhilesh Yadav, CPI(M) MP Brinda Karat, NCP MP Supriya Sule and DMK MP K. Kanimozhi, apart from J&K NC patron and former J&K CM Dr. Farooq Abdullah. His son's re-election marks the eight term of an Abdullah as J&K's Chief Minister – three terms of Sheikh Abdullah (1948-51, 75-77, 77-79), three terms of Farooq Abdullah (1982-84, 1986-90, 1996-2002) and one term of Omar Abdullah (2009-2015).





Titled 'Sher-e-Kashmir', Sheikh Abdullah was one of the prominent Muslim leaders in Jammu-Kashmir of the pre-Independence era. Armed with anti-Imperialist values and national consciousness nurtured in him by Islamia College, Lahore and Aligarh Muslim University, Mr. Abdullah founded the Reading Room Party in 1930 to discuss the poor economic conditions of Muslim masses. Attracting educated Muslims, the Reading Room party became the base to stir revolution against Maharaja Hari Singh's rule in the Valley. As his public meetings grew more and more popular to the ire of the British government, Mr. Abdullah established the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference in 1932 with the sole aim to protect Muslims' rights.As the Indian Independence struggle gained national traction, Mr. Abdullah grew close to Jawaharlal Nehru and swore allegiance to India's secular values and its national leaders. Striving to root out the feudal system in J&K, he began building a mass movement against the Maharaja enlisting the Hindus and Sikhs' support. Shifting the focus to a wider base, he renamed his party as Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) in 1939, to the ire of several Kashmiri politicians who were echoing Muhammed Ali Jinnah's demand for separate state of Pakistan.

During NC's early stages of political activism, Mr. Abdullah demanded the Maharaja to allow self-rule of the Kashmiri people, only to be denied and then jailed. After his release, he released the charter of 'Naya Kashmir', promising emancipation of the masses and abolishment of 'zamindari' (landlordism). Rebuffing Jinnah's urging to support the Muslim League in exchange for the League's support to NC's struggle against the Maharaja, Mr. Abdullah led the campaign in the Valley for an undivided India in 1946. However, due to his involvement in the 'Quit Kashmir' movement he was jailed and missed the birth of India and Pakistan on August 14-15, 1947.As support for J&K to secede from Pakistan grew, Sheikh Abdullah was released from jail and appointed as head of an emergency administration in 1947. In the wake of the Maharaja's flight to Jammu after acceding to India, Mr. Abdullah mobilised ground support in the Valley using Kashmiri volunteers to hold off against Pakistani infiltration till the Indian Army arrived. Filling in the vacuum of leadership in the Valley, he became J&K's first Prime Minister and his first act was to abolish landlordism, redistribution of land from big owners to the landless and crown prince Karan Singh as 'Sadar-i-Riyasat', titlar head of state.During the drawing up of the Indian Constitution, as a member of the Constituent Assembly, Mr. Abdullah was instrumental in incorporating Article 370 which granted special status to J&K as a 'temporary provision', allowing J&K to have its own constitution, flag and autonomy on matters except for defence, foreign affairs and communications, based on the 1947 Instrument of accession.By 1953, Mr. Abdullah's stance on India visibly changed as he began vociferously batting for an Independent Kashmir which led to his dismissal as J&K's PM and a long incarceration (1953-63) after being accused of conspiring against India. Once again, he remained absent during the Valley's peak security threat - the 1962 Indo-China war. During his incarceration, in 1955, he formed the All Jammu and Kashmir Plebiscite Front which called for a popular vote by the Kashmiris to decide if the state should remain a part of India or Kashmir

After his release in 1964, he reconciled with Mr. Nehru and arranged talks between him and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan over Kashmir. However, the talks never fructified due to Mr. Nehru's sudden demise in May 1964. As he again began voicing anti-India sentiments during his tour of Jeddah, Baghdad, Cairo, London and his meeting with Chinese leader Chou-en-lai in Algiers, he was incarcerated between 1965 and 1968, missing the 1965 Indo-Pak war. His anti-India stance compelled the Indira Gandhi to exile him from Kashmir during 1971-72, keeping him absent during Bangladesh's liberation war.He once again changed his stance on India after Bangladesh's birth and held talks with India which led to signing of the new Kashmir Accord in 1975, allowing J&K to retain its autonomy within the Union of India. He and merged his splinter Plebiscite party with the NC and was elected as Chief minister in February 1975 with Congress' support. In the subsequent election in 1977, he was re-elected after NC swept the polls on his own. While his tenure was stained with corruption allegations, he remained an admired figure in Kashmiri polity. He continued to remain in the post till a few days before his death on September 8, 1982. His eldest son – Dr. Farooq Abdullah took over his office as J&K's fourth CM.Farooq Abdullah

