

Sant Niranjn Dass

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

The Prime Minister recently visited Dera Sachkhand Ballan to seek his blessings and congratulate him on the [Padma Shri](#) award during the 649th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Ravidass.

- Sant Niranjn Dass Ji is the spiritual head (Gaddi Nashin) of **Dera Sachkhand Ballan**, a prominent religious institution for the Ravidassia community located in **Jalandhar, Punjab**.
- He revered as a saint of the masses, Sant Niranjn Dass has combined faith with service, guiding one of India's largest Dalit religious communities through transformation, crisis, and self-assertion.
- **Early Life** - Born on 6 January 1942 in village Ramdass Pur, Jalandhar.
- At the age of 8, he began living with Swami Sarwan Dass, who famously renamed him "Hawai Gar" (speedy man), foretelling his speed, discipline, and sense of responsibility.
- **Ascension** - When he assumed the gaddi on July 25, 1994, he inherited not just a religious seat, but a legacy of reform rooted in dignity, equality, and fearlessness.
- **Religious Identity** - Under his leadership in 2010, the Dera formally announced a distinct religious identity for the community, known as the **Ravidassia religion**.
- He introduced a separate sacred scripture, the Amritbani Satguru Ravidass Maharaj Ji.
- **Vienna Attack** - In May 2009, he was seriously injured in an armed attack at a temple in Vienna, Austria, which tragically claimed the life of his companion, Sant Ramanand Ji.
- **Social Work** - He has overseen the establishment of several charitable institutions, including the Sarwan Dass Model School and the Sarwan Dass Charitable Eye Hospital.

References

1. [PIB | Sant Niranjana Dass Ji](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Sant Niranjana Dass](#)

