



Gulkirat Kaur Panag - Aam Aadmi Party's candidate from Chandigarh

2014 General Elections

Chandigarh as India's first planned city was envisioned with a dream of being a world class city, but this dream stands far from being realised. Chandigarh today tells a dark tale of two cities. One which is popularly known to members of the press, the intelligentsia and the country at large and the other which is the underdeveloped villages, colonies and new sectors where even basic amenities are not present.

The appalling state of affairs in Chandigarh is a result of the corrupt nexus between the administration and elected representatives. The people of Chandigarh have been repeatedly failed and fooled by the unfulfilled promises of the mainstream political parties, which have represented Chandigarh time and again - bringing Chandigarh to the present sad state of affairs. Chandigarh's systematic degradation is not the result of the lack of schemes, policies or welfare grants – it is the result of this corrupt nexus that has severely compromised on-ground execution. The anti national forces of corruption, communalism, crony capitalism and dynastic politics that are the hallmark of the existing political dispensation have left their deep imprint in every facet of the common person's life.

There comes a time in the history of every nation when staying on the sidelines is no longer an option. I represent a party where we want to create a system where the political leaders we elect and place in the Parliament are directly responsible to the voters who have elected them. Our party's vision is to realise the dream of SWARAJ that Gandhiji had envisaged for a free India - where the power of governance and rights of democracy will be in the hands of the people of India. The Aam Aadmi Party stands committed to the decentralisation of political power which will be enshrined in its Swaraj Bill creating a more inclusive role for Gram Sabhas and Mohalla Sabhas. Further, the rights of citizens with respect to their elected representatives need to be enhanced to ensure a truly participative democracy through the 'right to call' and the 'right to reject'.

You are invited to give your suggestions on all issues mentioned in this document. We will definitely modify our stand based on your suggestions.

You can send your suggestions to gul@gul4change.com or aapchandigarh@gmail.com or contact your local Aam Aadmi Party volunteer.

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I stand committed to the people of Chandigarh to achieve the dream of seeing Chandigarh as a world class metropolis, where the people are key stakeholders in governance based on the principles of Swaraj. My commitment to the people of Chandigarh is:

- You will have a Member of Parliament who will work in a focussed manner to implement AAP party's Manifesto in letter and in spirit.
- You will have a full time Member of Parliament who is approachable at all times and committed to public service.
- You will have a Member of Parliament who will be a strong and conscientious voice for Chandigarh in Parliament, with the Central and State Governments and with the UT Administration.
- You will have a Member of Parliament who is dedicated to the cause of Swaraj for the people of Chandigarh.
- You will have a Member of Parliament who will work tirelessly to address your issues and problems to your satisfaction.
- You will have a Member of Parliament who will strive to ensure a participative democracy for the people of Chandigarh, and not impose any decision on you without consulting you and fully ascertaining your aspirations.
- You will have a Member of Parliament who will ensure that while big development projects are undertaken, adequate interim steps are taken to prevent any inconvenience or discomfort to the people.
- You will have an Member of Parliament who will draw up time-bound action plans for each project which she can be held responsible for and accountable to.
- You will have an Member of Parliament whose principal focus will be to ensure that the aspirations of the people's mandate are fulfilled.

The time is now to vote for the governance we deserve, to root out corruption and play a larger role in our democracy.

I am part of the revolution. Are you?

Gulkirat Kaur Panag

Jai Hind!!

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Chandigarh First:

Chandigarh was envisioned as the city that would represent modernity, lead the way towards a progressive tomorrow, and attain the pinnacle of technological sophistication. Chandigarh today tells a different story - of underdevelopment, poverty and a breakdown in basic infrastructure.

I, Gulkirat Kaur Panag, am committed to work towards making Chandigarh a world class metropolis, where people have a stake in governance based on the principles of swaraj. My motto is 'Citizens of Chandigarh First'

- ✓ First in Clean, Efficient and Honest Governance
- ✓ First in Safety and Security
- ✓ First in Quality of Public Transportation
- ✓ First in facilities for differently abled
- ✓ First in Quality of Education
- ✓ First in Healthcare Infrastructure
- ✓ First in Women Empowerment and Family Welfare
- ✓ First in Civic Utilities
- ✓ First in e-Governance
- ✓ First in Government Employee Welfare
- ✓ First in Job Opportunities
- ✓ First in Industrial Growth and Entrepreneurial Development
- ✓ First in Environmental Awareness
- ✓ First in Quality of Life
- ✓ First in senior citizen welfare
- ✓ First in welfare of serving and retired armed forces personnel, paramilitary and police personnel and government employees

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Moving beyond the traditional role of an MP, I would ensure that the following issues are taken up with the concerned authorities and relentlessly pursued to their logical conclusion in sync with the Aam Aadmi Party's national manifesto:

1. Administration

Chandigarh has been a Union Territory for the last 47 years due to the reorganization of the Punjab state in 1966. The present system of administration has the Administrator at its helm, who is also the Governor of Punjab. The Administrator is assisted by the bureaucracy and we have a Municipal Corporation with limited powers.