Inheriting his father's legacy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah was seen as a greenhorn and the 'perfect proxy' by Indira Gandhi, report journalists Ashwini Bhatnagar and RC Ganjoo in their book 'Farooq of Kashmir'. His switch from medicine to J&K politics was smooth as he helped his father's re-election in 1977. Dr. Abdullah himself was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1980 and then brought back to the state as minister of health in 1982. His biggest political opponent was his own brother-in-law Ghulam Mohammad Shah, a rising star within the NC folds.Allying with the Congress, Dr. Abdullah was re-elected in 1983 as the NC swept J&K polls winning 46 of the 76 Assembly seats. However, his second tenure was short-lived as 12 NC MLAs led by Mr. Shah defected and pulled down his government on July 2, 1984. Later, Mr. Shah was appointed as CM with the Congress' support. His tenure was also short-lived as Mr. Abdullah once again returned as CM in 1986 with the help of then-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a close family friend. Navigating the rising stature of the state's Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Dr. Abdullah convinced Mr. Gandhi to sign an accord and reinstate him as CM in November 1986 and in the subsequent elections back him as as the NC-Congress' CM pick.

Amid allegations of poll rigging by the NC-Congress coalition, Dr. Abdullah was re-elected for a third time as CM in 1987. His third term saw unprecedented rise in militancy in the Valley which led to the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley. Mr. Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya was kidnapped by militants, forcing the Centre to impose President's rule in Jammu-Kashmir. In the wake of Jagmohan's appointment as Governor, Dr. Abdullah moved to United Kingdom and remained there till 1995.In the 1996 elections, Dr. Abdullah led NC to a landslide victory winning 57 of 87 seats and forming a government on its own. Ties with Congress had soured in the wake of Rajiv Gandhi's demise and Dr. Abdullah opted to switch allegiances to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 1999 and his son Omar was made Union MoS in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. The NC patron's last term as CM lasted a full six years till 2002. During his tenure, he enacted the controversial Roshni Act which granted ownership of Jammu and Kashmir state lands to its occupants upon paying a sum which was aimed to fund the state's power projects. The laws was later scrapped by the J&K High Court.

Intra-layout buses: A novel way to boost public transport in Bengaluru

Ten Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus services operating at 10-minute intervals in a closed loop along a well-planned route network, ferrying over a lakh commuters every month — this unique feeder bus service in the city's HSR Layout has the potential to dramatically alter the way we think of public transport: Local, reliable, planned, and sustainable. Can this intra-layout concept be scaled up?In August, this system completed its first year, stamping a rare success for BMTC and public transport in general. Operating from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., the service covers all seven HSR Layout sectors along a route length of 8.6 km, with the ticket priced at ?10. Today, an estimated 5,000 passengers take this feeder bus service every day, including women who are ferried free under the Shakti scheme.

Despite challenges such as the use of big buses on roads with tight turning radius, the system has largely worked. But the big question remains: Can this be replicated in other similar residential layouts spread across the city? The HSR Citizen Forum and the HSR Cyclists group, who struggled hard to activate the project over the last four years, are convinced that it definitely can.

Travel data analysis

But there are conditions. Launched in 2020 under the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT)'s Sustainable Mobility Accord (SuMA), the HSR project could not have taken off without intense research, data collection and analysis, massive publicity campaigns and robust citizen participation. Government agencies such as DULT, BMTC, BBMP, citizens and activist volunteers had to coordinate and drive the action collectively."The learnings have been excellent in the way the structured project has been executed. It is possible to do this in other layouts if they follow a similar approach in terms of three years of a stepwise journey. Active citizen engagement from the locality is the secret recipe for success," says Shashidhara K., founder of the HSR Cyclists group.

