

NEARBY



Probing NOC cases a challenging task for SIT
 VISAKHAPATNAM
 The SIT inquiring into the alleged land scams in Visakhapatnam district is facing an uphill task in gathering details pertaining to the 'no objection certificate' (NOC) cases, as the original 'Darkhast Registers' have gone missing in most of the cases from the department concerned.
ANDHRA PRADESH ▶ PAGE 4

VILAN
 world class inners

METROPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

CJI Misra asserts himself in SC amidst corruption storm

Overrules Justice Chelameswar's order on Bench formation

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI
 Disapproving of a judicial order that had decided the composition of a Bench for hearing a corruption case, a five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, on Friday ruled that it is the prerogative of the Chief Justice to decide what matter is heard by which judge.
 The ruling nullifies an order passed by a two-judge Bench a day earlier, directing that the case be posted before a Bench comprising the five senior-most judges

There cannot be any kind of command directing the CJI to constitute a Bench. That authority is the CJI's domain. The CJI is master of the roster and any order passed by any judge allocating a matter to any Bench will not hold

DIPAK MISRA, CJI heading the Constitution Bench

Your Lordships can pass an order without hearing me. You have heard persons who are not parties to the case for an hour. If your Lordships want to pass an order without hearing me, then do it

PRASHANT BHUSHAN, Senior counsel

on November 13.
 In his order, the CJI asserted his role as "the master of the roster" in order to protect the Supreme Court from "anarchy", at the end of a hearing marked by exchange of harsh words, heckling, ac-

cusations of browbeating judges and forum-shopping and repeated warnings of action for contempt of court.
 The matter concerns two petitions seeking a probe by a special investigation team (SIT) into allegations of corruption contained in a first information report registered by the CBI last September.
 The FIR alleged that a plot was hatched by some, including a former Orissa HC judge and a hawala dealer, to bribe SC judges hearing the case of a debarred private medical college.
 Chief Justice Misra was leading the Bench that heard and decided the case of the medical college. The petitions, filed by advocate Kamini Jaiswal and NGO Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms, said Chief Justice Misra should not be part of any proceedings, either administrative or judicial, in the case.
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
BHUSHAN STORMS OUT ▶ PAGE 7

GST slashed on 178 items ahead of Gujarat elections

Rate in restaurants cut to 5%, will be applicable from Nov. 15

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
 GUWAHATI
 The Goods and Services Tax Council on Friday sharply reduced to just 50 the number of items in the highest tax rate of 28%. At its 23rd meeting in Guwahati, chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the Council also staggered the return filing process, reduced the tax rates on restaurants and expanded the Composition Scheme for small firms.
 Tax experts termed the Council's decisions – virtually upending the original GST structure – as a bold decision ahead of the Gujarat elections. The decisions are expected to win over businesses struggling to cope with the transition to the new indirect tax system.

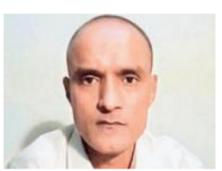
Course correction
 GST rate on mass consumption items cut to 18%

- Only 50 items, mostly demerit, sin and luxury goods (consumption of which is discouraged) will figure in the 28% bracket
- Chewing gum, chocolates, preparation for facial make-up, shaving and after-shave items, shampoo, deodorants, washing powder, granite and marble to be charged 18% GST
- Paints and cement have been retained in the 28% tax bracket along with washing machines and air-conditioners
- All restaurants, both air-conditioned and non-AC, to be charged 5% GST

The Council decided to reduce the tax rate on 178 of current 228 items from 28% to 18%, with effect from November 15. Items with tax rates reduced to nil from 5% include guar meal, sweet potatoes, and dried or frozen fish. "All restaurants will be taxed at 5%, except those in hotels with a tariff of ₹7,500 or more, which will be taxed at 18% with input tax credit (ITC). Outdoor catering will be taxed at 18% with ITC," Mr. Jaitley said.
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
NON-BJP REGIMES FORCED THE REVISION: CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 10

