
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH

**THE AAM AADMI PARTY GOVERNMENT IN PUNJAB: A CRITICAL
STUDY OF ITS RISE, GOVERNANCE AND PROSPECTS FOR 2027**- Anil Kumar¹**ABSTRACT**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), a new political party formed in 2012 by young activists in New Delhi from the India Against Corruption movement, has taken the regional politics of India by storm. Beginning as an unknown party that could manage only an insignificant victory in the 2014 general election in four constituencies of Punjab, AAP first rose to become the state's principal opposition in 2017, and in 2022 the party's performance was spectacular as it won a huge 92 out of 117 seats to form a government in the state legislature. This study analyses in a comprehensive way the party's rise and consolidation in one of India's key political battlegrounds — the state of Punjab — and situates it within the context of the state's earlier two-party political system, the Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) decline (due mainly to the 2015 sacrilege incidents), and the anti-incumbency accumulated by the Indian National Congress. In the process it examines the welfare initiatives of the state government headed by the AAP leader and former Member of Parliament from Sangrur, Bhagwant Mann — such as the expansion of Aam Aadmi Clinics, subsidised electricity to the poor, and the launch of a Health Insurance Scheme — as well as the ₹1,000-per-month payment to women, promised in 2022 and finally rolled out from 2026. These welfare measures are counterbalanced by a substantial increase in public debt, an intensifying drug-trafficking problem, the lack of progress on sacrilege-related prosecutions, and public dissatisfaction with the party's centralised, Delhi-based decision-making.

¹ Senior Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

© 2026 International Journal of Advanced Legal Research

Keywords: Aam Aadmi Party; Punjab politics; Bhagwant Mann; anti-incumbency; regional party system; populism; 2022 Punjab Assembly election.

1. INTRODUCTION

Until Punjab's reorganisation in 1966, elections in the state were fought mainly between the Shiromani Akali Dal — usually allied with the Bharatiya Janata Party — and the Indian National Congress. This settled picture was upended when the Aam Aadmi Party entered the political scene in an unexpected way: founded in Delhi in November 2012, it had no prior connection to Punjab's politics of religion, caste, or land, nor any organisational base in the state. Within about ten years, AAP successfully claimed four of the state's thirteen Lok Sabha seats (2014), became the principal opposition (2017), and then, after March 2022, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, won 92 of the assembly's 117 seats — the most decisive victory in Punjab's electoral history. This is analytically significant for three reasons. Firstly, Punjab is the only state besides Delhi where AAP has formed a government, which raises the question of whether its 'Delhi model' of welfare provision can be replicated in a very different fiscal and security environment. Second, factors such as the border with Pakistan, the farming crisis, and a political history of militancy and religious sacrilege make Punjab an especially challenging state for parties with a national template, since local pressures often do not respond well to templates built elsewhere. Lastly, AAP's trajectory from 2022 onward — an overwhelming election win that left little room for the opposition, followed by contested budget decisions, a resurgent Congress, and a national-level AAP weakened by its 2025 Delhi defeat — is a useful case study of how a party born of a protest movement manages the transition from popularity rooted in agitation to the sustained work of governance.

2. HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT: PUNJAB BEFORE AAP

Since the state's reorganisation in 1966, elections in Punjab were contested mainly between the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) — usually in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — and the Indian National Congress. The SAD, rooted in the Sikh religion and farming communities, and Congress, supported by urban, Hindu and Dalit voters along with a significant Sikh

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

© 2026 International Journal of Advanced Legal Research

electorate of its own, alternated in office with the BJP as the SAD's junior partner. This was a stable, alternating system: the SAD-BJP alliance governed from 2007 to 2017, while Congress governed from 2002 to 2007 and again from 2017 to 2022. The most consequential break in this pattern, however, predates AAP and shaped the landscape the party would go on to contest. In June 2015, a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib was stolen from a gurdwara in Faridkot district; pages of the holy text were later found scattered in Bargari village, provoking intense anguish in the Sikh community. Police firing at Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan on 14 October 2015, aimed at suppressing the resulting protests, led to two deaths (The Wire, 2021; The Tribune, 2026a). The SAD-BJP government's handling of the episode — including a widely criticised pardon granted to the Dera Sacha Sauda leader weeks later, following a separate clash — is broadly credited with the SAD's collapse to a weak third place in 2017 (The Wire, 2021). Even now, a decade on, no closure has been reached: a Special Investigation Team summoned SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on 20 July 2026 (The Tribune, 2026b) — a reminder that this wound is one that neither the Congress government of 2017–2022 nor AAP itself since 2022 has been able to heal.