Citizens, he points out, know the pain points, the traffic jam areas, the turning radius at junctions, and the demand and supply. "They can sit together with the other stakeholders and design whole loops and decide on the types of buses. Then a trial run can be done for three months, loops readjusted if required," he explains.Lack of adequate buses, bus stops, low frequency and narrow local roads have left lakhs of Bengalureans to turn to either personal vehicles or expensive autorickshaws and cab rides for local commute. The HSR project has shown how a well-crafted feeder service with predictable schedules can make a big difference. But this did not happen in an instant.As Jayanthi Srikanth from the HSR Citizen's Forum recalls, preparations had begun during the pandemic. "We conducted scientifically designed surveys for different demographics. We had to ensure good representation from all sections, low economic groups and people with disabilities included. The extensive 20-25 minute survey was designed to understand the travel pattern of each family," she informs.

In all, 1,023 people from 323 families were covered. "This was very valuable raw data of how people travel from point A to B, the different modes they use and what their primary mode and objective of transport were. Uploaded on the DULT website, this data showed public transport was almost zero in HSR Layout. Buses had very low frequency, and people had given up because they couldn't wait for one hour. It was clear that 96% of the respondents wanted public transport," Jayanthi elaborates.Focus group discussions were held to enable qualitative data analysis. "We spoke to different groups to understand their pain points. Many older adults from low-income groups and garment factory workers would walk long distances on uneven, broken footpaths. Those working in IT firms, schools and colleges said they spent Rs 50 to 100 daily on autos or other modes. They would be happy if there were public transport."These preparatory studies and meetings were critical to designing a feeder network that worked for all sections. To replicate and scale up, understanding the ground reality is important. Mobility issues are common across the city, but local solutions mandate a sound understanding of specific localities.

The massive publicity campaign that followed immediately after the launch of the feeder system was unprecedented in scale. Jayanthi explains, "For 67 days, we were on the ground campaigning in schools, colleges, temple gatherings, any place where people converged. We had selfie frames at events, walkathons, and street plays. Garbage pickup autos played our recorded messages, reaching all the houses for two full weeks."This bombardment had its desired effect. After a few days of initial curiosity, commuters started trickling in and grew in numbers. "Today, a lot of people who go to Agara from HSR Layout, like those from Parangipalya, Mangammanapalya, Somasundarapalya and other areas take this feeder service. A lot of start-up employees who come into HSR take the buses after getting down from long route buses at Agara. There are 18 stops, and they get to alight exactly at their office location," says Shashidhara. Daily wage workers, student pass-holders, and Mitra Jyothi blind school students have all switched to this service now.

Will it be sustainable?

But will the network sustain over a longer time? Shashidhara is confident. "During peak hours, the demand is for three buses at each stop, especially at Salarpuria junction, Agara junction and Mangammanpalya. We see a lot of people waiting from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Considering the crowd and the amount of rides, we feel there is absolutely no question of the BMTC not earning profit from this service," he notes.The huge congestion on the Outer Ring Road has helped the service gain sustained ridership. An HSR Layout resident, Zahid, says people from the Iblur area, keen on avoiding the congested Silk Board Junction, take the service to get inside HSR and get onto Hosur Road ahead. But this is true only during peak hours, he adds. To sustain the system throughout the day, he recommends smaller buses that do not trigger congestion off the main roads.

Potential 'Metro boost'However, the dynamics could dramatically change once the Airport Metro line from Silk Board Junction is commissioned. "Once the station at HSR BDA Complex is opened, this feeder service will become a huge hit. This service looks almost in preparation for the Metro. When it starts within the next two years, even these 10 buses will not be enough," he says.Independent mobility consultant Sathya Arikutharam is certain that a fully functional feeder bus system will greatly help as the Metro expands. But he, too, feels minibuses and not the big BMTC vehicles should drive the system. If BMTC has no such buses, give that space to private operators, he says. "Carve up eight sectors of Bengaluru, and within each sector, give a service level requirement for buses at three-minute frequency. Even their fares can be regulated."As for BMTC, he says the corporation needs long overdue reforms to try localised commute using its depots. "There are eight or nine depots. If each focuses only on the area in its proximity, the entire timetable of BMTC can be recast. So, if you are in HSR, there will be more intra-layout buses. But if you are going out, say to Jayanagar, you catch a longer distance bus at a few interchange points," he explains.The localised commute would inevitably mean more interchanges while travelling. But, as Sathya puts it, "You will be able to travel both short and longer distances equally well and go into nooks and corners by buses only. That is how all big cities do."

