

# 1984 anti-Sikh riots case: Sajjan Kumar likely to surrender today

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 31,

Former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, who was sentenced to life for his involvement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, is expected to surrender on Monday, the last day of the deadline set by Delhi High Court.



humanity" perpetrated by those who enjoyed "political patronage" and aided by an "indifferent" law enforcement agency. The court had also directed him to the "remainder of his natural life" in the case, saying the riots were a "crime against

deadline till January 30. Kumar had contended that he had a big family and had to settle certain matters, including those related to property. On December 23, the former Congress leader moved the Supreme Court against the High Court verdict, seeking an urgent hearing and

quashing of the sentence. In his plea before the apex court, he had contended that the finding of the High Court was "erroneous" and that he was wrongly punished. The plea also contended that there was no evidence to substantiate the conspiracy charges against him or that he even knew the other co-accused. Earlier, in April 2013, a special CBI court had acquitted Kumar in the case. The CBI and relatives of victims of the riots had appealed against the acquittal in the Delhi High Court.

## Delhi metro pink line: Lajpat Nagar-Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 corridor inaugurated, services to start from 4 pm

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 31,

The Lajpat Nagar-Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 corridor of Delhi metro's pink line was inaugurated by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Monday. The passenger services on the 9.7-km-long corridor will begin from 4pm today.

linked. The Lajpat Nagar-Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 corridor has five stations—Lajpat Nagar, Vinobapuri, Ashram, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Mayur Vihar Ph-1 and Mayur Vihar Pocket-1. A total of 29 trains will be operational on the pink line. Trains will operate between Majlis Park and Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 at a peak hour frequency of 5 minutes and 12 seconds. During the non-peak hours, the frequency will be five minutes and 45 seconds. Mayur Vihar Ph-1 and Mayur Vihar Pocket-1 are elevated stations and the rest are underground, the official said. This section

has one interchange station Mayur Vihar Ph-1. "The new Mayur Vihar Ph-1 station is an engineering marvel as it has been constructed on a narrow road with only 13 metres of width. The viaduct adjacent to the station passes at a height of 23 metre and goes above the Dwarka-Noida Blue Line viaduct as well as a road flyover. The new station has a length of 140 metre and has 11 escalators and six lifts," the DMRC said in a statement. The Hazrat Nizamuddin Metro station on the Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar Pink Corridor of Delhi Metro's Phase-3 will become one of the metro

network's major transit hubs as the station would provide direct connectivity with the Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station as well as the Sarai Kale Khan Inter State Bus Terminus. "The station will have dedicated entry/exit points connecting to the Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station and the ISBT at Sarai Kale Khan. One of the entry/exit points will be within a vicinity of 50 metre from the Sarai Kale Khan ISBT. Another entry/exit will be near the Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station approximately at a distance of 150 metre," DMRC said.

## Rajnath Singh rejects allegation of corruption in Rafale deal

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec 31, Home Minister Rajnath Singh today outrightly rejected allegation of corruption in the Rafale aircraft deal asserting that a lie spoken many a times cannot turn into truth. He was responding to Congress charges on the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Singh said the government has been consistent in its stand that it is ready for a discussion on the issue. He wondered why the main opposition party is running away from discussion on the aircraft deal. Earlier, Mallikarjun Kharge of Congress raised the issue reiterating his party's demand for JPC probe into the deal. He alleged that the deal is a big scam and questioned the government for not disclosing the price of the aircrafts.

## Bangladesh: Massive victory for Sheikh Hasina-led grand alliance



By- Siam Sarower Jamil,  
Dhaka, Dec. 31,

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Grand alliance has got absolute majority in the 11th national elections of Bangladesh to retain power for the third consecutive term. She is going to be the longest serving prime Minister of Bangladesh. as she will be the PM for third time in a row and this

will be fourth term as PM of Bangladesh. Out of 299 seats, the results were announced for 298. Of these, the ruling Awami League won 259 constituencies. Meanwhile, Jatiya Party (H M Ershad) won in 20 constituencies. Independent candidates three, Workers Party (WP) three and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh

won two seats each. Besides, Bangladesh Tariatq Federation and Jatiya Party (Manju) won one seat each. The opposition alliance, Jatiya Oikya Front, won seven seats, of which BNP won five seats and Gono Forum won two seats. Voting for the 11th parliamentary elections began at 8am and continued till 4pm without any break on Sunday.

