

# Remove 'secular' from Constitution as it puts Hindus at disadvantage, says Sanatan Sanstha

Courtesy FP  
New Delhi, Aug 28,

Amid a debate over banning Sanatan Sanstha, the radical Hindutva outfit made a demand on Monday to exclude the word "secular" from the Preamble. Through the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution of India, added in 1976, the Preamble asserts that India is a secular nation. Elaborating on the demand at a press conference, Sanatan Sanstha spokesperson Chetan Rajhans said that the Constitution does not define which aspect of India is secular: the country, government, or the people. He further added that because of the addition of the term, Hindus are "at a disadvantage". "No other country in the world puts its majority at a disadvantage," the outfit said. Rajhans further claimed that "secular" was enacted at the time of Emergency by former prime minister Indira Gandhi, under pressure from various entities. "So, if there is a provision to add words, these

can also be removed by the same provisions," he told a media conference in Mumbai. Facing a barrage of questions, Rajhans said that the issue is "nothing new" and that the organisation has been demanding this for long through constitutional means. Although the outfit is a non-government charitable trust, it is currently facing massive criticism for being allegedly linked to terror activities, and murder cases of rationalist thinker Narendra Dabholkar and journalist Gauri Lankesh. Rajhans said that both Sanatan Sanstha and another outfit Hindu Janjagruiti Samiti, which are facing the heat of various investigating agencies, are purely religious organisations. "We are being defamed in a pre-planned manner. We do not support or approve of violence in any form. Our mission for the past 27 years is to propagate 'dharma and spirituality,'" he said. He pointed out that neither the Anti-Terrorism Squad-CBI chargesheets nor the remand applications have

named Sanatan Sanstha in any of the murder cases. "It is only parties like the Congress, communists, some intellectuals and thinkers and progressive organisations who are targeting the small organisation," he said. "Demanding a ban on us or arresting our leader, just because the accused are arrested, is ridiculous," Rajhans said. On 23 August, Prithviraj Chavan, who had served as the state's chief minister from November 2010 to September 2014, said that his government had sent a proposal to ban the organisation in 2011 and followed it up with a 1000-page dossier detailing the activities of the radical outfit in 2012. He said the dossier was "without any prejudice" and was based on a report prepared by the ATS on the activities of the Sanstha. Chavan's comments came a day after Union minister of state for home affairs Hansraj Ahir said the Centre did not have "complete information" on any proposal from the Maharashtra government to ban the outfit.

# Dalit panchayat member found dead, 6 of his colleagues booked

Agency  
Vadodara Aug 28,

The body of a member of Rasulabad village panchayat of Waghodiya taluka, Mukesh Rohit alias Balwanthbai, was found in a farm here on Monday afternoon. Police have booked six members of the panchayat in connection to the death. Mukesh, a Dalit, was also the president of the BJP SC/ST cell of Waghodiya taluka, while his wife Sonal was the sarpanch. According to the

police, prima facie it is a case of suicide. "We have registered a case against six members of the panchayat under IPC section 306 (abetment of suicide), and under Prevention of Atrocities Act and now the investigation will be taken over by the deputy superintendent of police," said Superintendent of Police, Vadodara rural, Tarun Duggal. An FIR was registered late on Monday night based on a complaint filed by Mukesh's brother. According to villagers, there were allegations of corruption against his wife and

a no-confidence motion was planned against her. Mukesh's uncle Morarbhai Rohit told The Indian Express: "There was a meeting scheduled to happen today (Monday) over the allegations. Rohit had left home for the meeting in the afternoon." Sonal was elected to the post of sarpanch a year ago and soon after problems reportedly started brewing. "After Sonal was elected, every now and then the panchayat members made allegations that both the husband and wife were

swindling money. This was troubling Mukesh for a long time but we did not expect that he would take such a drastic step," he added. Following the incident, Mukesh's family members along with Dalit activists gathered at Waghodiya police station late in the night and created ruckus over the delay in filing of an FIR and conducting the postmortem. The body has been sent to SSG hospital in Vadodara for postmortem, which will be conducted on Tuesday morning.

## Asian Games 2018-Day 10

# P V Sindhu becomes first Indian shuttler to win Silver medal



# Heavy rains disrupt traffic in Gurgaon, lead to waterlogging in several areas

Agency  
New Delhi, Aug 28,

Delhi NCR woke up to heavy showers on Tuesday morning. The rains led to disruption of road traffic movement due to severe waterlogging in several areas, especially in Gurgaon where several schools were closed. Light rains started at around 2 am but gained momentum by 4 am, and between 6 to 8 am, it turned into heavy downpour, A R S Sangwan, Deputy Director National Capital Region, told news agency IANS. Many residents took to Twitter and complained about waterlogging paralysing normal life in parts of Delhi.

Pictures and videos of vehicles and people wading through ankle-deep muddy rainwaters are doing rounds on social media. The Delhi Traffic Police has been constantly pushing alerts through its official Twitter handle, warning commuters about routes to avoid. Meanwhile, the traffic movement on the Delhi-Jaipur-Mumbai highway was severely hit due to waterlogging. Assistant Commissioner of Police Heera Singh told IANS. "Our team is trying to make the traffic movement smoother," Singh added. The Met Office predicted few

spells of rains and thundershower to occur during the day. "There will be a generally cloudy sky during the day with moderate rainfall and thundershower likely to occur," an India Meteorological Department (IMD) official said. The maximum temperature is likely to hover around 32.7 degrees Celsius. The humidity at 8.30 am was recorded 100 per cent. Monday's maximum temperature was recorded at 34.9 degrees Celsius, one notch above the season's average, while the minimum temperature settled at 26.5 degrees Celsius, the season's average.

