



E-ISSN: 2664-603X
P-ISSN: 2664-6021
Impact Factor (RJIF): 5.92
IJPSG 2026; 8(7): 20-24
www.journalofpoliticalscience.com
Received: 10-04-2026
Accepted: 12-06-2026

Dr. Neetu Sharma
Associate Professor,
Department Of Political
Science, Mata Sundri College
for Women, University of
Delhi, Delhi, India

Mapping Punjab Ahead of 2027 Elections: Challenges, Choices and Political Faultlines

Neetu Sharma

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26646021.2026.v8.i7a.1153>

Abstract

Punjab politics in the last decade has emerged as a tripolar contest after years of its bipolar existence. The new entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has changed the landscape of Punjab politics and presented the voters with much-coveted choices missing from the alternative political sharing model followed by Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress since 1966. While Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) had to face years of factionalism and a history of splits and mergers. The Congress struggled with image makeover post Operation Blue Star and 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Both parties had their share of internal and external challenges. The much-needed calm in the troubled waters of Punjab politics emerged in the 90s with terrorism under control by the Congress government of 1991, where Chief Minister Beant Singh and supercop KPS Gill were harbingers of peace and stability. While on the other hand, Shiromani Akali Dal finally set their house in order by forging a mega-merger and emerging as Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) under the able leadership of Sardar Prakash Singh Badal. The cherry on the cake was their alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1997. This was a major turning point in Punjab politics. This paper explores the next big change by which AAP became a third option or choice for Punjabi voters post-2014 and ascended to form its first state government in 2022 assembly elections. In 2027 they face an acid test in Punjab. The paper is an attempt to explore where the traditional parties SAD and Congress and BJP stand in upcoming elections and what challenges and fault lines have to be addressed by the present regime.

Keywords: Political Parties, Punjab Politics, AAP, BJP, SAD, Congress, Elections, alliances

Introduction

Political parties are indispensable to democracy. They connect citizens to government, convert demands into public policy, and provide leadership and structure. Party behavior is often shaped by electoral systems and constitutional design. Many political scientists view political parties not merely as election vehicles but as institutions that make mass democracy workable by simplifying choices, aggregating interests, and stabilizing conflict. Key Lawson argued parties are crucial linkages between citizens and policymakers; he advocates that democracy works not only through voting but also through durable channels that connect public opinion with governing institutions (Lawson, 1980) ^[1]. While Matthew S. Shugart highlights the relationship between electoral systems and party systems, he argues that institutions shape the number, type, and strategy a political party would follow (Shugart, Herron & Pekkanan, 2018) ^[2]. Herbert Kitschelt also agrees to this argument that political parties do not operate in a vacuum. A political system influences how many parties will exist, how they will compete with each other, and what the types of coalitions they build would be (Kitschelt & Wilkinson, 2007) ^[3].

In India, parties have been successful in expanding representation by voicing regional issues and linguistic, caste, and ethnic identities, but at the same time they have been criticized for weak internal democracy, corruption, splits, nepotism, and clientelism. This limits their responsiveness and performance. When we look at the regional party system in India, it has followed a multi-party model better than the center. The present paper decodes Punjab politics in this perspective where, despite emerging options in politics, the voters still face the dilemma of selecting the best among the worst. The present choices have little to offer to provide solutions and stability in the long run.

As a border state in the northwestern part of India and sharing proximity to Pakistan, the

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Neetu Sharma
Associate Professor,
Department Of Political
Science, Mata Sundri College
for Women, University of
Delhi, Delhi, India