3. AAP'S EARLY TRAJECTORY IN PUNJAB, 2014–2019

Arvind Kejriwal is the person chiefly responsible for founding AAP, which had its roots in the India Against Corruption movement led by Anna Hazare, an activist who from 2011 rallied public anger against the Congress-led central government over a series of corruption scandals (Britannica, 2026a). In 2012, Kejriwal's decision to contest elections led to a split with Hazare, and the Aam Aadmi Party was formally launched on 26 November 2012 (Britannica, 2026b; BBC News, 2012). The party went from winning 28 of Delhi's 70 assembly seats in 2013 to a landslide 67 of 70 in 2015, cementing its position as Delhi's ruling party. In the 2014 general election, AAP made its Punjab debut by contesting all thirteen Lok Sabha seats in the state and won four — a considerable achievement for a fledgling party with no offices or organisational structure there. This was widely read as the sum of two factors: anti-incumbency against a second SAD-BJP term, and the residual pull of AAP's national anti-corruption image (Deccan Herald, 2019a). Of the four winners, Bhagwant Mann's victory in Sangrur proved the most durable and would eventually carry him to the chief ministership. Buoyed by its Delhi landslide, the party entered the February 2017 Punjab election as, in the eyes of many, the clear favourite. In the event, AAP won only 20 of the 117 seats contested (22 counting its ally, the Lok Insaaf

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

Party), on 23.7 percent of the vote, while Congress, led by Amarinder Singh, secured 38.5 percent of the vote and 77 seats (India.com, 2017; Scroll.in, 2017). Analysts attributed AAP's underperformance to internal weaknesses, pre-poll defections, and — as Ram (2018) and Singh (2017) have argued — a perception that decision-making remained under the control of a Delhi-based 'darbar' inattentive to Punjab-specific concerns. AAP nonetheless became the principal opposition in Punjab, a status it had never held outside Delhi. That momentum reversed in the 2019 Lok Sabha election: Congress regained the state with 8 seats and a 40.12 percent vote share, while the SAD-BJP alliance won the remaining seats (Deccan Herald, 2019a, 2024a). AAP retained only its one seat, Sangrur, out of the thirteen it contested.

4. THE 2022 LANDSLIDE: CAUSAL FACTORS

AAP's comeback between 2019 and 2022, culminating in its 92-seat victory on a 42.01 percent vote share declared on 10 March 2022 (Oneindia News, 2022), is best understood not as the product of a single cause but as the confluence of several currents. By 2022, Punjab's voters had cycled through two full terms of both established parties within a decade without resolving persistent problems of unemployment, drug addiction, or rural distress; doubly disenchanted, they turned to AAP as the one major party that had not yet governed the state. This was compounded by the collapse of the Congress government in its final eighteen months, driven by the feud between Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, which culminated in Amarinder's removal in September 2021. He was replaced by Charanjit Singh Channi, the state's first Dalit chief minister, who served for just under six months in office. Both Channi and Sidhu lost their own seats in 2022 (Deccan Herald, 2022a, 2022b) — hardly an endorsement of the party ahead of its electoral debacle. The twelve-month farmers' agitation against the Union government's 2020–2021 farm laws hardened Punjab's dominant agrarian bloc against the BJP without automatically benefiting Congress, since many farmers held it responsible for two decades of prior hardship; AAP, an active supporter of the protests and unburdened by the baggage of the older parties, was well placed to capture this energy. At the same time, the SAD's continued failure to resolve the sacrilege issue through a second election further eroded its Sikh-agrarian base and deepened perceptions of dynastic control and its tainted alliance with the BJP during the farm-law protests. The SAD's 2022 result — a meagre three seats and 18.38 percent vote share (Deccan Herald, 2022b) — sealed the party's marginalisation,

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

a decline sharper than many had anticipated. Unlike in 2017, AAP could this time point to an actual governance record in Delhi (free electricity, mohalla clinics, and improved government schools, marketed aggressively as a transferable model), and for the first time fielded a Punjab-born chief-ministerial candidate in Bhagwant Mann, addressing the 'outsider' label that had dogged it in 2017. The result was a landslide concentrated heavily in the Malwa region, cutting across sectarian and regional lines.

