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Q1. Which India-Pakistan train service was suspended on Thursday?
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SC to hear Ayodhya case all 5 working days in wk

Departs From
Thrice-Weekly
Hearings Norm

Chamanjay M Mahapatra
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New Delhi: Departing for the first time from the tradition of three-day-a-week hearing by constitution benches, the Supreme Court on Thursday decided to hear the appeals in the Ayodhya land dispute on all five working days of the week to provide counsel adequate time to conclude submissions and enable the court to render a judgment.

A bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer sur-

BENCH GETS 24 MORE DAYS

► Breaking tradition, SC to hear case on all five working days — from Monday to Friday — instead of 3 days

► 5-judge bench gets 24 days more for hearing before CJI Gogoi retires on November 17

► In 2011, SC had stayed Allahabad HC order dividing land among 3 parties — Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhram & Sunni Waqf Board

prised the counsel when it said it would hear the case on all working days of the week. Till now, Constitution benches heard important cases for three days — from Tuesday to Thursday, Mondays and Fri-

days are kept for fresh cases.

The departure from tradition signalled the bench's intent to do justice to the hearing process on the Ayodhya case. The judges decided they should maintain their focus on the case, whose records run into over 20,000 pages.

"Breaking of the bench to allow judges to sit in different combinations on Mondays and Fridays will distract them from the focus required for hearing the Ayodhya case. The judges have to read case documents on record, which is time consuming. Reading around 60-70 petitions listed every Monday and Friday will divert focus as they not only have to read case files but also write verdicts in some of them," an SC source told TOI.

► 'Can't be both', 15

Steep rise in limits for I-T filing tax appeals

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Mumbai: The threshold limits for filing of appeals by the income tax department with tax tribunals, high courts and the Supreme Court were raised by the Central Board of Direct Taxes on Thursday, especially to cut down litigation backlog and usher in a taxpayer-friendly regime.

In a significant upward

revision, the circular said the I-T department cannot file an appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal unless the "tax effect" is Rs 50 lakh. It was Rs 20 lakh earlier. The limits for appeals before HCs and the SC are now Rs 1 crore and Rs 2 crore, respectively. The previous circular was issued on July 11 last year.

► Cess considered, P 22

Sensex soars 637pts, biggest rise since Budget

In the biggest single-session jump since the July 5 Budget, the senser gained 637 points to close at 37,227 as reports of the Centre working to resolve the row on the proposed surcharge on foreign portfolio investors lifted investor sentiment. The sharp gain came despite a Rs 417-crore net-selling by FPIs. On the NSE, Nifty gained 177 points to close at 11,002. P 21



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