politics of Punjab has always had high stakes. Moreover, it is the only state in India that is Sikh majority. The major players in the state have been SAD and Congress. From the turbulent era of the Khalistan Movement to the Green Revolution; the agrarian distress post-Green Revolution, drugs, governance issues, corruption, lack of industries, unemployment, overseas migration, and conversions; and structural crises, the challenges in Punjab have been unending. Punjab sits on a time bomb waiting to explode. The warning signs are being overlooked by the central government of BJP once the alliance partners with SAD (Badal), as, unlike Bihar or Bengal, Punjab hardly features in their double-engine sarkar model, being a Sikh-majority state. Moreover, post their split with SAD, where they were junior partners from 1997 to 2020, and their unsuccessful pairing with Captain Amrinder Singh in the 2022 elections, the Punjab BJP unit is relooking at their strategy for upcoming elections. The split happened due to the infamous and now rolled-back farm laws, which created an anti-farmer image of SAD-BJP in the agrarian state. The SAD in particular had to face major backlash wherein 2022 it performed dismally low. SAD's image of a party that stands steadfast for the rights and issues of the peasantry was completely shattered and they were rejected by the voters and reduced to three seats in the state where they ruled for years. Sukhbir Singh Badal will face his first elections after the death of his father and party supremo Prakash Singh Badal, who was the main architect of ending factionalism in SAD and forging the winning alliance with the BJP, which brought them to power in the state in 1997, 2007, and 2012. On the other hand, Congress, fighting internal strife and 'politics of camps,' faced yet another embarrassing defeat, and this time in Punjab, a state that had saved its image in fighting the strong 'Modi wave' that engulfed other states in the parliamentary elections of 2019. With Captain Amrinder Singh, who wrote their winning script in 2002 and 2017, having left the party due to his infamous split with Navjot Singh Sidhu, the party stands at a crossroads on all fronts. The elections of 2022 rejected the 'personality cult' argument, with bigwigs like Capt. Amarinder Singh, Sardar Prakash Singh Badal (expired on 25th April, 2023), Sukhbir Singh Badal, and Navjot Singh Sidhu facing the most embarrassing defeat of their political careers and in their home constituencies.

The biggest achiever, however, was the Aam Aadmi Party, who showed the door to the traditional players and came to the driver's seat with a thumping majority. This 'badlav' (change) was not only in terms of the change of government but also had far larger implications for the people of Punjab. This was a 'paradigm shift' in Punjab politics. However, as AAP is nearing the completion of 5 years in power and faces elections in 2027, the road ahead looks bumpy and full of speed bumps for Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and the party. The question is not merely who can win but who can restore jobs, law and order, trust and balance

Objective of the Study

This paper explores the choices the voters have, the concerns they share, and the biggest issues that will shape voter sentiments in upcoming elections. Its objective is to analyse the strategies of major contestants AAP, SAD, BJP, and Congress on performance, leadership, clarity on issues, and their ability to present a stable alternative in Punjab.

Methodology

Secondary sources like books, journals, research articles, newspaper reports, etc. have been studied, and primary resources like Election Commission of India and Punjab government reports and data have been referred to in the paper.

Understanding Punjab Politics from 2012 to 2022

Punjab has 117 assembly seats, which are spread in its three main regions: Malwa (69), Majha (25), and Doaba (23). While Malwa and Majha are predominantly Sikh-majority regions, Doaba has Hindu and Dalit populations. Traditionally SAD has got support in Malwa and Majha and Congress in Majha and Doaba. Punjab traditionally has a huge impact of the elements of region, religion, and caste statistically different in all three regions.

Table 1: Performance of Political Parties in the Assembly Elections in Punjab (2012)

Punjab Assembly Elections 2012			
Party Name	Seats Contested	Seats won	Votes Polled percentage
BJP	23	12	7.18
INC	117	46	40.9
BSP	117	0	4.29
CPI	14	0	0.82
SAD	94	56	34.7
PPP	87	0	5.07

Source: CSDS Data Unit.

The decade of 2012-2022 is very crucial in decoding Punjab politics. In 2012 SAD-BJP came back to power after completing the 2007-2012 term, a phenomenon rare to Punjab, where power has rotated alternatively between SAD and Congress almost in a pattern. The SAD-BJP alliance secured 68 seats (56 and 12, respectively), whereas the Congress managed to win 46 seats; three seats went to independent candidates. The rebel nephew of Badal, Manpreet Singh Badal, floated the PPP (People's Party of Punjab) and fought these elections with the "Sanjha Morcha" with the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist). He could not even win a single seat, and he later joined the Congress post these elections.

