



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

India

Dera Sacha Sauda – Sikh – Congress –
2007 clashes
8 December 2009

**1 Please provide background information on Sikhs and the Dera Sacha Sauda sect.
Is this a Sikh organization?**

The Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS) website provides information on the organisation stating that “Sacha Sauda is not a new religion, cult, sect or wave” instead is a “spiritual activity by which God is worshipped under the guidance of Satguru”:

Sacha Sauda is not a new religion, cult, sect or wave. Sacha Sauda is that spiritual activity by which God is worshipped under the guidance of Satguru... Many saints and seers incarnated in this mortal world and inspired us to do this Sacha Sauda and became the guiding lights of spirituality. These saints and seers were knowers of this supreme science and tried to make this mystical subject easy for the common man. One such torchbearer of spirituality was Beparwah Shah Mastana Ji Maharaj who did the most noble of services to mankind by establishing in 1948 the spiritual college of Dera Sacha Sauda in order to save people from the complexities, malpractices and superficial rituals that had been afflicting religion and for the salvation of souls.¹

The website also outlines the organisation’s principles which indicate a progressive outlook respecting all religions equally and jettisoning certain orthodoxies and rituals. A former member of the sect is likely to have some knowledge of these principles:

1. In Dera Sacha Sauda all religions are equally honoured and welcomed.
2. Dera Sacha Sauda believes in humanity as the greatest religion and is involved in the true service of humanity. The poor, helpless and sick are helped here in every possible manner.
3. In Dera Sacha Sauda no discrimination is made among people on the basis of rich and poor, inferior and superior, etc.
- ...5. Dera Sacha Sauda rejects the false customs, malpractices, superficiality and deceit that happen in the name of religion.
6. The Truth is taught at Dera Sacha Sauda and inspiration given to walk on the path of Truth. Prabhu, Paramatma, Ram, Allah, Waheguru, God is the only Truth and the method of meditating on Him is taught here. One need not change one’s religion or outward appearance in order to practice this meditation.
- ...11. The cardinal rules of Dera Sacha Sauda are to not eat non-vegetarian food, to not consume alcohol, and for men and women to consider persons other than their spouses as either mother, sister or daughter, or father, brother or son.

¹ ‘Dera Sacha Sauda’ (undated), Dera Sacha Sauda website, <http://www.derasachasauda.in/index2.html> - Accessed 24 November 2009 – Attachment 1

12. Dera Sacha Sauda strongly opposes customs like the dowry system and other social ills. It discourages the superficial rituals and unreasonable expenditure related to births, deaths and marriages².

An article in *The Times of India* provides background on the DSS, including its founding in 1948 and the succession of various leaders over time. The sect is said to have approximately 10 million followers and is based in the northern Indian states of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, also having followers in USA, Canada, UAE, Australia and UK:

Dera Sacha Sauda was established by Sant Shah Mastana in 1948 in Baluchistan and claims a following of over 10 million. It was founded by Shahenshah Mastana Maharaj (the first master) who taught a method of meditation (the holy Naam-Shabd) to thousands of people over 12 years (1948-1960), and laid the foundation of Dera Sacha Sauda in 1948 in Sirsa. He coined the slogan which is frequently seen as a bumper sticker: 'Dhan Dhan Satguru, Ek Tera Hi Asra'™ (True teacher alone is worth praising).

According to the Sacha Sauda website, Mastana built 25 ashrams in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. Facilities of drinking water and langar (community meals) were provided at these ashrams: practices that continue till today. Sadhus residing in the Dera eat one meal a day. Mastana taught a practical method of meditation to thousands of people in a very simple and prevalent language.