Jagga Reddy sparks row with ill-treatment of Telangana State bird during Dasara

Sangareddy: A major controversy erupted as Congress working president and former Sangareddy MLA T Jayaprakash Reddy alias Jagga Reddy put four Indian rollers, the State bird of Telangana, in a cage to display them to citizens of Sangareddy during the Dasara festivities organised at Ambedkar stadium in the town.

Jagga Reddy, his wife and Telangana Industrial and Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) Limited chairman T Nirmala Reddy, the couple's daughter Jaya Reddy, and son Bharath Sai Reddy also held the birds inappropriately to display them to citizens in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

When Jagga Reddy's followers shared them on social media, the pictures and photographs went viral and drew criticism from many. Some wildlife activists lodged a complaint with Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana, Subadra Devi, seeking action against Jagga Reddy and his family members.

According to sources, a local Congress leader got the Indian rollers trapped by roping in a hunter to impress Jagga Reddy. Despite the Telangana Forest Department warning citizens ahead of every Dasara festival about caging the Indian rollers, such incidents have happened.

How did the Haber-Bosch process change the world?

A hundred million tonnes of nitrogen are now removed from the atmosphere and converted into fertilizer via the Haber-Bosch process, adding 165 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen to the soil. To compare, biological processes replenish an estimated 100-140 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen every year. Without the industrial synthesis of ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen, we would have had no way to meet the world's expanding demand for food.

What is the nitrogen molecule?

Nitrates are molecules of oxygen and nitrogen, abundant in the earth's atmosphere. Nearly eight metric tonnes of nitrogen lie on every square metre of the earth's surface, yet it can't feed a single blade of grass. Nitrogen in the air is mostly in the form of N2. When two nitrogen atoms join together, they share three pairs of electrons to form a triple bond, rendering the molecule nearly unbreakable.The energy required to break the nitrogen triple bond is so high (946 kJ/mol) that molecular nitrogen is nearly inert. But if the bond is broken, atomic nitrogen can form ionic nitrides such as ammonia (NH3), ammonium (NH4+), or nitrates (NO3–). Plants need these types of nitrogen, called reactive nitrogen, to synthesise enzymes, proteins, and amino acids. Healthy plants often contain 3-4% nitrogen in their above-ground tissues, significantly more than other nutrients.

How is nitrogen availed in nature?

Among natural things, only lightning has enough energy to destroy the N2 triple bond. In a lightning bolt, nitrogen in the air combines with oxygen to generate nitrogen oxides such as NO and NO2. They can then combine with water vapour to create nitric and nitrous acids (HNO3 and HNO2, respectively). Reactive nitrogen-rich droplets fertilize farmlands, woods, and grasslands when it rains. This pathway is estimated to replenish soil by around 10 kg of nitrogen per acre per year.Apart from lightning, a gentle metabolic process carried out by Azotobacter bacteria can also create reactive nitrogen. Some microorganisms such as Rhizobia have developed symbiotic relationships with legume plants (clover, peas, beans, alfalfa, and acacia) to provide reactive nitrogen in exchange for nutrition. Azolla, a species of aquatic fern with a symbiotic association with the cyanobacterium Anabaena azollae, can absorb and convert nitrogen from the air to reactive nitrogen, so dried and decaying Azolla is an effective fertilizer for farmland.

What is the nitrogen cycle?

Plants usually get their reactive nitrogen from the soil, where they absorb minerals dissolved in water such as ammonium (NH4+) and nitrate (NO3-).Humans and animals need nine pre-made nitrogen-rich amino acids from plants. Nitrogen makes up approximately 2.6% of the human body. The nitrogen ingested by plants and animals returns to the soil through excreta and the decomposition of dead bodies. But the cycle is incomplete: some nitrogen is released back into the environment in molecular form. Nitrogen from human waste is also rarely returned to the fields.Although legumes can produce nitrogen independently, important food crops such as rice, wheat, corn, and potatoes and less well-known crops like cassava, bananas, and common fruits and vegetables draw nitrogen from the soil. As the human population multiplies, nitrogen in agricultural soil depletes faster, needing fertilizers to compensate.Farmers understood this early. They cultivated legumes or fertilized their crops with ammonia to increase output where possible. They also used ammonium-bearing minerals from volcanic eruptions and naturally occurring nitrates found in caves, walls, and rocks as fertilizer.