There were various reasons for this victory; primarily, the Atta-Dal (Flour-Pulses) scheme also was very lucrative. The highly subsidized "atta-dal" scheme was their ticket to power in these elections. It was a popular scheme in the 2007 and 2012 elections. Vigorous use of media and election management tactics were used, especially in the 2012 elections. It is a well-known fact that the SAD controlled cable networks in Punjab and did not allow news channels to enter Punjab that were critical of the functioning of its government. After more than a month-long "grueling campaign," finally the votes were polled on 30 January 2012, and the outcome was announced on 6 March (M. Singh, 2012). Sukhbir Singh Badal came forward as the young and vibrant heir to senior Badal and performed well on all fronts, minutely monitoring the entire election campaign of SAD. SAD registered wins in regions like Doaba, which were Congress strongholds.

However, very soon the euphoria of the win transformed into chaos; corruption and bad governance paved the way for the downfall. The devastating condition of farmers, the

deteriorating state of the economy, the mounting drug network, the rising corruption level, losing the Sutlej–Yamuna Link Canal case against Haryana in the Supreme Court, the goondagardi and arrogance of the Akali leaders, the monopoly of the transport and liquor businesses, and increasing religious discontentment due to the desecration of Guru Granth Sahib at various places can worsen the scene for the incumbent government. The things swiftly changed for SAD-BJP, and these mounting issues led to its electoral defeat in 2017.

The assembly elections of Punjab in 2017 were held on February 4th. These elections were crucial from varied perspectives as I decided the fate of the incumbent SAD-BJP government, which had ruled the state for ten years. Another important aspect of these elections was the entry of a new political force, i.e., the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which posed a direct contest to the two traditional combatants, that is, the SAD-BJP and the Congress. With 19.8 million electorates, 2017 assembly elections recorded the highest ever voting of 78.62 percent. Punjab voted on 117 seats: 69 seats in Malwa, 25 in Majha, and 23 in the Doaba region. The Mansa district of Malwa belt saw the highest voter turnout of 87 percent in the state. Overall, 42 of the 69 seats in the Malwa region recorded more than 80 percent voting. This region turned out to be the game-changer, as it not only has the largest number of seats but also the highest percentage of voting in the 2017 elections.

Congress came, replacing SAD-BJP with a thumping majority, winning 77/117 seats; the maximum were in Malwa (40). Akali Dal could not be a respectable opposition either, as AAP secured more seats than them, getting 20 seats while SAD could get only 15 seats, while BJP managed 3.

SAD came down from 56 seats in 2012 to 15 in 2017; moreover, its 34.7 percent vote share came down to 25.2 percent. According to Pramod Kumar, there has been a qualitative shift in the Akali support base. The first shift took place at the time of the reorganization of Punjab coupled with the Green Revolution. The rural Jat Sikhs constituted its major support base, and its leadership too came from this section. The next shift came in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star and anti-Sikh riots of 1984. The Akali urban votes, which were close to 5 percent, reached 12 percent. With the active support of Khatri Sikhs. The third shift took place in the resurgence of democracy in 1997, whereby the number of traditional Hindus supported Akali dal. (Pramod Kumar, E. Sreedharan (ed.), 2014)

To add to this was the fourth shift in which evidently there was a drastic shift; the Akali Dal is fast losing its core vote base of Jat Sikhs in a failed attempt at a moderate approach. Which convinced non-Sikhs for a while but irked and hurt the sentiments of their core supporter base, the Jat Sikhs peasantry, for years now.

Table 2: Punjab Assembly Election Results 2017

Party	Seats contested	Seats won	Seats change	Vote share percent	Vote share swing percent
INC	117	77	+31	38.5	-1.42
SAD	94	15	-41	25.2	-9.36
BJP	23	3	-9	5.4	-1.75
AAP	112	20	+20	23.7	+23.7
BSP	117	0	0	1.5	0

Source: Election Commission of Punjab

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) emergence in Punjab politics as third alternative

AAP grew in Punjab politics from the parliamentary elections of 2014. Wherein they secured 24.4% vote share and 4 seats out of 13. The trend continued in 2017 state assembly elections, with AAP securing 20 seats and 23.7% vote share. They were blamed for seeking the support of pro-Khalistan supporters in villages of Punjab and promoting the separatist elements in the state. In 2022 assembly elections were completely taken over by the AAP wave in entire Punjab; all three regions were engulfed in this massive AAP tornado unleashed on March 10th, 2022. The results are clearly indicative of this.