...In September 1990, Shah Satnam Singh passed all his rights, after consultations with his closest disciples, to Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who emerged as the third preceptor of the Dera. Under Sant Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, Dera Sacha Sauda has grown considerably ' according to some reports, over 10 million people have adopted its path. He has organised his followers into functional blocks, each of which consists of around 30 villages (of about 5000-10,000 volunteers). That explains the electoral advantage Dera gives to grassroots candidates for elections. They perform voluntary services like providing free medical treatment to poor patients, constructing houses for the indigent, financial help for marriage of destitute girls, donating blood and eyes, solving cases of disputes without litigation, etc.³

Sources suggest that the DSS is not a Sikh organisation. Instead, it comprises members from various religions – predominantly low cast Hindus, but also includes Sikhs and Christians. The organisation also combines the core of different religions, paying tribute to revered Hindu and Muslim figures^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8}.

A July 2007 article by Annie Zaidi in *Frontline* discusses the background of various 'Deras' or Sects in Punjab (of which DSS is one) and their relationship to Sikhism. Some are

² 'Principles of Dera Sacha Sauda' (undated), Dera Sacha Sauda website, <http://derasachasauda.in/principles.html> - Accessed 24 November 2009 – Attachment 2

³ Singh, K 2007, 'Dera row: History repeats itself', *The Times of India*, 18 May <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-2060379.prtpage-1.cms> - Accessed 25 November 2009 – Attachment 3

⁴ 'PM urges calm over Sikh protests' 2007, *BBC*, 18 May http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/mobile/south_asia/6668299.stm - Accessed 25 November 2009 – Attachment 4

⁵ 'Dera Sacha Sauda and the Sikhs of Punjab' 2007, Sepia Mutiny website, 24 May <http://www.sepiamutiny.com/sepia/archives/004461.html> - Accessed 25 November 2009 – Attachment 5

⁶ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, IND102546.E – *India: Treatment of Sikhs in Punjab within a contemporary historical context*, 11 July – Attachment 6

⁷ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2009, IND103125.FE – *India: Dera Sacha Sauda, a religious institution; whether their spiritual leader is facing charges for sexual assault and murder in India; how the public and the authorities perceive and treat members*, 23 April – Attachment 7

⁸ Singh, J. 2007 'What is behind Sikh protests?', *BBC*, 18 May http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6670569.stm - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 8

accepted within Sikhism whilst others are seen as separate. The article also details the caste and class politics behind the tensions between Sikhs and Deras:

Deras or sects are synonymous with Punjab's history.

...One of the uniting factors for most of the deras is, indeed, the presence of one major leader, who is referred to as 'satguru' or 'bhagwan'. The Akal Takht, the highest political institution of Sikhs, finds this unacceptable.

...According to Professor Seva Singh, who held the Kabir Chair at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, the various deras have one essential difference. "...The orthodox clergy has a problem, because they want to retain their hegemony – religious, political, cultural and economic. They are not worried about the small Sufi deras because Muslims have all left Punjab and pose no real threat to upper-caste Jat hegemony. But the newer, larger deras do, since the bulk of their following is lower-caste and poor. If you do not have a political revolution, people must turn elsewhere."

Professor Jagrup Singh Sekhon of Guru Nanak Dev University agrees..."Deras have begun to influence politics at both State and [village] level. The babas are powerful, well connected and rich. Some are techno-savvy. Besides, there is land at stake. Several thousand acres of land brings its own power."

...The KAC [Khalsa Action Committee] says that it is against six deras in particular – Radhasoami, Nirankari, Namdhari, Nurmahali, Bhaniarawale and Sacha Sauda – because they are "misleading Sikhs" or "adopting the outward symbols of Sikh identity". The living guru concept especially strikes at the root of mainstream Sikhism. As for the 'mainstream', it refers to those who have managed to capture the gurdwara management, predominantly those from the upper castes. In this race, the Dalits found themselves on the margins.

...The problem, then, is not one of faith, but one of identity. That is the predicament of orthodox Sikhs, who are unwilling to let go of the reins of religion. On the one hand, they fear the dilution of what they recognise as the Sikh identity. On the other, a strict enforcement of the 'maryada' (Sikh code of conduct) would mean that nearly everybody is thrown out of the 'mainstream' fold⁹.