# Kerala floods Village stares at death of age-old craft

Agency  
Chendamangalam August 28,

While floodwaters have receded, Chendamangalam, 36 km from Kochi, now faces the possibility of losing its centuries-old tradition of handloom textiles. When waters gushed into the hundreds of houses of weavers and the co-operative societies under which they worked, the first to take a hit was the age-old craft that the village is known for. Five societies, under which 600 weavers worked, have lost finished textile products, traditional weaving instruments and a huge stock of thread and dye units in the deluge. The handloom industry of Chendamangalam has a long history. It had been associated with the feudal family of Paliam, whose eldest male member had been the chief minister of the erstwhile King of Cochin. In the early days of its origin at



Chendamangalam, the weaving of handloom clothes was meant only for members of the Paliam family. Now, at a time when the village's traditional handloom sector is already facing a threat from power looms and fast depletion of manpower to other lucrative sectors, the flood has dealt it a massive blow. According to T S Baby, president of Paravur Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society, the loss for five societies would amount to approximately Rs 15 crore. "In terms of loss, the amount may not appear to be

big. But, if the sector is not revived, it would mean the death of this traditional craft, which recently got the GI (Geographical Indication) tag," he said. P A Sajan, secretary of the Chendamangalam Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society, said the flood has left the societies and their members paupers. "We have 113 people working on our society's premises and another 80 who had installed handlooms at their houses. The flood has left nothing in showrooms, handlooms and dyeing units."

## Asian Games 2018 Medal Tally

S1 No.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	88	62	43	193
2	Japan	43	37	57	137
3	Republic of Korea	31	37	44	112
4	Indonesia	24	18	28	70
5	IR Iran	17	15	15	47
6	Chinese Taipei	13	13	19	45
7	DPR Korea	12	6	7	25
8	Thailand	9	10	33	52
9	India	8	16	21	45
10	Kazakhstan	7	8	29	44
11	Uzbekistan	6	13	12	31
12	Bahrain	6	3	3	12
13	Malaysia	4	8	7	19
14	Hong Kong, China	3	11	16	30
15	UAE	3	6	3	12
16	Singapore	3	4	10	17
17	Qatar	3	3	1	7
18	Mongolia	3	2	5	10
19	Philippines	3	0	12	15
20	Vietnam	2	11	13	26
21	Kyrgyzstan	2	5	9	16
22	Jordan	2	1	8	11
23	Kuwait	2	1	0	3
24	Cambodia	2	0	1	3
25	Macau, China	1	2	1	4
26	Lebanon	1	1	2	4
27	Iraq	1	1	0	2
28	Korea	1	0	2	3
29	Lao PDR	0	2	2	4
30	Saudi Arabia	0	2	1	3
31	Turkmenistan	0	1	2	3
32	Tajikistan	0	1	0	1
33	Pakistan	0	0	3	3
34	Myanmar	0	0	2	2
35	Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
36	Syria	0	0	1	1
-	Total	300	300	413	1013

\*\*\*Updated at 12pm on August 27, 2018

Agency  
Jakarta, Aug 28,

Ace shuttler P V Sindhu today became the first Indian to win a Silver medal in Badminton at the Asian Games. In the Gold medal match at the 18th Asian Indonesia, Sindhu seeded 3rd, lost to world number one Tai Tzu-Ying of Chinese Taipei in straight games, 13-21, 16-21 to give India its third Silver of the day. Earlier, India bagged two Silver medals in Archery. Both the Compound Men's and Women's teams lost to South Korea in their respective Finals. The Men's Final went all the way down to the wire as the trio of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini lost in the tiebreaker. The Women's trio of Jyoti Vennam, Madhumita Kumari and Muskan Kirar squandered its lead and ended second best. With today's 3 Silver medals, India now have 44 medals in its kitty - 8 Gold, 16 Silver and 20 Bronze - and they continue to be 9th in the table. China maintains its lead at the top, and Japan second. The Indian Men's Table Tennis team is now facing South Korea in the semi-finals. India had defeated Japan, 3-1 in the quarterfinals last night to assure the country its first-ever Table Tennis medal in the history of the Games. In Athletics, Sprinters Hima

Das and Dutee Chand have qualified to the Women's 200 metres semi-finals. In the Qualification, while Dutee finished second with a timing of 23.37 seconds, Hima clocked 23.47 seconds to end seventh. Hima in 400 metres and Dutee in 100 metres had won a Silver each on Sunday. The semi-final race will take place in the evening. In Men's 800 metres Final, Manjit Singh and Jinson Johnson will run for medals today, with Suriya Loganathan and Sanjivani Jadhav figuring in the Women's 5,000 metres Final. The Indian Mixed 4 x 400 metres Relay team will vie for top honours. Javelin Thrower Annu Rani will also be in action in the Final. In Boxing, Sonia Lather and Pavitra will play their respective quarter-final bouts. In Men's Hockey, India will face Sri Lanka in their final Pool A match. All India Radio will broadcast live commentary on the match from 2:25 PM onwards. Both, Men's and Women's teams have already booked a place in the semi-finals. President Ram Nath Kovind has congratulated P V Sindhu for winning a Silver medal and Saina Nehwal for bagging a Bronze in Badminton at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia. In a tweet, Mr Kovind termed Sindhu and Saina's accomplishments as historic, saying that it will be remembered for years. He said, both the shuttlers continue to inspire millions to bring laurels to the country.