Jadhav will be permitted to meet his wife, says Pakistan

Islamabad cites humanitarian grounds for nod



KULBHUSHAN ZAJDI
 KARACHI
 Pakistan on Friday offered to let Kulbhushan Jadhav, the former Indian naval officer convicted by a military court for alleged espionage, meet his wife on humanitarian grounds.
 "The Government of Pakistan has decided to arrange a meeting of Commander Kulbhushan Jhadav with his wife, in Pakistan, purely on humanitarian grounds. A Note Verbale has been sent to the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, today," a foreign office statement said.
 Pakistan has consistently denied India's requests for consular access to Mr. Jhadav.
 Mr. Jadhav was arrested

by Pakistani law enforcement agencies on March 3, 2016, after he allegedly crossed over from Iran.
 In his video confession, which was released by Islamabad, he stated that he was tasked by the RAW to plan and organise espionage and terrorist activities aimed at destabilising Pakistan. He was sentenced to death by a military court.
 On India's appeal, the International Court of Justice stayed the sentence in May this year.
BSF RAISES CONCERNS WITH PAKISTAN RANGERS ▶ PAGE 10

Doctors call the bluff of teen's 'tears of stone'

LVPEI specialists solve the mystery; girl says she put tiny stones into her eyes

G. VENKATARAMANA RAO
 VIJAYAWADA
 Classmates of Anamika (name changed) were amazed when tiny stones came out of her eyes along with tears. The teachers were, of course, very worried. Every time Anamika shed tears of stone, there was a flutter.
 This happened mostly at school. Word spread that a girl was shedding tears of stone and even the media got interested. A few television channels visited the school and took bytes of the girl and the stones that

came out of the eyes. Initially, the attention was enjoyed by all, particularly the child. Every time Anamika cried, tiny sand like particles rolled out with the tears. But in due course, the school management got very nervous and informed her grandparents, with whom she was staying.
 The grandparents took her to the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute for a check up and the case was referred to the head of the Paediatric Ophthalmology Niranjan Pehera. One look at the girl's eyes and the stone

particles, Dr. Niranjan knew that she was lying. "It is impossible for stones of that size to be generated in the eye. Microscopic calcium deposits are formed under the eyelids in some people, but even those do not come out with tears. They have to be removed with the tip of a knife or a needle," he explained.
 But Anamika kept insisting that the stones were coming out of her eyes. She spilled the beans when Dr. Niranjan told her that an operation had to be performed to see if there were

more stones inside her eye and that they should be removed immediately.
 Only then did the girl, who had recently entered her teens, tell the doctor that she collected the tiny stones in the school ground and put them into her eye in the toilet. "She learnt how to move her eyeballs to bring the stone particles out," Dr Niranjan explained.
 Though it was thought that Anamika was doing it to bunk school, she reportedly revealed that her parents gave more attention to her brother and she had

to stay with her grandparents. By doing this, she was able to get the attention of all. The teachers corroborated the girl's story saying that she was a bright student and was fond of coming to school.
 Fortunately for Anamika there was no major eye damage. If she was not brought immediately to the Institute, there could have been irreversible damage. Teachers should keep an eye on the eyes of students. Blindness could be prevented by alert teachers, Dr. Niranjan said.

SC refuses to stay Padmavati release

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI
 The Supreme Court on Friday declined to stay the release of the period drama *Padmavati*, saying the apex court should not intervene when the Censor Board has not even certified the film.
 Earlier, the Allahabad High Court also declined to entertain a plea seeking a ban on the Bollywood film.
 The Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed movie is due for release on December 1.
Huge relief
 The court's decision to not intervene comes as a big re-

lief for the film-makers in the aftermath of a mob attack in Jaipur and a vandalism incident in Kolhapur during the shooting of the film.
 "Has the film been placed before the Censor Board? Has the Censor Board certified the film?" a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra asked.
 When informed that the Central Board of Film Certification was yet to certify the movie, the Bench said, "This court should not exercise its writ jurisdiction in such a situation."
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

TDP files complaint against Jagan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 KURNOOL
 Accusing Opposition leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of belying the hopes of the people who elected him as MLA by boycotting the Assembly session, TDP leaders lodged a complaint against him in the Pulivendula Police Station on Friday.
 TDP State training coordinator Ramgopal Reddy and Pulivendula market committee chairman Raghava Reddy, who lodged the complaint, told the media that Mr. Jagan was meting out injustice to the people of Pulivendula. They urged the police to register a



case under the Representation of People's Act, 1951, and initiate action against Mr. Jagan.