An October 2008 research response provides information suggesting that while the DSS accepts Sikhs and reveres the Sikh Gurus, the Sikh establishment do not believe someone can be a Sikh and also be a DSS follower¹⁰.

The UK Home Office provides some background information on Sikhism:

Sikhism was born in the Punjab area of South Asia, which now falls into the present day states of India and Pakistan. The main religions of the area were Hinduism and Islam. The Sikh faith began around 1500 CE, when Guru Nanak began teaching a faith that was quite distinct from Hinduism and Islam. Nine Gurus followed Nanak and developed the Sikh faith and community over the next centuries.

...Sikhism is the fifth largest organized religion in the world with approximately 23 to 24 million adherents. Sikhs represent approximately two per cent of the population in India

⁹ Zaidi, A. 2007, 'Faith and conflict', *Frontline*, vol. 24, iss.14, 14-27 July
<http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/fl2414/stories/20070727003302800.htm> - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 9

¹⁰ RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND33842*, 31 October (Question 1) – Attachment 10

[about 20 million people]. Most Sikhs in India live in the state of Punjab where they account for roughly 60 per cent of the state's population¹¹.

For further background information on Sikhs, please see Attachments 12-16^{12, 13, 14, 15, 16}.

2 Are the headquarters of the Dera Sacha Sauda sect in Sirsa?

The Dera Sacha Sauda website and the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada indicate that the DSS is a spiritual institution based in Sirsa, Haryana state in northern India^{1, 7}.

A *Times of India* article from 18 May 2007 adds that the DSS's ranks have swelled to include followings in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, HP, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Chandigarh¹⁷.

3 Are there any reports of fighting at political meetings in January 2007 between workers of Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) and Shiv Sena v Congress Party?

Several news and government sources discussed violence between Congress party supporters, who were also followers of the DSS, and supporters of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) party who were Sikhs. The DSS is said to support the Congress party due to the former's leadership asking followers to vote for Congress in the March 2007 elections in Punjab. Sources suggest that the DSS making their partisanship overt created hostility in Sikh groups who support SAD⁸. Violence occurred between Congress and SAD supporters in January 2007 which resulted in the killing of a SAD supporter²¹. Major clashes also occurred in May 2007 after, it was reported, the DSS Guru – Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh "appear[ed], in an advertisement, dressed as the 10th Guru Gobind Singh" one of Sikhism's holiest figures¹⁸.

A March 2007 article in *The Tribune* discusses the January 2007 violence. It reports that Congress party candidate Jasbir Singh Gill had been arrested for allegedly killing an SAD worker:

The Congress today suffered another setback when District and Sessions Judge Gurdev Singh dismissed anticipatory bail applications of Jasbir Singh Gill, party candidate from Beas, his younger brothers – Harmanbir Singh Gill, SP (Traffic), Chandigarh and Harpinder Singh Rajan and seven others, paving the way for their arrest in connection with the killing of an Akali worker on January 29 in poll-related violence.

¹¹ 'Akalis, Congress woo Dera Sacha Sauda' 2009, *The Hindu – Business Line*, 19 April <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2009/04/19/stories/2009041950260400.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2009 – Attachment 11

¹² UK Home Office 2009, *Country of origin information report: India*, 12 May, p65-69 – Attachment 12

¹³ US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – India*, September - Attachment 13

¹⁴ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – India*, February, Section 1 -Attachment 14

¹⁵ RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND33442*, 4 July (Question 6) – Attachment 15

¹⁶ RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND33034*, 13 March (Question 1 & 2) – Attachment 6

¹⁷ Garg, B. 2007 'Dera Sacha Sauda and Gurmeet Ram Rahim', *The Times of India*, 18 May http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/Chandigarh/Dera_Sacha_Sauda_and_Gurmeet_Ram_Rahim/articleshow/2060431.cms - Accessed 25 November 2009 – Attachment 19

¹⁸ Singh, K. 2007 'Dera row: History repeats itself', *The Times of India*, 18 May <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-2060379.prtpage-1.cms> - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 20

...The election was postponed due to violence between supporters of Congress and SAD that led to the killing of one Akali supporter on January 29¹⁹.