5. ELECTORAL TRAJECTORY, 2014–2024: A COMPARATIVE VIEW

Table 1 summarises AAP's electoral trajectory in Punjab across five consecutive elections; Table 2 sets out the full party-wise result of the 2022 landslide, and Table 3 the 2024 Lok Sabha result.

Election	Seats Contested	Seats Won	Vote Share	Outcome
2014 Lok Sabha	13	4	24.4%	Debut; third-largest party by seats
2017 Vidhan Sabha	117	20 (+2 ally)	23.7%	Principal Opposition
2019 Lok Sabha	13	1	7.4%	Sharp setback
2022 Vidhan Sabha	117	92	42.01%	Formed Government (landslide)
2024 Lok Sabha	13	3	26.02%	Governing-party setback

Sources: Election Commission of India, statistical reports for the 2014, 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2024 general/assembly elections; Deccan Herald (2019a, 2022a); India.com (2017); Scroll.in (2017); Oneindia News (2022); News on Air (2024).

Table 2. 2022 Punjab Legislative Assembly Election — Result by Party

Party	Seats Won	Vote Share (%)
-------	-----------	----------------

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

AAP	92	42.01
INC	18	22.98
SAD	3	18.38
BJP	2	6.60
BSP	1	1.77

Source: Oneindia News (2022); Election Commission of India. NOTA received 0.71%; the remainder is distributed among independents and smaller parties or alliance partners.

6. GOVERNANCE RECORD, 2022–2026: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Welfare Delivery: The “Delhi Model” Transplanted

The Mann government's first budget, in July 2022, promised 300 units of free electricity monthly to domestic consumers (Business Standard, 2022). The number of Aam Aadmi Clinics rose from 100 in August 2022 to 580 by May 2023 and 990 by March 2026 (The Tribune, 2023a, 2023b, 2026d). Of Punjab's approximately 75 lakh domestic electricity connections, around 61.71 lakh reportedly recorded zero bills, and the government has claimed more than 61,000 jobs created during its four-year tenure. The state government launched the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna in January 2026, offering families free hospitalisation of up to ₹10 lakh at empanelled private hospitals (Aam Aadmi Party, 2026). These programmes form the core of the government's electoral pitch, and have lent some support to the claim that the 'Delhi model' can be replicated outside the National Capital Territory. At the same time, independent verification of the schemes' scale is limited, and their implementation has not been uncontroversial: former deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa accused the government, at the January 2023 expansion, of simply rebranding an existing health facility in Amritsar as an 'Aam Aadmi Clinic' without adding new capacity (The Tribune, 2023a).

6.2 Fiscal Position: A Contested Balance Sheet

Punjab's public finances are, on the available evidence, the most consistently weak aspect of the government's record, though the precise figures vary by source and reporting date; this paper

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

reports that variance transparently rather than resolving it. A State White Paper released just before AAP took office put outstanding liabilities at about ₹2.63 lakh crore, roughly 45.9 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (Punjab Outlook, 2025). By September 2025, The Tribune reported the figure at ₹3,82,935 crore, with nearly 40 percent of state revenue going toward interest payments alone (The Tribune, 2025a). A Comptroller and Auditor General audit found that the revenue deficit roughly doubled between 2018-19 and 2022-23, from ₹13,135 crore to ₹26,045 crore. In August 2026, opposition MPs cited NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index in describing Punjab as having the second-highest debt-to-GSDP ratio among Indian states (The Tribune, 2025b; Business Today, 2026); Punjab had also ranked last among major states on the same index in 2022-23 (The Tribune, 2025c). The state government's defence — that the borrowing is largely a legacy burden used to finance welfare delivery rather than diverted to corruption — sits uneasily alongside these rankings. One of the 2022 campaign's most prominent commitments was a monthly payment of ₹1,000 to every adult woman in Punjab. This remained unexecuted through the 2025-26 budget (The Tribune, 2025d); however, the scheme — formally the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna — was announced in the 2026-27 budget on 8 March 2026 and launched on 14 April 2026, paying ₹1,000 a month to eligible women and ₹1,500 to Scheduled Caste women, with first payments disbursed from 1 July 2026 against a budgeted outlay of ₹9,300 crore, covering an estimated 97 percent of the state's adult women (The Tribune, 2026f; Punjab Government Budget, 2026).

