BIODATA

GIANI ZAIL SINGH

Giani Zail Singh was born on May 5, 1916, in Sandhwan village in former Faridkot State. A veteran freedom fighter, he launched the Praja Mandal movement in the State and was its founder president. He was sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment (1938 to 1943) for his role in the Praja Mandal movement. He started the national flag movement in Faridkot state in 1946.

After Independence, he became Minister twice in former PEPSU State holding charge of Revenue, PWD and Agriculture departments. For two years from 1955, he was president of PEPSU Congress. He was elected member of the Rajya Sabha in 1956. In 1962 he served as a Minister in the Cabinet of Pratap Singh Kairon.

In 1966 he became President of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee - a post he held for six years when he led his party to victory in the 1972 Vidhan Sabha elections. He remained Chief Minister of Punjab from 1972 to 1977 before the Congress-ruled State Governments were dissolved. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in the General Elections in January 1980 and appointed Union Home Minister.

New Delhi
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