The Times of India, in an 18 May 2007 article, discusses the DSS's relations with the Congress party, asserting that the DSS Guru "issued an edict asking his followers to support Congress candidates" in exchange for relief in a legal case against him. It adds that "Post elections, there have been complaints of Akalis harassing dera men"¹⁹.

An 18 May 2007 *BBC* article by Singh adds that "the DSS issued a public appeal for people to vote for the Congress party. Most Sikhs in Punjab support the rival Akali Dal party"⁸.

An April 2009 report by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada provides background on Congress's relationship with the DSS.

The Convenor of MASR [Movement Against State Repression] stated that 20 or 25 years ago, Dera Sacha Sauda received "patronage" from the Punjab because the state wanted to isolate the Sikhs who were advocating for greater power and autonomy (3 Apr. 2009). According to Madan Lal, "various political parties ... take upon themselves the responsibility of safeguarding religious sects and thus make sure of their support in elections. e.g. Dera Sacha Sauda" (7 Jan. 2009, 8). An article published by *The Times of India* reports that this is the case for the Akali (Shiromani Akali Dal, SAD) and Congress parties, in particular (18 May 2007). After the elections for the House of the People (Lok Sabha, LS) were announced for 16 April 2009 (Maps of India n.d.), tensions between members of Dera Sacha Sauda and "radical" Sikh groups intensified due to their political differences (The Tribune 16 Mar. 2009). Some Sikh groups have accused the Punjab state government of cooperating with members of Dera Sacha Sauda in order to secure their support during the elections (United News of India 29 Jan. 2009)¹⁸.

Overt political support for Congress by the DSS angered Sikh leaders with the above mentioned 18 May 2007 *BBC* article reporting that:

Analysts say the alleged action by the DSS has to be seen in the context of state elections held in Punjab in February.

According to Punjabi journalist, Jagtar Singh, religious sects have traditionally been very subtle about their support for political parties. They have usually issued internal appeals asking their followers to vote for the political party of their choice.

"This is the first time that a public appeal had been made to favour a political party," Jagtar Singh says.

Sikh leaders, angry at the direct intervention by the DSS in the elections, seized the opportunity to whip up popular sentiments of their community against the DSS⁸.

An April 2009 article from the *Web India 123* news website mentions senior Congress party member Amarinder Singh discussing how Akali Dal supporters had targeted DSS followers for supporting Congress back in the elections of 2007²⁰.

¹⁹ Walia, V. & Bumbroo, S. 2007, 'Dimpa's bail plea gone; campaign on', *The Tribune*, 7 March <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2007/20070307/punjab1.htm> – Accessed 27 November 2009 – Attachment 20

²⁰ 'Congress banks on Dera support in Punjab' 2009, *Web India 123*, 21 April <http://news.webindia123.com/news/articles/India/20090421/1233276.html> - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 22

Clashes between the DSS and Sikhs erupted after the DSS leader Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh appeared in an advertisement, allegedly dressed as the 10th Guru Gobind Singh, one of Sikhism's holiest figures. *The Times of India* reported on 18 May 2007 that:

In a remarkable twist of irony, a cult founded on the principles of love and brotherhood finds itself in the middle of a blazing row that refuses to die down; in fact, it threatens to snowball into a major social crisis. At the centre of the conflict are the followers of Dera Sacha Sauda, whose chief preceptor Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh caused an upsurge of Akali and Sikh anger by appearing, in an advertisement, dressed as the 10th Guru Gobind Singh. As a result, followers of Dera and supporters of the Sikh clergy, the SGPC and the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal have been clashing regularly this week.

The cause of the current conflict is political: Dera Sacha Sauda supported the Congress in the last assembly elections.

...In 2007, the Dera chief has been seen trying to portray himself as Guru Gobind Singh. While Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has denied he was imitating the Sikh Guru, the radical among those who have seen this advertisement 'chiefly aligned with SAD' have got a trigger to vent their old fury with the cult²⁰.