6.3 The Narcotics Crisis: Persistence despite Enforcement Claims

Curbing Punjab's drug trade was one of AAP's central pledges in 2022. The available evidence, however, suggests the problem has intensified on at least one key indicator rather than receding. Narcotics Control Bureau data presented to the Rajya Sabha recorded 305 drug-related drone incidents nationwide in 2025, of which 298 — about 97 percent — occurred in Punjab's border districts, up from just 3 in 2021, and resulted in the seizure of roughly 460-468 kilograms of narcotics, including around 448 kilograms of heroin; Punjab alone accounted for 58 percent of the year's countrywide heroin seizures (Millennium Post, 2026; Outlook India, 2026b). In May 2026, a Supreme Court bench observed that state police enforcement remained focused on small-time dealers while larger trafficking networks went unchecked (Outlook India, 2026a). Punjab's border and the use of drones by trafficking networks are largely beyond a state government's

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

control, but internal policing and the political-criminal 'nexus' that AAP's own manifesto pledged to dismantle fall squarely within its responsibility — and it was this latter point that drew the Supreme Court's criticism.

6.4 Law and Order, and the Farmers' Movement

Only ten weeks into the new government, singer and Congress candidate Sidhu Moosewala was murdered in Mansa district on 29 May 2022 (The Tribune, 2022a). A police source told The Tribune that the killing occurred only a day after a security review had ended Moosewala's personal police cover. Punjab's police chief initially attributed the murder to a rivalry between gangs; years later, the state's counsel told the Supreme Court that the killing could be traced to a serious reduction in Moosewala's security cover by the state government (Deccan Herald, 2023). This incident, together with continuing inter-gang violence, has reinforced opposition claims that the government's anti-crime record falls short of its rhetoric (Kumar, 2026a). A similar reversal marks AAP's relationship with Punjab's farmers: the party and government backed the 2020-2021 agitation against the Union farm laws, but police deployed by the same government later clashed with farmers protesting, in 2024-2025, the absence of a statutory Minimum Support Price at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points. After farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal began an indefinite fast at Khanauri in November 2024, the Supreme Court itself became involved (ETV Bharat, 2025). When Punjab Police eventually cleared the protest sites, Dallewal accused the state government of 'betraying' a movement that AAP itself had backed before coming to power in the state assembly (Deccan Herald, 2025a).

6.5 Centralisation and Unresolved Grievances

The view that Punjab's executive decisions remain effectively made by AAP's Delhi leadership has persisted among academic observers since 2017 (Ram, 2018; Singh, 2017). It resurfaced in March 2022, when five Rajya Sabha nominations were announced; two of them, Raghav Chadha and Sandeep Pathak, were newcomers with no electoral or residential base in the state, prompting opposition accusations that the party favoured 'outsiders' (The Tribune, 2022b, 2022c). After Chadha was later made chairman of a state advisory committee, critics argued he had effectively become a 'super Chief Minister' over Mann (Deccan Herald, 2023). The criticism sharpened in April 2026, when Chadha and Pathak, accompanied by five other Rajya Sabha

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

members (together representing more than two-thirds of the party's Upper House strength), left AAP for the BJP, accusing the leadership of 'corrupt and compromising' conduct. Punjab Police registered criminal cases against at least one of the defectors amid mutual allegations of political vendetta (Kumar, 2026b). Meanwhile, the 2015 sacrilege cases remained unresolved, with the Special Investigation Team continuing to question senior SAD figures into June 2026 (The Tribune, 2026b, 2026c), even as the issue continued to mobilise mainstream and more radical Sikh opinion alike — illustrated by a 2026 commemorative march organised by Amritpal Singh's Waris Punjab De (The Tribune, 2026e). Both episodes suggest that the capacity to address such deep-rooted grievances is limited, whichever party holds office.