How is ammonia made?

Ammonia (NH4) is made of nitrogen and hydrogen, both of which exist naturally as two-atom molecules. Under extreme heat, the molecules separate and form a compound, but it is short-lived because of the heat. The reversible reaction N2 + 3H2 = 2NH3 (the '=' sign has been used here as a stand-in for bidirectional arrows) must be maintained in specific conditions to harvest considerable amounts of ammonia.The German chemist Fritz Haber heated the N2-H2 combination to various temperatures in a platinum cylinder and calculated the amount of ammonia created. He also used hot ammonia to decompose into nitrogen and hydrogen, attempting to approach the equilibrium point from the opposite direction. At 1,000 degrees Celsius, Haber found that harvestable ammonia made up just one-hundredth of 1% of the mixture — too little for commercial production.Then Haber wondered if pressure could be the answer. He calculated that hydrogen and nitrogen would only remain united in extreme conditions: temperatures of 200 degrees Celsius and pressures of 200 atm (that is, 200-times the average air pressure at sea level). But the ammonia production rate was still too slow, so Haber set about looking for a catalyst. He also realised that if he could cool the ammonia to a liquid state, he could collect most of it.

What is the Haber-Bosch process?

A young Englishman named Robert Le Rossignol with a talent for practical engineering problems had recently joined Haber's laboratory. He created the seals required to maintain high pressure in an experimental chamber. Friedrich Kirchenbauer, a highly competent mechanic, built the corresponding equipment. Haber later congratulated Le Rossignol and Kirchenbauer in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, sharing patents and prize money with both men.The heated hydrogen and nitrogen combination would circulate in a steel chamber at a pressure of 200 atm. The chamber had a valve that could withstand the high pressure while allowing the N2-H2 mixture to pass through. Haber also built a contraption to ensure the hot gases departing from the reaction chamber passed their heat to the cooler incoming gases. Thus the departing combination would rapidly cool while the ingested gas would be heated, achieving two objectives at once.

The Haber-Bosch method allowed industries to develop cheap synthetic fertilizers, which was a critical component in the sevenfold rise in the world's food supply during the 20th century. But environmentalists have said the utility of fertilizers can't be taken for granted. For one, Haber's nitrogen fertilizer is not harmless

As for the catalyst, luck played a part. At this time innovators were looking for a material to use as lightbulb filament (and Thomas Edison had yet to zero in on tungsten). Auergesellschaft of Berlin, a German gas-lamp and electric-light manufacturing company, had asked Haber to recommend a suitable filament and supplied his laboratory with various hard-to-find materials. Haber soon began testing each of them as ammonia catalysts.One of them was osmium, a rare and dense metal found in trace levels on the earth. When Haber inserted an osmium sheet into the pressure chamber, filled it with a N2-H2 mixture, and heated them, the nitrogen triple bond cracked away, leaving reactive nitrogen to fuse with hydrogen and produce a very large amount of ammonia. German propagandists soon hailed the feat as "brot aus luft!" — producing bread out of air, as Jesus is fabled to have done.

Haber went on to test several catalysts and discovered uranium worked well, too. However both osmium and uranium were very expensive for large-scale use. When Badische Anilin- und Soda-Fabrik (BASF), a leading German chemical company, decided to upscale Haber's experiment to a factory-scale operation, it asked its own chemist Alwin Mittasch to find a cheap and readily available catalyst. Mittasch conducted thousands of experiments with 4,000 materials and found that certain iron oxides were good catalysts. Finally, some brilliant engineering by BASF's Carl Bosch turned Haber's tabletop setup into an industrial process to produce fertilizer.Five years after Haber et al.'s accomplishment, BASF opened its first ammonia factory in 1913.

What are the downsides of fertilizers?