The Hindu states in an April 2009 article that the DSS Guru's alleged impersonation of a Sikh Guru in a 2007 ceremony, aimed at freeing DSS followers, mainly low caste Dalits, from the bounds of caste and religious identity, had "infuriated radical Sikh organisations"¹¹.

The DSS website contains a July 2008 media interview with its Guru where he denies having told supporters who to vote for and denies dressing up as Sikh Guru Gobind Singh, claiming that "for us, the gurus and prophets of all religions are the very embodiment of God"²¹.

The previously mentioned 18 May 2007 *BBC* article by Singh details the large clashes between Sikhs and the DSS in May 2007 which had left one person dead and dozens injured. It warns that a proposed "social, political and religious boycott of the DSS followers by the Sikh clergy" would create divisions between Dalits (untouchable caste) whom support the DSS and peasant Sikh farmers⁸. Further *BBC* and *The Times of India* articles from May 2007 discuss the violence with the Indian Prime Minister urging calm and the military being sent into Punjab and Haryana. They mention that "tens of thousands of Sikhs, many armed, had taken to the streets"^{22, 23, 24}. Previous research responses also discuss the clashes^{25, 26}.

A July 2007 article by Zaidi in *Frontline*, reports on further violence that month which saw 25 DSS followers hurt. The article also details Sikh sentiments regarding the DSS and its Guru:

They [Sikhs] refuse to acknowledge the Dera chief as a Sikh; in fact, they refer to him as 'Gurmeet Ram Rahim', dropping the 'Singh' surname. The Dera, too, is referred to as only 'Dera Sauda', since 'Sacha Sauda' is a reference to a legend about Guru Nanak, who founded

²¹ 'Guruji's Answers to Media's Questions during July 27, 2008 Satsang' 2008, Dera Sacha Sauda website, 27 July <http://derasachasauda.in/guruji/sanswers.html> - Accessed 24 November 2009 – Attachment 23

²² Raman, S. 2007 'India tensions over Sikh protests', *BBC*, 17 May http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6667219.stm - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 24

²³ 'PM urges calm over Sikh protests' 2007, *BBC*, 18 May http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/mobile/south_asia/6668299.stm - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 25

²⁴ 'Security tightened in Delhi after violence in Punjab' 2007, *The Times of India*, 17 May <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/specials/Security-tightened-in-Delhi-after-violence-in-Punjab/articleshow/2060287.cms> - Accessed 26 November 2009 – Attachment 26

²⁵ RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND32740*, 16 January – Attachment 27

²⁶ RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND33422*, 24 June – Attachment 28

Sikhism. One of the placards proclaimed “The Sikh nation will not tolerate interference in religious affairs” while others displayed fake photos of the Dera chief behind bars⁹.

In the above mentioned July 2008 media interview of the DSS Guru, the Guru denies any hostility by Sikhs towards the DSS, claiming that “the Sikh community has always loved us, it still does, and it always will. We too love the Sikh community, we still do, and we always will”. The Guru also denies attempting to make that the alleged conflict between the DSS and Sikhs look like a Hindu-Sikh conflict²³.

4 Are there any reports confirming police take no action when complaints of serious assaults against members of the Dera Sacha Sauda are made?

A 15 May 2007 article in the *Hindu* reports claims by the DSS that the police “preferred to remain inert” despite warnings of clashes between DSS and Sikhs:

Dera activists, who blocked the traffic on the Bathinda-Mansa road, have demanded registration of criminal cases and arrest of those who had attempted to burn an effigy of the Baba and provoked the clash. Accusing the ruling Akali Dal of instigating the crisis, a senior functionary of the Dera, Ram Singh, alleged that district civil and police authorities preferred to remain inert despite being warned earlier²⁷.