7. ELECTORAL TESTS SINCE 2022

AAP's record in Punjab since 2022 has been more uneven than its assembly majority suggests. The party won six of the seven Punjab assembly by-elections held between 2022 and 2025 — the sole exception being Barnala (2024), retained by the Congress — together with the 2025 municipal elections, a pattern consistent with the usual advantage an incumbent enjoys in low-turnout, localised contests (Kumar, 2026a, 2026c). The 2024 Lok Sabha election told a different story: AAP fought all thirteen Punjab seats without its INDIA-bloc partner Congress and won only three (Hoshiarpur, Anandpur Sahib, and Sangrur), while Congress took seven seats, the SAD retained only Bathinda, and the BJP failed to win any (News on Air, 2024). Two independents associated with hard-line Sikh politics also won seats: Amritpal Singh, then facing National Security Act charges, won Khadoor Sahib, while Sarabjit Singh Khalsa won Faridkot. Per Kumar's (2024) analysis, AAP's weaker showing partly reflected national convenor Arvind Kejriwal's detention during the campaign, which exposed the limits of a Punjab leadership still dependent on decisions taken in Delhi.

Table 3. 2024 Lok Sabha Election Result in Punjab, by Party

Party	Seats Won
INC	7
AAP	3
SAD	1

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

Independents	2
BJP	0

Source: News on Air (2024); Election Commission of India. Total: 13 seats.

AAP's national standing was further weakened by its defeat in the February 2025 Delhi assembly election, where the BJP won 48 of 70 seats to AAP's 22 — a sharp reversal from AAP's 62-seat majority in 2020. Kejriwal himself lost his New Delhi seat to the BJP's Parvesh Verma by a margin of about 4,089 votes, and senior colleagues Manish Sisodia and Saurabh Bharadwaj were also defeated (Deccan Herald, 2025b, 2025c). AAP's vote share fell to 43.57% from 53.57% at the previous election (Deccan Herald, 2025d; Election Commission of India, 2025). With Delhi lost, Punjab became AAP's only remaining state government, making the 2027 Punjab election an existential test for the party nationally and exposing the fragility of the 'Delhi model' brand that its Punjab campaign had relied on. Taken together, the post-2022 record shows a party that remains strong in low-salience, localised contests but weaker wherever the contest turns on a broader assessment of governance. Kumar (2026a, 2026b) predicts that 2027 will bring a genuine three-cornered contest between AAP, Congress and the BJP.

8. CRITICAL ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR 2027

Read through the lens of catch-all party theory, AAP's Punjab trajectory illustrates both the advantages and the structural fragility of a party that deliberately avoids anchoring itself to the religious, caste, or linguistic cleavages that have historically organised Indian regional politics. The absence of a single core social constituency (Kumar, 2026a) allowed it to aggregate anti-incumbent and anti-corruption sentiment across confessional and regional lines that neither the SAD nor Congress, each tied to more defined social bases, could reconcile — but it has also left the party comparatively exposed once governance performance, rather than protest positioning, became the primary basis for evaluation. The 'Delhi durbar' critique, established in the academic literature since 2017 and still current in 2026, points to an unresolved tension between AAP's origins as a tightly centralised movement and the demands of multi-state federal governance. Installing a Punjab-based chief minister in 2022 was a step toward addressing this, but the subsequent defection of Chadha, Pathak and five other Rajya Sabha members to the BJP in April 2026 suggests that the underlying tension identified by Ram (2018) and Singh (2017) was

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

managed rather than resolved. More broadly, the Punjab case illustrates a pattern common to protest movements that gain power: the same party that opposed the Union government's farm laws in alliance with the farmers' movement later found itself, in office, confronting a renewed farmers' protest over Minimum Support Price guarantees. This is not unique to AAP or to Punjab — it is a recurring feature of the passage from opposition to office for anti-establishment parties generally. What is distinctive about the Punjab case is the speed of the reversal: little more than two years separated the electoral wave AAP rode into office from its direct confrontation with a farmers' movement that had helped carry it there. Three factors will shape the 2027 outcome. First, since AAP performs strongly in low-salience elections but more weakly in high-salience ones, the result will likely turn on whether the fiscal, narcotics, and law-and-order record can be framed as a governance success before voters decide. Second, the loss of Delhi gives the party an opportunity to campaign on its own Punjab record rather than solely on the 'Delhi model'. Third, a resurgent Congress and an assertive BJP mean AAP will face a genuinely competitive three-way contest, quite unlike the fragmented opposition it faced in 2022 — meaning the scale of the next verdict, whichever way it goes, is likely to look very different from the lopsided result of 2022.