The current system of administration in the city needs to be reviewed. The Municipal Corporation is the only directly elected body and it does not give the citizens of Chandigarh the representation they need or deserve. The voice of the people of the city needs to be heard while taking all decisions, keeping in view the spirit of a participative democracy. Decisions cannot simply be imposed on the people in a one-sided manner without taking into account the voice of those who are affected by such decisions.

The appointment of an Administrator is provided by the Constitution of India by virtue of Article 239 and constitutionally speaking, UTs have to be governed by the President through the Administrator. However, a Governor doubling up as the Administrator of a UT is not mandatory and Chandigarh needs a full time Administrator.

The role of representatives of the people, be it the MP or the elected representatives of local bodies, needs to be more defined, direct and evident in the administration. We will strongly advocate for amendments to the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994 in order to ensure that the people of Chandigarh have an accountable system of representation giving them a platform for participative democracy. Whether Chandigarh would be best served with a Mayor-in-Council or a Metropolitan Council with executive powers should be a matter that is decided after consulting the people of Chandigarh.

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We also believe that given the peculiar situation in Chandigarh demands that:

- The MP should formally be a part of all decision-making processes concerning the city and not merely in an advisory capacity.
- The Master Planning of the city has been done by the Administration in a stand alone mode. The Aspirations of the people are not met by the current Master Plan. The MP, Gram and Mohalla Sabhas should formally be a part of the planning process.

Further, in order to ensure that maximum benefit of facilities and infrastructure is made available to the residents of Chandigarh, a Chandigarh Capital Region model is to be advocated. The Chandigarh Capital Region model will best promote the interests of residents while also ensuring effective utilisation of resources.

To ensure equitable access to official Communication and Information, Punjabi must be made an Official Language.

2. Anti Corruption

- Support the strengthening of the anti corruption framework through the Jan Lokpal Bill.
- Promote and support all anti corruption legislations in Parliament, in consonance with the AAP philosophy and to advocate amendments as required.
- Establish an anti corruption helpline in Chandigarh.
- Establish citizen watchdog committees over all aspects of administration.
- Strongly advocate for time-bound investigation and prosecution in corruption cases.
- To advocate for the establishment of more special anti corruption courts in the city.
- To advocate strongly for timely grant of sanction to prosecute in corruption matters concerning public servants in Chandigarh, including legislative reform.

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3. Development of Villages and Colonies

We need to concentrate on our villages and colonies. There should not be a divide reflecting the haves and have-nots. Equal facilities, comfort and opportunities should be available to all, without discrimination.

- Development of villages into mini townships in consonance with their heritage and inherent character.
- Ensuring that villages have equitable and adequate access to healthcare, education and sanitation.
- Development of sports infrastructure and community centers.
- Ensuring that villages have adequate infrastructural support for the care of animals / livestock.
- Ensuring that villages get metalled roads.
- Review of existing UT Administration policy for electricity, water and gas connections.
- Review of established Lal Dora of the villages to include peripheral areas (abadi) and to review the regularisation of constructions outside the present Lal Dora.
- To promote the development of integrated dairy cum animal protein food (meat) projects in collaboration with Government agencies like NABARD.
- To promote the development of small and cottage industries, as well as traditional means of livelihood in a more organised manner including environment friendly dairy farming in the villages wherever feasible.
- Review the application of the municipal building bye-laws to the villages and colonies.

4. Safety and Security

- Work towards developing a citizen friendly, modern and dynamic police force.
- To promote Police reforms and ensure effective implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's directions in *Prakash Singh versus Union of India* of September 22nd 2006.
- Special Women Cells (24x7) should be created in every police station.

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- Proper street lighting and CCTV coverage in all residential and commercial sectors, including colonies and surrounding villages.
- Enhanced Night Patrolling.
- Taking up the case for establishment of fast track courts to ensure speedy and time-bound action in crimes against women.
- Introduce the system of Citizens' Police to operate in conjunction with the Police.