AAP registered a landslide win, getting 92/117 seats and a 42.01% vote share in these elections. Interestingly, 66 of the 92 seats won came from the Malwa region, which plays a decisive part in Punjab elections as it has 69 seats in its kitty. Congress got 18/117 seats, with their vote share going down by 15.52 percent. In 2017 they got 77/117 seats, out of which 40 came from Malwa. SAD continued its dismissal performance, going to the all-time low of 3/97 seats they contested. One seat from each region Malwa, Majha, and Doaba. Their vote share came down to 18.38% from 25.2%

in 2017. The BJP and its partners, Punjab Lok Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal Sanyukt, were outrightly rejected and managed only 2 seats, one each in Malwa and Doaba. While the 22 farmer unions' party, Sanyukt Samaj Morcha, won 0 seats out of 117, 93 of their contestants lost security deposits.

With an astounding victory to their credit and riding high on the “Delhi Model” of governance, it absolutely fit the bill. It came as a breath of fresh air for voters of Punjab who were tired of the corruption, factionalism, nepotism, and lack of progress for years. An average Punjabi who is well acquainted with changes happening around in other states, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, sees the way leadership and good governance have brought a huge difference in the lives of the masses in front of them.

They wanted Punjab's economy to be revived back to its glory; a corruption-free government, people-centric policies to be implemented, good leadership and good governance, and a drug-free Punjab. Their clear and decisive mandate in favor of AAP is clearly indicative of the fact that the electorate wanted the traditional parties to understand their inefficiency and failure in delivering what they promised.

Table 3: Punjab Assembly Elections 2022

Political Party	Seats contested	Seats secured	Vote share %	Swing in Vote share
AAP	117	92	42.01%	+18.31%
SAD+BSP	97+20	3+1	18.38% + 1.77%	- 6.82%, - 0.2%
INC	117	18	22.98%	-15.52%
BJP + Others	73+28+15	2+0+0	6.6%	+1.2

Source: Punjab Election Commission <https://eci.gov.in/files/file/14165-punjab-general-legislative-election-2022>. Accessed on 23rd March 2023.

Emerging political landscape of Punjab

The four years of AAP government have been challenging and testing from the beginning. Bhagwant Mann inherited a state with numerous issues. Economic and administrative troubles, the drug menace, farmer issues, the threat of resurgence of the Khalistan Movement, and on top of it to come back to power, they had announced a volley of freebies: 300 units of free electricity, Rs 1000 per month to all females of Punjab above the age of 18, free healthcare, etc. More government jobs, ending corruption, and the drug menace.

The law and order situation since AAP took over Punjab has been constantly declining and becoming worse day by day. Siddhu Moosewala (Punjabi Singer and Congress leader) and Sudhir Suri's (right-wing leader) murder in Amritsar in broad daylight exposed the state of affairs in Punjab. Many gangs and shooters have become active. Separatist groups and Organizations are openly voicing their opinions on Khalistan. This poses a huge threat in front of the state government as no development can be initiated in a border state with law and Order becomes a constant challenge.

To begin with, Amritpal and his organization Waris Punjab De' (heirs of Punjab), which looked like a replication of the politics in the decades of the 80s in Punjab. Amritpal's statements had been on the trajectory of promoting toxic and separatist feelings in the masses. Although the arrest has been made and he and his close aides have been arrested under the National Security Act (NSA) on April 23rd near Moga. But the irony of the situation is that he fought the 2024 elections from the Khadoor Sahib constituency and won it, making him the only sitting MP with an NSA imposed on him.

In the last four years, AAP government has made some progress on certain fronts

Last year's floods proved to be catastrophic for the economy and agriculture. Among all this is the "Punjab Shikhya Kranti 2.0," a 3500 crore, six-year school educational reform program that the Punjab government has rolled out in partnership with the World Bank, aiming at revolutionizing the infrastructure, standard, pedagogy, and approach towards education in Punjab. This paper is an attempt to analyze whether, through this policy of revolutionizing education in Punjab by the present dispensation, it is seriously aiming at resolving one of the pertinent challenges or just a gimmick for upcoming elections. The establishment of AAP mohalla clinics has fulfilled the much-needed reform in healthcare in tune with the much-hyped "Delhi Model"; both sectors, education and healthcare, have received the attention of the state government.