9. CONCLUSION

The rise of the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab is best explained as the convergence of several decade-long trends: the SAD's gradual undermining by the unresolved and politically damaging 2015 sacrilege episode; a second consecutive round of anti-incumbency against both established parties; Congress's own self-inflicted collapse on the eve of the 2022 election; the residual energy of the 2020-2021 farm-laws agitation following AAP's 2017 setback; and AAP's organisational maturation between its uneven 2017 debut and its more disciplined, Punjab-focused 2022 campaign. Together these factors produced a mandate larger than any single cause could explain, though the scale of the majority somewhat overstated the depth of the party's support. The quality of AAP's governance since then complicates the picture further: a genuine expansion of the welfare-delivery envelope has occurred, but within a fiscally strained state, against a worsening drug-trafficking problem (most visibly in cross-border drone smuggling), amid unresolved questions about the security lapse preceding Sidhu Moosewala's murder, a farmers' protest that the government confronted rather than accommodated, and persistent

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

allegations of continued 'elite capture' of decision-making by the party's Delhi leadership. The 2024 Lok Sabha result and the subsequent loss of AAP's Delhi government function in this account as an early warning rather than an inevitable turning point: Punjab's electorate has not extended to high-salience contests the same support it has shown AAP in by-elections, and a resurgent Congress alongside an assertive BJP now promise a genuinely three-cornered contest in 2027. Whether AAP's tenure marks a lasting realignment of Punjab's party system or a shorter-term interruption of its earlier bipolarity remains, on this paper's assessment, an open question — one that future research should pursue through more disaggregated, constituency-level data than media coverage alone can provide.

REFERENCES

- Aam Aadmi Party. (2026, January 23). Every family in Punjab now has right to free treatment worth up to ₹10 lakh in best private hospitals: Arvind Kejriwal [Press release]. <https://aamaadmiparty.org/press-release/>
- BBC News. (2012, October 2). India activist Arvind Kejriwal launches anti-corruption party. <https://www.bbc.com>
- Britannica. (2026a). Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Aam-Aadmi-Party>
- Business Standard. (2022, June 27). Punjab: In AAP govt's 1st budget, health, agri, education are focus areas. <https://www.business-standard.com>
- Business Today. (2026, August 6). 'Punjab now has the second worst debt to GDP ratio in India': Congress steps up attack on AAP. <https://www.businesstoday.in>
- Deccan Herald. (2019a). Cong's saving grace, perfect 10 for BJP in Haryana. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Deccan Herald. (2022a, March 11). Punjab election result 2022: AAP records landslide victory with 92 seats, Congress reduced to 18. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Deccan Herald. (2022b, March 10–11). Key takeaways from Punjab Assembly election result 2022. <https://www.deccanherald.com>

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

- Deccan Herald. (2023, December 16). BJP, Congress attack AAP govt over Raghav Chadha's advisory-panel role and Moosewala security lapse. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Deccan Herald. (2025a). Will rebuild farmers' agitation, says SKM (Non-Political) leader Dallewal. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Deccan Herald. (2025b, February 8). Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 | BJP relishes win, Kejriwal falls. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Deccan Herald. (2025c, February 8). Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 Results | Three AAP ministers win amid string of losses for senior party leaders. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Deccan Herald. (2025d, February 8). Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 | Uphill task for an out-of-favour AAP as 'Brand Kejriwal' loses sheen. <https://www.deccanherald.com>
- Election Commission of India. (2014). Statistical report on the general election, 2014, to the Lok Sabha — Punjab. <https://eci.gov.in>
- Election Commission of India. (2017). Statistical report on the general election, 2017, to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab. <https://eci.gov.in>
- Election Commission of India. (2019). Statistical report on the general election, 2019, to the Lok Sabha — Punjab. <https://eci.gov.in>
- Election Commission of India. (2024). Statistical report on the general election, 2024, to the Lok Sabha — Punjab. <https://results.eci.gov.in>
- Election Commission of India. (2025). Statistical report on the general election, 2025, to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi. <https://results.eci.gov.in>
- ETV Bharat. (2025, March 20). Protesting farmers' eviction from Shambhu, Khanauri borders: A timeline of the farmers' protest. <https://www.etvbharat.com>
- India.com. (2017, March 11). Punjab Assembly Election Results 2017: Congress wins, Amarinder Singh set to be CM. <https://www.india.com>
- Kumar, A. (2017). Electoral politics in Indian Punjab: A new phase? *South Asia Research*, 37(1), 37–57.