With Opposition boycott, it's a smooth affair in the Assembly

No noisy interruptions till 2.30 p.m.; no activity at the media point too

STAFF REPORTER
 VELAGAPUDI (GUNTUR DT.)
 The impact of YSRCP's call for boycott of the winter session of the Assembly was visible all over on the first day on Friday with the Opposition benches wearing a deserted look and there was no shouting of slogans, no rushing to the podium of the Speaker and no display of placards.
 The House began and ran smoothly without any noisy interruptions till 2.30 pm. The principal Opposition called for the boycott in protest against Speaker, Kodela Siva Prasada Rao's "inaction" in disqualifying YSRCP MLAs who defected to the ruling Telugu Desam Party. The YSRCP MLAs were not there, but Assembly staffers religiously kept the agenda and other copies ready on their tables.
 The proceedings were sans the Opposition MLAs' attempt draw the attention of the Speaker and demands for the adjournment motions seeking discussion on topics during question hour. Both question hour and zero



A worker carrying chairs on the premises of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Friday. • V. RAJU

hour went off smoothly as there was no heated argument. Except one question, which was postponed following request of the member, all the questions were answered and deliberated upon.
 The TDP MLAs encouraged Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Nara Lokesh, son of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, by thumping benches when he gave a reply to a question related to his department for the first time. Security personnel and As-

sembly Marshals kept a close watch on the YSR Congress Legislature Party office, which used to be hub of activity, despite the fact that it remained locked.
 Lobbies of Assembly and Legislative Council too looked forlorn with no animated discussions. The ruling Telugu Desam Party members too interacted with the mediapersons in lobbies.
 There was no activity at the media point, which used to be a forum for challenges and counter challenges. Barring a couple of members

and Ministers, including Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Minister Kalava Srinivasulu, none ventured towards the media point.
 In fact, the MLAs, who were very vocal and lashed out at YSRCP in previous sessions, also shied away from the media point. Some of them even ignored the waiting mediapersons and walked straight towards their vehicles parked outside.
 Cynosure of all eyes of course was Rampachodavaram YSRCP MLA Vantala Rajeswari, who crossed over to TDP and newly elected Nandyal MLA Bhuma Brahmananda Reddy. But, both of them avoided the media.
 Probably this is first time in the history of Andhra Pradesh Assembly after bifurcation that the session is going on without the Opposition. Also, there were no instances where entire session was boycotted by the Opposition. In 1980s, TDP founder-president N. T. Rama Rao boycotted the Assembly, but his party MLAs attended the sessions.

Vertex
 LIVING MODERNISED
 Since 1994
 Andhra Pradesh | Telangana

The true sign of luxury is FULLY FURNISHED apartments, at SIRIS SIGNA



Experience a luxurious lifestyle, splashed with hues of green. As ample open spaces and lush green lawns make life more joyful. Vertex Siris Signa brings you flats that enrich your living. Come visit our Model Flat and experience a life full of luxuries.



Images of the actual model flat

BOOK NOW

Get Modular Kitchen + Wardrobes for your Apartment

WORLD-CLASS CLUBHOUSE | MULTI-PURPOSE HALL | BADMINTON COURT | BILLIARDS | SWIMMING POOL AND MORE...

9014 100 400

WhatsApp: 79950 20389

FOR CHANNEL PARTNER ENQUIRIES: 040-33165400
 sales@vertexhomes.com | www.vertexhomes.com

VERTEX SIRIS SIGNA

SIRIS Company, Vijayawada

Dates are indicated are approximate. This ad is conceptual and not a legal offering for Sales/Leases.

Member CREDIT APREDA Sales Office: SIRIS Company, Bandar Road, Vijayawada