An October 2008 article indicates that the Patiala Police had claimed “to have arrested two ‘human bombs’ and foiled their attempt to attack Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, and some other Dera members”²⁸. A November 2008 *The Times of India* article mentions how police had stopped Sikhs from disrupting a meeting of the DSS in Sangatpura village in Lehragaga²⁹.

A 2008 research response provides information about the treatment of DSS supporters and what protection the Indian authorities provide to supporters of DSS who are targeted by the Sikh community, particularly in relation to DSS supporters who are themselves Sikhs³⁰.

More generally, in relation to the DSS’s relationship with the police, the above mentioned 18 May 2007 *The Times of India* article reports the DSS Guru is under investigation for sexual exploitation and murder:

The era also saw the sect embroiled in a number of contentious issues, especially those involving the dera chief. In 2003, an anonymous letter alleged sexual exploitation of young girls at the dera. Later, murder of a senior member of the dera and a Sirsa-based journalist set the rumour mills working overtime. Family members of the slain scribe moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, demanding a CBI probe into the role of dera in the murder. The case was handed over to the CBI. However, the CBI probe moved at a slow pace despite the HC pulling up the investigating agency. Also, political pressure and protests by dera followers did not help.

²⁷ ‘Tension in Bathinda as religious groups clash’ 2007, *The Hindu*, 15 May
<http://www.hindu.com/2007/05/15/stories/2007051508860500.htm> - Accessed 27 November 2009 – Attachment 31

²⁸ ‘Patiala police arrest two ‘human bombs’’ 2008, *The Pioneer*, 12 October – Attachment 32

²⁹ ‘Appear at Punjab Police hqs on Dec 3: HC to Dera chief’ 2008, *The Times of India*, 29 November – Attachment 33

³⁰ RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND34033*, 4 December (Question 2) – Attachment 34

A 2003 article by Rajalakshmi in *Frontline* details the allegations against the Guru and the DSS of killing Ram Chandra Chatrapati, the 53-year-old editor of the newspaper *Poora Sach* and sexual exploitation of female followers at the DSS compound in Sirsa³¹.

5 Are there any reports of a man called Dharmendendar being arrested for an attack on the Dera Sacha Sauda sect?

No information was found in the sources consulted on a man called Dharmendendar being arrested for an attack on the Dera Sacha Sauda sect. Variations of the name including Dharmender and Dharmendra were also searched.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Search Engines

Google search engine <http://www.google.com/>

Google Scholar search Engine <http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en&tab=ws>

Google News <http://news.google.com/nwshp?hl=en&tab=wn>

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Government

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov>

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada website http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/index_e.htm

United Nations sites

UNHCR website <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

UNHCR Refworld website <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain>

UNHCHR <http://www2.ohchr.org/>

Non-Government Organisations

International Crisis Group <http://www.crisisgroup.org>

Freedom House <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>

Topic Specific

Dera Sacha Sauda <http://www.derasachasauda.in/index2.html>

Region Specific sites

The Hindu <http://www.hindu.com/>

The Times of India <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

Web India 123 www.webindia123.com/

Frontline <http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/>

The Tribune <http://www.tribuneindia.com/>

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Sepia Mutiny <http://www.sepiamutiny.com/>

Thokalath <http://www.thokalath.com/news/>

International News

BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

³¹ Rajalakshmi, T.K. 2003, 'Godman under a cloud', *Frontline*, vol. 19, iss. 26, 21 December - 3 January <http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/fl1926/stories/20030103003404000.htm> - Accessed 27 November 2009 – Attachment 35

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. 'Dera Sacha Sauda' (undated), Dera Sacha Sauda website, <http://www.derasachasauda.in/index2.html> – Accessed 24 November 2009.
2. 'Principles of Dera Sacha Sauda' (undated), Dera Sacha Sauda website, <http://derasachasauda.in/principles.html> – Accessed 24 November 2009.
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16. RRT Research and Information 2008, *Research Response IND33034*, 13 March.
17. Garg, B. 2007 ‘Dera Sacha Sauda and Gurmeet Ram Rahim’, *The Times of India*, 18 May
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