



India – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 8 January 2019

Any reports of intercommunal conflict in the Sandhay village area during 2017?

A document published on the website of the Census Organization of India refers to a village named Sandhai as follows:

“Sandhai is a medium size village located in Bilaspur Tehsil of Yamunanagar district, Haryana with total 254 families residing. The Sandhai village has population of 1452 of which 760 are males while 692 are females as per Population Census 2011.” (Census Organization of India (2011) *Population Census 2011: Sandhai Population - Yamunanagar, Haryana*)

See also document from the travel website One Five Nine which states:

“Sandhai is a Village in Bilaspur Tehsil in Yamunanagar District of Haryana State, India. It belongs to Ambala Division . It is located 28 KM towards North from District head quarters Yamuna Nagar. 5 KM from Bilas Pur. 79 KM from State capital Chandigarh.” (One Five Nine (undated) *Sandhai*)

Reports specifically referring to conflict in Sandhai village in 2017 were not found among sources available to the Refugee Documentation Centre.

An article from the pro-farmer Indian newspaper The Northlines refers to protests by Jats in Haryana state in January 2017 as follows:

“Haryana has gone on maximum alert as the fresh round of agitation called by a section of Jat community demanding reservation in government jobs and education institutions began on Sunday.

Keeping in view the fresh call for protest, the authorities have banned the assembly of five or more people in about 500 meters from national and state highways and railway stations.

The paramilitary forces are out in sensitive areas while heavy police force too has been deployed to maintain strict vigil.

According to reports, Jat outfits will be staging demonstration in almost 19 districts of the state demanding reservation for the community in government jobs as well as education institutions.” (The Northlines (29 January 2017) *Haryana on alert: Jat quota agitation begins in 19 districts*)

An article from the web publication Jagran English states:

“Seeking reservation in government jobs for the community, members of Jat organisations today started their agitation in most districts of Haryana.

The call for the fresh stir has been given by some Jat outfits, especially those owing allegiance to the All India Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti (AIJASS) headed by Yashpal Malik.” (Jagran English (30 January 2017) *Jats Begin Stir In Haryana, Demonstrations Peaceful*)

An article from the Economic Times states:

“Haryana has been put on maximum alert in view of the call for a fresh round of quota agitation from Sunday given by a section of Jats.

During a similar stir a year ago, there were 30 deaths and widespread destruction of property.

As a precautionary measure, section 144 has already been imposed in sensitive districts, including Rohtak, Sonipat, Jhajjar, and at other places in the state, officials said.” (The Economic Times (30 January 2017) *Haryana on alert as jats call for fresh round of quota agitation from today*)

An article from the Indian Express states:

“Day two of the Jat quota stir witnessed huge participation of women even as dharnas continued on Monday in the 18 districts of Haryana. All India Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti (AIJASS) led by Yashpal Malik had called for protests from Sunday demanding withdrawal of cases lodged against ‘innocent’ youths in the February 2016 violence. The outfit on Monday claimed that representatives of all 36 communities have have extended their support to the dharnas.” (Indian Express (31 January 2017) *Jat protest day 2: Women join protest in large numbers*)

See also Indian Express article which states:

“Almost A year later, Haryana is again witnessing Jat quota stir, but with a sharp contrast. Unruly mobs of February 2016 have been replaced by disciplined agitators. This time, not only the government authorities have taken preventive measures, but the agitating Jats are also fighting under the single leadership of Yashpal Malik, president of the All India Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti (AIJASS). Last February, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had to call over 100 Jat leaders, including khap chiefs, for talks over the quota demand. Then, the youths had gone out of control as different Jat groups tried to show their strength.

Political leaders were giving inflammatory speeches on caste lines and the government was not able to control them which gave enough ammunition to antisocial elements to turn the agitation into a caste violence that left 30 dead and over 300 injured. But, this time, the government seems alert. Even those BJP leaders, who support reservation for Jats, are exercising restraint while making statements.” (Indian Express (31 January 2017) *Jat quota agitation: Then and now, tale of two stirs*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to

the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

References:

Census Organization of India (2011) *Population Census 2011: Sandhai Population - Yamunanagar, Haryana*
<https://www.census2011.co.in/data/village/58070-sandhai-haryana.html>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)

The Economic Times (30 January 2017) *Haryana on alert as jats call for fresh round of quota agitation from today*
<https://www.lexisnexis.com>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)
This is a subscription database

Indian Express (31 January 2017) *Jat protest day 2: Women join protest in large numbers*
<https://www.lexisnexis.com>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)
This is a subscription database

Indian Express (31 January 2017) *Jat quota agitation: Then and now, tale of two stirs*
<https://www.lexisnexis.com>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)
This is a subscription database

Jagran English (30 January 2017) *Jats Begin Stir In Haryana, Demonstrations Peaceful*
<https://www.lexisnexis.com>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)
This is a subscription database

The Northlines (29 January 2017) *Haryana on alert: Jat quota agitation begins in 19 districts*
<https://www.lexisnexis.com>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)
This is a subscription database

One Five Nine (undated) *Sandhai*
<http://www.onefivenine.com/india/villages/Yamunanagar/Bilaspur/Sandhai>
(Accessed 8 January 2019)

Sources Consulted:

Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UNHCR Refworld