In parliamentary elections of 2024, AAP could manage only 3/13 seats, while Congress secured 7. SAD had merely 1 seat; independents got 2. While BJP could not open its account. However,

In the recently held municipal elections, the ruling Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab swept them with its candidates winning 958 of the total 1,977 wards, the results of which were declared Friday. Polling for 1,897 wards was held on 26 May, while candidates to 80 wards had been declared elected unopposed. The Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) came in a distant second and third, with their candidates winning in 397 and 192 wards, respectively. While the BJP won 172 wards, independents won 251 and the BSP won 7. Things look grim for Congress, SAD, and BJP at this time. This could boost their confidence and could be a curtain raiser to the upcoming elections.

The Road to 2027: Choices and Challenges

With less than a year to go for the state legislative assembly elections, all parties are geared up for the contest. Let us explore the choices and challenges before each before the Game of Thrones formally begins in Punjab. AAP is riding high on a wave of municipal election wins, but it has a huge challenge of anti-incumbency, failure of AAP in Delhi, and corruption charges against Arvind Kejriwal and the top brass, Raghav Chadda, along with 5 others, Ashok Kumar Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Sandeep Pathak, and Vikramjit Singh Sahney, joining the BJP. This leaves AAP in a difficult position and could be a possible dent in its list of achievements. The BJP, on the other hand, has been strategically trying to pitch itself as an alternative to AAP, SAD, and Congress. Recently it replaced its state party president from Sunil Jhakar to Kewal Singh Dhillon, a former vice president of Punjab Pradesh Congress and a Jat Sikh face who joined the BJP in 2022. By promoting Dhillon, the party aims to dispel the perception that it alienates the state's dominant agrarian and political community. Dhillon is from Malwa, which is Punjab's political heartland. The BJP has been doing social engineering for a while in Punjab now. It features in the list of states where they have not been able to outperform themselves for years and have been limited to a junior partner in the Akali-BJP alliance; they are now ready for innings in Punjab, riding high on victories in West Bengal. However, Kewal Singh Dhillon's appointment has raised objections from within the party unit, with Vice President Jagmohan Singh Raju resigning and Capt. Amrinder Singh, their alliance partner, openly expressing his unhappiness. Capt. is also rumoured to be joining Congress again. The BJP's strength in Punjab over the years has been largely dependent on its alliance partner SAD and not on its own. It has done well in Hindu-majority areas, but to capture the mind and heart of the Sikh majority is a herculean task ahead. The "Double Engine" sarkar formula will be a strenuous task to implement in Punjab. Whether Raghav Chadda will become their face in upcoming elections is still to be seen.

Meanwhile, the SAD faces its first election without the guidance and mentorship of the party patriarch Late Sardar Prakash Singh Badal. Punjab is the only state where Akali Dal has any political future left. In its attempt to set its

house straight after the infamous 'beadbi' incident, the 'Bargari Kand,' and the miserable performance of SAD in the 2022 elections, the party president Sukhbir Singh Badal had to face the wrath of Akal Takht, who found him guilty of *tankhaiya* (religious misconduct); he resigned from the party president post in December 2024 and was reappointed in April 2025 again. There is still no visible vision, no roadmap ahead for 2027 elections. They have not been able to perform well in the recently held municipal polls. It has huge challenges to address: electoral decline, leadership and unity, ideological identity (maintaining the Panthic identity), and winning back the peasantry, their core support base in Punjab. Rebuilding a potential alliance with the BJP could be profitable to both in upcoming elections.

Congress, which has serious potential in Punjab, still looks like a divided house. With Charanjit Singh Channi (a Dalit Sikh) as CM candidate, they might not stand much chance in the Jat-Sikh majority Malwa belt. Punjab Pradesh Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi all have their camps inside Congress mutually competing with each other. This can seriously damage Congress's poll prospects in upcoming elections.

The ruling party AAP and chief minister Bhagwant Singh Mann are leaving no stone unturned to woo the people again from every hoarding of Mann with folded hands and promise to deliver free religious trips for locals. He recently gave a go-ahead to his much-advertised scheme for women: a monthly transfer of one thousand rupees to each woman in Punjab.