5. Welfare for Women and Families

- Day care centers for children of working women provided with adequately trained staff.
- Improve recreational facilities for children within the sectors.
- Provide facilities to improve the quality of life of senior citizens and persons suffering from disabilities.
- Promoting the establishment of self-help groups.
- Promote infrastructure for the differently abled.
- Aggressively pursue the rights of differently abled as given in the AAP's national Manifesto

6. Equitable Access to Healthcare

- Provide mobile healthcare facilities to the various rehabilitation and transit colonies.
- Launch a 24/7 trauma emergency service.
- Improve Infrastructural and Operational efficiency of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Healthcare centers.
- Promote modern and well stocked dispensaries.
- Improve *pre* and *post* natal care for mothers.
- Advocate for Healthcare Insurance Schemes for Daily Wage Earners.
- Strive to have a better doctor to patient ratio in the government hospitals.
- Development of more General Hospitals in the city.

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7. Water, Power and Sanitation

- Advocate the demand for Chandigarh to receive additional Power from current sources to address the concern of power shortage.
- Equitable distribution of electricity.
- Explore opportunities of deploying renewable and clean energy sources.
- Revamp the water distribution system across the city for equitable distribution and to ensure 24 hours water supply.
- Source technology for repair of existing underground pipes to prevent leakage and consequent loss of water.
- Infrastructural and Operational audit of all Water Treatment / Sewage Treatment Plants operated by Government and Private enterprises.
- Review the existing system of garbage collection and disposal, centralised garbage collection and reactivate garbage segregation centers.
- Ensure that all employees involved in sanitation services are provided with adequate personal sanitary and hygiene equipment.
- Review the manpower state of departments dealing with Public Utilities and Sanitation. Engage more manpower if required.
- Introduce the concept of single window grievance redressal and helpline for complaints pertaining to Public Utilities.
- Improve infrastructure of cattle pounds to cater to the increasing number of ownerless cows (*Gaushala*), in the periphery of the city.
- Improve infrastructure of the city to cater to stray animals.
- Promote rainwater harvesting.
- Promote the effective use of solar energy and to make solar energy the principal source of electricity.

8. Education

- Endeavour to bring more national educational institutions to Chandigarh.
- To bring all Government schools to the level of the best private schools in Chandigarh.
- Advocate for timely infrastructural and operational audit of all institutions of higher education to address deficiencies.

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- Address the issue of poor student-teacher ratio in Government Schools.
- Improving the infrastructure of existing Government Schools and organise funds for additional Schools.
- Evaluate various models for effectively improving upon system of Paying Guest (PG) Accommodation.
- Promoting the use of infrastructure of schools for community activities post school hours.
- Review the process of regularisations of contractual / temporary teachers.
- To encourage free Online Educational Content/Videos

9. Housing

- Focus on providing affordable housing to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- To advocate for a time-bound general housing scheme for residents who do not have houses in the tri-city.
- Rationalising the system of need-based changes without disturbing the essential character of the city.
- Review the penalty for violation of building bye-laws.
- Review the floor to area ratios of houses, and advocate for their increase.
- Review the conversion process of leasehold rights to freehold rights.
- Establishment of additional community centers, dispensaries, post offices, markets in Sectors with large number of flats built by various Societies and Chandigarh Housing Board.
- Upkeep and maintenance of Government Housing for Junior Employees.
- Night Shelters to be created for homeless.
- Review the demands of various Resident Welfare Associations, and setup a grievance redressal system to address the issues faced.
- Rehabilitation of persons living in slums and to see Chandigarh as a slum free city in three years.
- Bye-laws should be flexible but should not threaten the essential character of the city. There should be harmony between legacy vis-à-vis requirements of modern life.
- Construction of modern, hygienic toilet facilities for slum and transit colonies as an interim measure, before final settlement

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10. E-Governance / Governance

- Review all UT Administration's approval processes for implementation of electronic traceability.
- Bar-coding of files to track their status.
- Time schedule for approvals to be made available on Government web-sites.
- Reasons for delay to be updated for every case.
- Effective implementation of single window e-sampark centres.
- Creating feedback and grievance redressal portals.
- Payment of *challans* and other utilities electronically.
- To ensure effective implementation of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 and to advocate amendments wherever necessary to meet the aspirations of the people.

11. Industry and Business

- Review of the UT Administration's Industry Policy to create business friendly environment for the city, including harmonization of 'enterprises' mentioned in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Act.
- Emphasis on development of pollution free industry, with focus on high-value-add sectors such as IT/ITES, Bio Technology, and Electronics.
- Review the penalty on misuse of premises.
- Review the conversion of leasehold rights to freehold rights.
- Review the FAR norms for SCOs and SCFs.
- Promote balanced reform of the Rent Act.
- Review the sales tax regime.
- Promoting Chandigarh as a tourism destination, to promote hospitality sector, thus creating jobs.
- Establishment of Technical Entrepreneur Development Cell and Industrial Incubator.
- Involve Industry in developing course modules in colleges for better employability.
- Promoting infrastructural support for Industry including warehousing.

