

# Dera Sacha Sauda Guru Dr. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Ji Insan

Dr. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Ji Insan is the present Guru of Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS). The word Dera, also sometimes called *Dehra*, means 'Encampment', or the dwelling place of a *sant* (saint). *Sacha Sauda* literally means 'true business' and gets its name from an event in the (first) Sikh Guru Nanak's life. DSS calls itself a "Confluence of Religions" as reflected in its present Guru's name where 'Ram' indicates Hinduism, 'Rahim' refers to Islam and 'Singh' to Sikhism. The symbol of the Dera represents the number 1 with the combination of religious symbols from Sikhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. DSS calls itself as an inter-caste, inter-religious spiritual organisation founded in postcolonial, post-partitioned, Punjab in 1948 by Shah Mastana Balochistani (Shah Mastana is said to be from Balochistan) at Sirsa in Haryana (located on Punjab-Haryana border). It is also said that DSS is an offshoot of Radhasoami religious organisation. After Shah Mastana, Shah Satnam Ji succeeded as the second Guru from 1963-1990, followed by Dr Saint Gurmeet Ram Raheem Singh Ji Insan as, the present, third Guru.

On 25th August 2017 the special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court convicted Ram Rahim Singh of the rape of two sadhvis in his Dera and he was sentenced to twenty years in prison. In addition to this, on 17th January 2019, he was also convicted of the murder of journalist Ram Chander Chhatrapati and sentenced to life imprisonment. And most recently, on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 he was given a life sentence for the murder of his manager Ranjit Singh. The conviction in 2017 led to widespread protests, in the form of vandalism and damage to public property by DSS followers, which was countered by the state with a violent response, leaving more

than thirty people dead and several injured. This also raised several questions in the mainstream media regarding the future of the DSS and its Guru. In this uncertainty, due to DSS Guru's imprisonment, his *Dehdhari* (living) physical presence becomes absent, or on hold, without any assurance to his followers, called *premis* (lovers), of its return. In this context, the existence of the Guru becomes virtual, taking the form of an archive consisting in videos of his *Satsangs* (congregations), his music videos and audio DVDs, and most importantly his *MSG: Messenger of God* films that are present on YouTube channels, DVDs, and other platforms of social and virtual media. Edited clips from these videos were played on giant screens during DSS's *Satsangs* to assure followers of the Guru's presence.

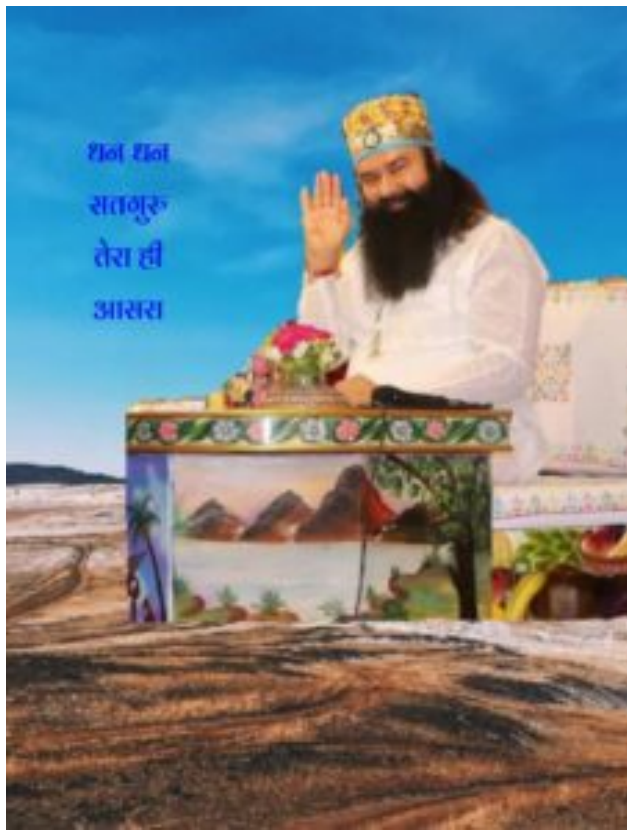


Image of Guru projected on giant screen at a DSS congregation in Punjab on October 2021, Photo: author

Therefore, irrespective of DSS Guru's imprisonment, his existence remains formative in the everyday religiosity of DSS followers through exchanging images of him, and previous gurus, and sharing his video clips and other media on numerous WhatsApp groups. Through these interactions the divine wonder enshrined in the Guru's presence will continue to mesmerize followers by keeping the politics of attraction intact through multifarious engagements. The exhibited images below are shared by followers of DSS after Guru's imprisonment in platforms such as WhatsApp groups.