A century ago, the average lifespan at birth of an Indian was only 19 years, compared to 67+ years today. The Haber-Bosch method allowed industries to develop cheap synthetic fertilizers, which was a critical component in the sevenfold rise in the world's food supply during the 20th century. According to one estimate, one-third of the world's population —around two billion people — would be without food if the Haber process for nitrogen fixation did not exist.But environmentalists have also said the utility of fertilizers can't be taken for granted. For one, Haber's nitrogen fertilizer is not harmless. An average adult carries 1-2 kg of nitrogen in human tissues, but in many countries, the yearly fertilizer application currently exceeds 50 kg of nitrogen per capita. The global average is around 13 kg.The 'extra' nitrogen is drawn up by plants along with a greater quantity of other minerals. It also over-nourishes bacteria and accelerates biochemical processes that release reactive nitrogen into the atmosphere, where it acidifies rain, corroding and destroying land. Nitrogen fertilizers are also part of the surface runoff into fresh and coastal water, accidentally fertilizing and deoxygenating it. Even a small amount of moisture here causes weeds to flourish.In sum, Haber's work was essential but insufficient to feed humanity. Starvation, hunger, and malnutrition coexist with godowns bursting with grain surpluses, sometimes even within the same country. The saga of nitrogen fixation teaches us a more significant lesson: technological fixes alone can't solve people's problems. We also need political action and social mobilisation.

On Samsung workers' right to unionise

The realisation of their fundamental right to form a registered trade union to collectively bargain for better terms of employment is at the heart of the protests by Samsung India workers' at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. They want to meet the South Korean giant on equal terms across the negotiating table to jointly frame a collective agreement regulating their work conditions.The State government responded by forming a 'workmen committee' to resolve the problem and resorted to police violence to quell the workers' strike which began on September 9. Labour law expert and Madras High Court lawyer, senior advocate R. Vaigai, pointed out that the State's action was akin to putting the cart before the horse. Legally, she said, the registration of the trade union named Samsung India Workers Union (SIWU) under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 should have preceded the formation of the workmen committee. The unleashing of the police, rather than following the tenets of the 1926 law to register the trade union and facilitate a democratic atmosphere for collective bargaining under the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, gives the impression that the government is on the side of the Samsung management. On the other hand, the State government and Samsung have alleged that SIWU is backed by the Centre of Trade Unions (CITU). Samsung has further objected to the inclusion of its name in SIWU.On the right to form a union

The Supreme Court in B.R. Singh versus Union of India in 1989 upheld the right to form associations or unions as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution. The State or the courts could "reasonably" restrict the formation of unions, associations, cooperative societies under Article 19(4) of the Constitution only if there is danger to public order, morality, sovereignty or integrity of India. The restrictions must be based on logic and not arbitrary. The necessity to form unions is obviously for voicing the demands and grievances of labour. "Trade unionists act as mouthpieces of labour," the court noted.

It is the obligation of the State, acting through the Registrar of Trade Unions, as the regulatory authority under the 1926 Act, to register trade unions and give individual workers their voice. The benefits of registration under the 1926 Act include immunity from both civil and criminal action. Section 4 of the Act notes that even seven members could apply for registration of their union. Under Section 6, the Registrar has to merely examine whether a trade union's rules conform with the rules of the Act. Speaking to Frontline, A. Soundararajan, CITU Tamil Nadu Secretary, has accused the State of "blocking SIWU's registration".