Conclusion

Thus, what is in store in the future of Punjab, time will tell within a few months. For now, all the political parties have their set of challenges to address before the elections. AAP needs to have a strong policy roadmap for the next five years. The debt crisis is growing with no clear repayment strategy with any of the parties, especially the ruling party. The economy is stagnant with lack of industrial development and over-reliance by the farmers on wheat-paddy agriculture. Unemployment among the youth who are witnessing the drying up of the opportunities abroad also. The countries like Canada have been exhausted in terms of job markets, and the USA is no longer accessible due to the Trump administration's changed rules. Drug trafficking, law and order issues, and lack of center and state alignment, due to which limited funding is given to Punjab as compared to the neighboring state, Haryana. The recent bomb blasts at Jalandhar and Amritsar have exposed AAP-BJP clashes. For now, the electorate of Punjab needs parties with strong leadership, vision, and strategy. Hopefully the political parties will acknowledge this and rise up to the need of the hour.

References

1. Lawson K, editor. Political parties and linkage: A comparative perspective. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press; 1980.
2. Herron ES, Pekkanen RJ, Shugart MS, editors. The Oxford handbook of electoral systems. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2018.
3. Kitschelt H, Wilkinson S, editors. Patrons, clients, and policies: Patterns of democratic accountability and representation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 2007.
4. Sridharan E, editor. Coalition politics in India: Selected issues at the Centre and the States. New Delhi: Academic Foundation; 2014.
5. Kumar A, editor. Rethinking state politics in India: Regions within regions. New Delhi: Routledge; 2011.
6. Routledge.
7. Kumar A. Electoral politics in Punjab: Factors and phases. New Delhi: Routledge; 2020.
8. Singh M. Re-election in Punjab and the continuing crisis. *Econ Polit Wkly*. 2012;47(13):21.
9. The Hindu Bureau. Punjab Assembly elections: Charanjit Singh Channi is Congress CM candidate, says Rahul Gandhi. *The Hindu*. 2022 Feb 7.
10. Judge SP. Political churning in Punjab before the elections. *Econ Polit Wkly*. 2022;57(7).
11. The Indian Express. Punjab Assembly election results 2022 explained: Shift from the traditional parties. 2022 Mar 12.
12. The Hindu. Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh arrested from Punjab's Moga under NSA and shifted to Assam's Dibrugarh jail. 2023 Apr 23.
13. The Tribune. Crash course for first-time legislators of Punjab. 2022 May 13.
14. Narang AS. The Shiromani Akali Dal. In: Singh P, Fenech LE, editors. *The Oxford handbook of Sikh studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2014. p.339-349.
15. News18. All winners list of Punjab Assembly Election 2022: Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections. 2022.
16. India Today. Bhagwant Mann's swearing-in highlights: From unemployment to farming, AAP will fix everything, says the new Punjab CM. 2022 Mar 16.
17. Business Today. Bhagwant Mann sworn in as Punjab CM at Bhagat Singh's ancestral village. 2022 Mar 16.
18. Kumar A. Shiromani Akali Dal (1920-2020): Ideology, strategy, and support base. *Sikh Form*. 2021;16(1):1-18.
19. Sekhon JS. Elections in Punjab 2014: Emergence of Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab. *Res J Soc Sci*. 2014;22(2):132-139.
20. Sekhon JS, Sharma S. Evaluation of SAD-BJP government (2007-17). *Econ Polit Wkly*. 2017;52(3).
21. Sekhon JS, Sharma S. Dynamics of electoral politics of 2017 Assembly elections in Punjab. *JSPS*. 2018;25(1):121-141.
22. Judge SP. Political churning in Punjab before the elections. *Econ Polit Wkly*. 2022;57(7).
23. The Hindu. AAP government fulfilled all pre-poll promises in just four years: Punjab CM.
24. Sharma R, Singh RO. Will Punjab follow West Bengal? *Frontline*. 2026 Jun 1.
25. Sekhon JS. Tough road ahead for BJP in Punjab. *The Tribune*. 2026 Jun 4.