## Nagaland ends the year still striving for political solution

Agency  
Kohima, Dec 31,

Another year, 2018, has passed with the demand for a solution to the Naga political issue by the Nagaland Government, opposition Naga Peoples Front and various Naga organisations, including the Nagaland Gaon Burhas Federation (NGBF), who organised successful statewide

rallies on December 12 last. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio met Prime Minister Modi on December 13 and impressed upon him on the desire of the Nagas for an early settlement to the vexed, decade-old Naga political issue. Rio briefed the Prime Minister that the NGBF also carried out a peaceful march on December 12 across all

districts of the State and also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Governor of Nagaland and all the Deputy Commissioners for an early and inclusive solution. The Opposition party of Nagaland Assembly the Naga Peoples Front (NPF), which has taken the Naga issue as a top priority for the Nagaland Assembly election

during the beginning of this year, has also demanded an early solution of the Naga political issue as desired by all sections of people of Nagaland. The Leader of Opposition T R Zeliang on various occasion demanded for an early solution of the Naga issue in the state Assembly and various platforms as well.

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## Governance and Human Relationships in Multi-Ethnic States

He writes:

As the demand for responsible government gained momentum in Manipur during the 1940s, the Maharaja wanted to introduce some political reforms in the state. Even when the exit of British colonial rule was only a matter of time, Pearson, President of the state *darbar*, insisted that until and unless separate hill administration regulation was sanctioned, no new constitution would come into effect. Thus, throughout the Colonial period, the hill administration did not form an integral part of the general administration of Manipur state. The Maharaja and his *Darbar* had little or no link with the hill administration. The president who was already overburdened with the *Darbar* works and general administration of Manipur could not give due attention to the problems and needs of the hill people. On many vital and important issues, the president did things in secret connivance with the political agent.<sup>9</sup>

(b) *Post Colonial*: In 1947, the Hill Peoples Administration Regulation was enacted by the Maharaja, which divided the whole hill territory into circles. Each village of 20 tax-paying households or above, there was a village authority consisting of chiefs and elders. Above the village authority, there was a circle authority comprising one circle officer appointed by the government and a council of 5 members elected by the village authorities falling within the circle. The Manipur (Village Authority in Hill Areas) Act was passed in 1956 and for the first time election of members of village authority on the basis of adult franchise was introduced. When Manipur attained statehood in 1972, the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act 1972 was passed by the state government. But unlike their counterparts in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, no provision under sixth scheduled was extended to the so-called autonomous district councils in Manipur. They had no judicial and legislative powers. The district councils were dissolved in 1988. The 7<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly passed the Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Council (Amendment) Bill on July 25, 2000.<sup>10</sup> In July 2010 district council elections

were held after more than 20 years under the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act 2008, which have no provisions for Tribal autonomy nor judicial and legislative provisions. Till date, the rightful demand for the extension of the Sixth Scheduled in the hill areas of Manipur had been sabotaged with the pretext of adding 'local adjustment and amendments' in the Sixth Scheduled.<sup>11</sup> On the other hand, the valley districts enjoyed the extension of Panchayati Raj under the 11<sup>th</sup> Scheduled and implementation of Municipality Acts under the 12<sup>th</sup> Scheduled.

### Issues and Challenges

After Independence, special provisions were made by the Government of India in the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules of the Constitution to safeguard the interests and well-being of its tribal population. The Fifth Scheduled outlined the structure and governance of Scheduled Areas in tribal interests and the Sixth Scheduled was conceived as an instrument of tribal self-rule. Tribal areas in eight states of mainland India were included under the Fifth Scheduled and the Sixth Scheduled covers the four north eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The hill districts of Manipur however are not included in either Fifth or Sixth Schedules.<sup>13</sup>