On collective bargainingThe Madras High Court, in Rangaswami versus Registrar of Trade Unions, succinctly defined the history and object of the Trade Unions Act as "the organisation of labour to enable collective bargaining". 'Collective bargaining' is defined in Article 2 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Collective Bargaining Convention of 1981 as negotiations between employees and employers or their organisations to determine working conditions and terms of employment. The product of successful collective bargaining is a collective agreement. Collective bargaining is statutorily recognised in the Industrial Disputes Act. The Act provides that in case of failure of collective bargaining, the State steps in to refer the matter to a conciliation officer. The case is further referred to a labour court or an industrial tribunal if the conciliation officer does not succeed.The roots of collective bargaining trace back to the late 18th and early 19th century when the coal miners struggled for basic conditions. Collective bargaining has protected workers' rights post the economic depression of the 1930s and the Second World War to evolve as a norm along with the emergence of the democratic form of governance globally. In India, traces of collective bargaining could be found in the 1918 Ahmedabad Mills strike led by Mahatma Gandhi in which he initiated the formation of a committee of arbitrators drawn from both the workers, who were seeking a wage raise after the revocation of their plague allowance, and their employers.Eminent labour law scholar Sir Otto Kahn Freund referred to the level playing field offered by collective bargaining with the expression, "power stands against power". Susan Hayter, in an ILO document, termed freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining as fundamental workers' rights. Former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a Senate address in 1937 said the "denial or observance of this right means the difference between despotism and democracy". The National Labour Relations Act or the Wagner Act in the U.S. marked the refusal of an employer to bargain with a workers' union as an 'unfair labour practice'. The same spirit is reflected in the Fifth Schedule of India's 1947 Act, which lists an employer's refusal to "bargain collectively, in good faith, with recognised trade unions" as an unfair labour practice. The celebrated U.S. Supreme Court case, National Labor Relations Board versus Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp held that employees have a fundamental right to organise and select representatives of their own choosing for collective bargaining. The court said any act on the part of the employer to prevent the "free exercise of this right" would amount to discrimination and coercion to be condemned by the competent legislative authority.The Indian Supreme Court has recognised the importance of collective bargaining to achieve social justice in modern industrial life (Karnal Leather Karmchari versus Liberty Footwear Company). The court, in Ram Prasad Vishwakarma versus The Chairman, Industrial Tribunal, noted how labour was at a "great disadvantage" before the "days of collective bargaining".The right to strike labour is a legal right recognised with certain restrictions under the Industrial Disputes Act. The Supreme Court described strikes as a "form of demonstration" by workers for their rights. For example, they include various forms like 'go-slow', 'sit-in-work', 'work-to-the-rule', 'absenteeism', etc. The court has observed the right to demonstrate and, therefore, the right to strike, as important weapons in the armoury of workers. The right is recognised by almost all democratic countries. The ILO considers the right to strike as a corollary of the right to organise.However, the 1947 Act does not recognise the right to strike as absolute. Section 22 prohibits strikes in breach of contract or without giving employer notice within six weeks before striking or within 14 days of giving such notice; or before the expiry of the date of strike specified in the notice or during the pendency of proceedings before a conciliation officer and seven days after the conclusion of such proceedings. In the All India Bank Employees case, the Supreme Court said the right to form an association was a "guaranteed" one, but the methods used by the unions to achieve their purposes must adhere to the existing industrial laws of the land.The criticism against the involvement of CITU in the workers' efforts to register a labour union is countermanded by the provisions of the Trade Unions Act itself. Section 6(e) of the Act provides for not only the admission of "ordinary members" from the workforce of a facility in a trade union but also the inclusion of "honorary or temporary members" as office-bearers to form the executive of the union. Section 16 of the same Act permits the constitution of a separate fund for "political purposes". Under this provision, a registered trade union may constitute a separate fund, from contributions separately levied, to promote the "civic and political interests of its members". The section allows these funds to be used to even pay for a candidate to contest elections to any legislative body constituted under the Constitution. The fundamental right to free speech of the workers includes their right to political expression.While the State Industries Minister claimed the discussions with the committee had led to a resolution, The Hindu quoted the striking workers saying the 'workmen committee' was composed of employees who backed the company.Section 3 of the 1947 Act covers the constitution of a 'works committee'. The statute empowers the appropriate government to direct the employer to form a 'works committee' consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers engaged in the establishment. The workers in the committee have to be chosen "in consultation with their trade union, if any, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926". The provision is also replicated in the yet-to-be implemented Industrial Relations Code of 2020. Hence, the law mandates the registration of a trade union before the formation of a works committee.What is in a name?

Samsung India has complained to the Labour Commissioner that the use of the name 'Samsung' in the SIWU was a violation of the Trade Marks Act, 1999.Section 29(5) of the 1999 Act states that a registered trade mark is infringed if it is used as the name or the part of a trade name or the name or part of the name of a business concern. Trade unions are not trade or business concerns dealing in goods or services. Section 2(h) of the 1926 Act defines 'trade union' as a "combination" primarily formed to regulate relations between/among workers and employers.