- Kumar, A. (2024). 2024 parliamentary elections in Punjab. *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies*, 31.
- Kumar, A. (2026a, April 6). Four years of the AAP government in Punjab: The biggest hits and misses. *Outlook India*. <https://www.outlookindia.com>
- Kumar, A. (2026b). InDepth | Punjab politics: Who can challenge AAP's dominance? *Outlook India*. <https://www.outlookindia.com>
- Kumar, A. (2026c). AAP's Punjab sweep: Dress rehearsal for 2027 or just incumbency advantage? *Outlook India*. <https://www.outlookindia.com>
- Millennium Post. (2026, July). Govt: Exponential rise in use of drones by narco-traffickers. <https://www.millenniumpost.in>
- News on Air. (2024, June 4). Lok Sabha election results 2024: Congress wins 7 seats in Punjab, AAP 3, SAD 1, Independents 2. <https://www.newsonair.gov.in>
- Oneindia News. (2022, March 11). Vote percentage of parties in Punjab 2022: AAP won 92 seats in Punjab with a 42.01% vote share. <https://www.oneindia.com>
- Outlook India. (2026a). Punjab's drug crisis: Between crackdown, rehabilitation and the challenge of cross-border smuggling. <https://www.outlookindia.com>
- Outlook India. (2026b). Punjab faces dangerous secondary wave of synthetic drug abuse, says latest NCB 2025 report. <https://www.outlookindia.com>
- Punjab Government Budget. (2026, March 8). Budget speech 2026–27: Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna. Department of Finance, Government of Punjab.
- Punjab Outlook. (2025, June 14). Punjab's growing debt crisis: A burden beyond 2027? <https://punjaboutlook.com>
- Ram, R. (2018). What went wrong with the third alternative? Exploring the rise and demise of the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab. *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies*, 25.
- Roy, S. (2014). Being the change: The Aam Aadmi Party and the politics of the extraordinary in Indian democracy. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 49(15), 45–54.

Scroll.in. (2017, March 13). The Daily Fix: Punjab and Goa results show the Congress is not yet a spent force. <https://scroll.in>

Singh, P. (2017). Aam Aadmi Party as third player in Punjab politics. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 52(3).

The Tribune. (2022a, May 30). Sidhu Moosewala shot dead in Mansa village. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2022b, March 21). Opposition trains guns on AAP for nominating outsiders for Rajya Sabha. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2022c, March 21). 'Betrayal of Punjab': Congress, SAD slam AAP's Rajya Sabha picks. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2023a, January 27). Mann, Kejriwal launch 400 more Mohalla clinics; Opposition alleges rebranding. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2023b, May 5). One year on, Mann government opens 80 more Aam Aadmi Clinics, tally at 580. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2025a, September 26). Heart of Punjab: State's debt burden burgeons amid populism, freebies. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2025b). CAG report flags rising fiscal stress in Punjab's finances. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2025c). AAP's budget vision [Editorial]. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2025d, March 26). 'Empty vessels...': Opposition jabs AAP govt over Punjab Budget. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2026a, July 5). SIT summons former Akali Dal MLA Mantar Singh Brar in Behbal Kalan firing case. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2026b, July 20). SAD chief Sukhbir Badal appears before SIT in 2015 Behbal Kalan police firing case. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2026c). 2015 sacrilege cases: SIT questioning continues a decade on. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

For general queries or to submit your research for publication, kindly email us at ijalr.editorial@gmail.com

<https://www.ijalr.in/>

The Tribune. (2026d, March 28–29). CM Mann, Kejriwal inaugurate 109 Mohalla clinics virtually; tally reaches 990. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2026e, May 31). Waris Punjab De to take out protest march retracing 2015 sacrilege route. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Tribune. (2026f, July 1). Punjab govt rolls out Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana; women to get ₹1,000. <https://www.tribuneindia.com>

The Wire. (2021, December 21). Punjab: Kin of 2015 Behbal Kalan firing victims accuse Congress of neglecting sacrilege cases. <https://m.thewire.in>