According to 2001 Census, the Census Commission of India approved the total population of Manipur at 23 lakhs. Accordingly adjustment of constituencies or delimitations was to be made for the 60 house member of Manipur of Legislative Assembly. The number of 40 MLAs which represented the four valley district at an average of 55 Sq. Km per MLA had to be sliced down to 35 MLAs and the hill areas which cover more than 20,000 Sq. Km and represented by only 20 MLAs at an average of 1000 plus Sq. Km per MLA were to gain 5 Assembly constituencies. This development had been stall by the Census Commission of India and the Delimitation Commission of India.<sup>14</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly consists of 60 members, out of which 20 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 1 reserved for Scheduled Caste. With a multi party system in India and a total of just 20

seats/berths the elected members of the Tribal community find themselves in contradictory situations in the state assembly when it comes to safeguarding Tribal rights.

Another Act which is very much contentious is the Manipur Land Reform and Land Revenue Act (MLR & LRA) 1960, which was introduced in many tribal areas in spite of stiff opposition by tribal groups. Lal Dena critical about the Act says, "In the name of development MLR & LRA has been introduced as piece meal in some plain areas of hill districts like Chandel and Churachandpur."<sup>15</sup> Some of the rules in the act provide that when a land is to be transferred from a tribal to a non-tribal the permission of the deputy commissioner of the concerned district is necessary. There has been consistent demand for the extension of the act over the hill areas from the valley based organisations. At the same time, there is also a simultaneous demand for the introduction of a separate land law for the hill areas of Manipur. The Advisory Committee on Social Policy (1995-1997) had already made a conceptual draft land law (for the hill areas) but nothing tangible has been done in this regard till today.<sup>16</sup> Land issue and Chiefship goes hand in hand among the Kukis. According to Thangkholim Haokip, the issue of land reforms and abolition of chiefship are likely to dominate Manipur political scene in the near future. It may even result into plain versus the hills conflict. Unlike some Kuki chiefs, the Kukis in general are not against land reforms as such; what they demand is that before the extension of MLR & LRA Act, the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution should be extended in the hill areas.<sup>17</sup> The MLR & LRA Act is now extended to:

1. 89 villages of Churachandpur district, vide notification no. 142/12/60 dated 22-2-1962 of the Government of Manipur
2. 14 villages in Sadar Hills of Senapati District, vide notification no. 138/4/64, dated 25-2-1965 of the Government of Manipur.
3. 14 villages in Khoupum Valley of Tamenglong district, vide notification no. 3/12/83, dated 14-11-1987 of the

Government of Manipur.

One serious problem is that under section 14 of the said Act, a person in a tribal village can be treated as trespasser or encroacher if he does not apply for allotment of the land which he has possessed or occupied for generations without any hitch. During the budget session in Manipur Assembly, on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 a private member bill was introduced in the Manipur Assembly seeking the rights of the Meiteis to settle in the hills by extending MLR & LRA Act in the 'public interest'. The bill was withdrawn at the instance of a Tribal Minister who stated that such a bill would complicate things when the state was already going through an acute social divide between the tribals and the valley people.<sup>18</sup>

Other major factors which led to the rise of secessionist ideology of Kukis also come from the neighboring tribes; the Nagas and Meiteis mainly. According to a Kuki sympathizer, more than 900 Kukis got killed 350 villages uprooted and over 50,000 Kukis are displaced because of Kuki-Naga conflict.<sup>19</sup> While recuperating from the ethnic clash with the Nagas, another headache hit the Kuki society. The long drawn fight between the Indian security forces and the Manipur valley based militants in Manipur's Chandel district led to a heavy toll on the innocent Kukis. The neglected areas around Samtal village of the Dingpi ridge have become a haven for the secessionist valley based militants belonging to the banned outfit UNLF (United National Liberation Front). They indiscriminately planted landmines allegedly supplied by Chinese agencies, on many locations and villages of Kuki inhabited areas. In Churachandpur district too a reign of terror was let loose by UNLF and KCP (Kangleipak Communist Party) both valley based militants, thereby resulting in the rape of 27<sup>th</sup> women from the villagers of Parbung and Lungthlen villages.<sup>21</sup> Due to landmines, cultivation and livelihood in their own lands has become difficult and impossible. They settle in temporary refugee camps. The Kukis are once again refugees in their own lands.