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12. Public Transportation, Traffic and Parking

- Increase the number of buses on various routes and to review the open policy on route permits.
- Transparent and effective utilisation of funds received to increase the operational efficiency of Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU).
- Follow up on implementation of Intelligent Transport Systems, integrating bus movement with stops and providing timely & updated information to passengers.
- Encourage pedestrian and cycle movement by increasing footpaths and cycle paths along all main roads.
- Study traffic patterns to reduce congestion.
- Promote multilevel and basement parking models where feasible.
- Identify areas within residential sectors where secure community parking can be done to decongest the inner roads.
- Follow up on alternative public transportation means for Chandigarh such as Metro.
- Strive to improve the quality of roads.
- Review the need for flyovers and under passes in the city on a need based system to address traffic congestion as applicable.
- Advocate for by-passes to be constructed to prevent inter-state traffic from entering Chandigarh.
- Advocate the increase of traffic police personnel for effective management.

13. Rail and Air Connectivity

- Pursue Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Defence to commence International Flights from Chandigarh Airport.
- Pursue Railway Ministry to hasten the process of bringing High-Speed Rail Connectivity to Chandigarh

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14. Ex-servicemen / Central Government Employee Issues

- 'Respect your Soldiers' to be advocated as the spirit of Chandigarh.
- Advocate enhancing the monetary benefits to gallantry awardees and bringing them at par with the best in the nation.
- To promote the welfare of disabled armed forces and paramilitary personnel.
- Preferential treatment and respect to gallantry awardees and ex-servicemen in public offices.
- Time-bound and mandatory redressal of grievances of serving military and paramilitary personnel related to the Chandigarh Administration.
- Appointment of a liaison officer at a senior level in the Administration to look after grievances of Central Government employees with transferable jobs.
- Inception of a special police cell to deal with complaints of serving and retired defence and paramilitary personnel.
- Harmonisation of policies related to domiciliary restrictions concerned with dependents of military and paramilitary personnel and veterans and also other Central Government employees and ex-employees with transferable jobs.
- Ensuring that the families of paramilitary personnel who die in operational areas are accorded the same benefits as respect as is applicable to defence personnel dying in similar circumstances.

15. Police Welfare

- Improve the condition of accommodation for serving Police personnel.
- Welfare policies to encompass education of children of Police personnel.
- Revision of pay scales and fixed duty hours for Police personnel.
- Ensuring timely promotions for Police personnel.

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16. Contractual Workers

The Aam Aadmi Party's policy on contract workers will be implemented in letter and in spirit:

- No contract employment for posts that require work to be done throughout the year
- Strict implementation of payment of minimum wages
- Non discrimination with contract workers in terms of access to canteens, uniforms, transportation
- Enhancing equitable working conditions and benefits

17. Sports and Youth Affairs

- Regularly inspect functioning and maintenance of existing Sports infrastructure in the city.
- To provide recreational and sporting facilities to Chandigarh's villages and colonies and provide sport coaches for training children and youngsters.
- Strive to bring International Sporting Events to the City.
- Lobby for building world-class infrastructure for all sports in the City.
- Exposing youth of the city to international and national cultural exchange initiatives.
- Work with Government Organisations and NGOs to offer help to address issue of substance abuse.
- Development of skill development and vocational training programs to enhance employment opportunities.

18. Senior Citizens welfare

- Review the old age pension scheme and mechanisms.
- Enhance the tax benefits applicable to senior citizens.
- Review the infrastructure of old age homes, and to create additional and equitable old age homes.
- Promote a community based inclusive approach to senior citizens welfare.
- Promote the special police helpline for senior citizens to be made more effective and sensitive to the needs of senior citizens.

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19. Environment

- Review the Green Cover of Chandigarh and promote plantation of trees.
- To advocate the conversion of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary into a Biosphere Reserve.
- Develop Chandigarh's *choes* into model green belts.
- Strictly enforce Environmental Clearance norms for any new development.
- Development of alternate and renewable sources of energy.

20. Minorities

AAP'S national manifesto has in depth outlined its take on issues of marginalised communities. We, from Chandigarh stand committed to implement the outlined measures in Letter and Spirit. Including issues of:

- Secularism and Communal Harmony
- Security and Non Discrimination of Religious Minorities
- Life of Dignity to the Valmiki Community
- Ending Caste based Inequalities

End

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