 Dhan Dhan Satguru tera hi saara

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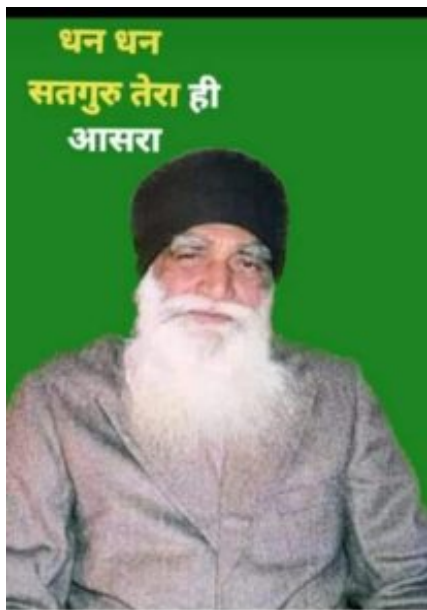
Congratulations on Holy 73rd  
Foundation Day of Dera Sacha  
Sauda and 14th anniversary of  
Jaam E Insaan Guru Ka

MSG

BLOCK CHANDIGARH

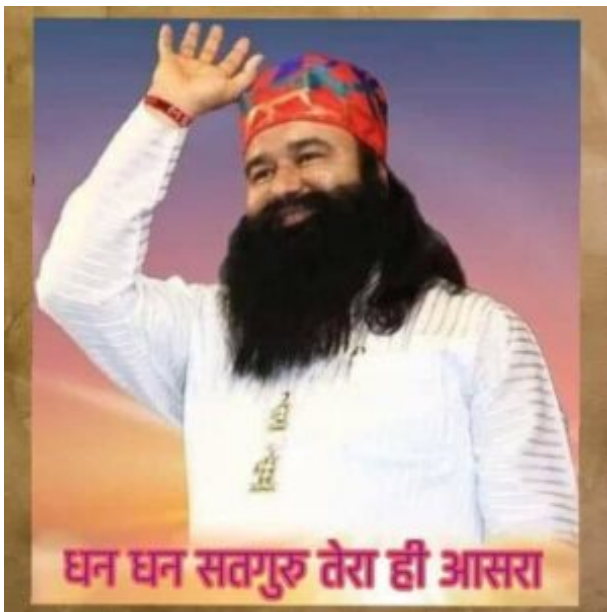
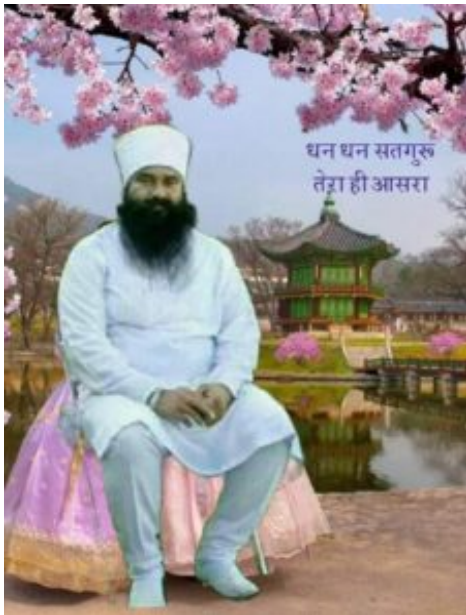
MSG











Dhan Dhan satguru  
Tera hi aasra

**अजमाया है मैंने दुनिया को  
ये बिगड़े काम बना नहीं सकती  
तु बनादे जिसको प्यारे मुर्शिद  
Ye दुनिया उसे मिटा नहीं सकती**

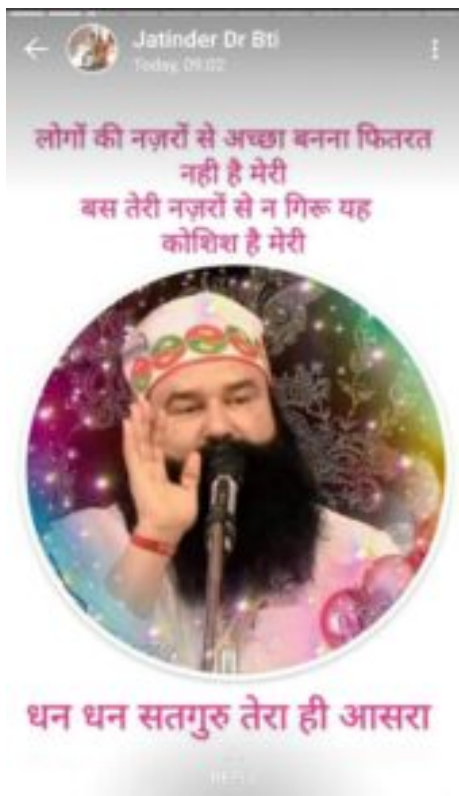
दिल से सिमरन किया तो गुरु जी ने जो सुन ली  
अवाज गुरु जी तक जाएगी तो हर बिगड़ी बन जाएगी

हर गम दुख पिता परेशानी का  
एक ही इलाज है  
राम का नाम ।  
सबको सिमरन करने के लिए  
मोटिवेट करें,

कोई आपके कहने से अखंड सिमरन में बैठना शुरू  
करता है तो उसकी सारी परेशानियां दूर होंगी  
और धीरे धीरे उस इंसान का सतगुरु से मिलाप होता है  
तो पता नहीं सतगुरु बदले में  
कितनी रहमते लुटाते हैं।  
K. L. Arora  
insan

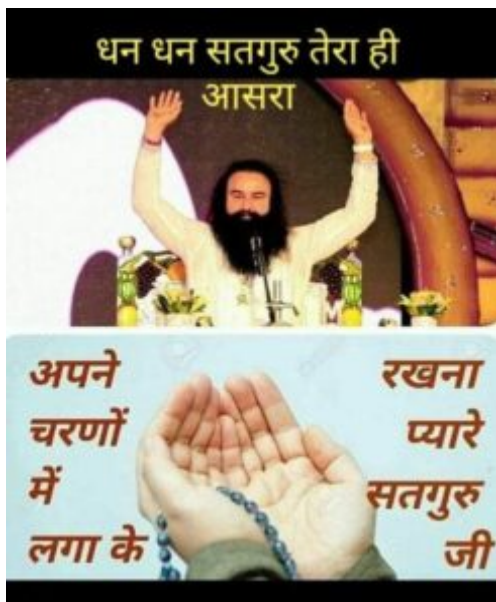
सतगुरु जी से सतगुरु जी को मांगे व  
सबको अखंड सिमरन के लिए एक एक  
प्रेमी को मैसेज लगाएं।  
K. L. Arora  
insan

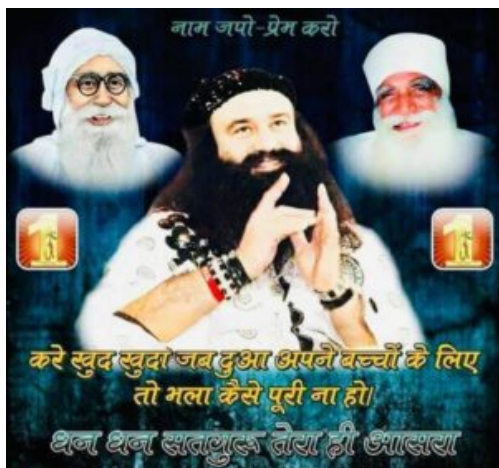
🙏 धन धन सतगुरु तेरा ही आसरा 🙏











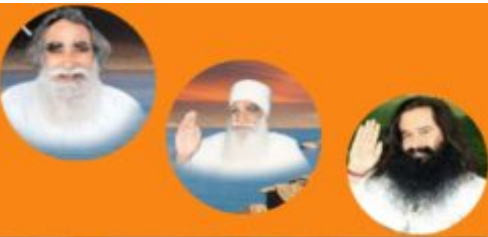




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**JAAM - INSAN**



अच्छा इसलिए ना करो कि  
बदले में अच्छा मिले,  
अच्छा इसलिए करो कि  
किसी और को खुशियां मिलें।।









सबसे तेज़

## गुरमीत राम रहीम को रिहा करने की हिंदू महासभा ने की मांग

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय से पत्र के माध्यम से आज स्वामी चक्रपाणि महाराज ने हरियाणा के गृहमंत्री से कोविड-19 को देखते हुए प्रदेश की जेल में बंद संतों की रिहाई के लिए बातचीत की है.

BY करण सिंह खोहरा

DECEMBER 2, 2020 AT 6:59 PM

परम पूजनीय बेरखाह शाह मस्ताना जी महाराज के पावन अवतार दिवस (कार्तिक पूर्णिमा) की समस्त साध संगत को अरबों-छारबों बार बधाई हो जी।

मानवता के रखवाले बने, आज डेरा सच्चा  
सौदा के सेवादार।  
नवंबर माह में आए ऐसी शिक्षा देने वाले  
'शाह मस्ताना जी दातार'।

पावन अवतार दिवस



Koonal Duggal, Research Fellow in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh.