

5 YEARS, MULTIPLE SWITCHES BY CHANDIGARH COUNCILLORS

Elected to House on one symbol, serving under another: Meet UT’s turncoats

BJP biggest beneficiary as of the 13 councillors who switched sides, 6 eventually chose saffron party

Hina Rohtaki
Chandigarh, September 14

THEY WERE elected on one party’s symbol, but several of Chandigarh’s municipal councillors are now serving under the banner of another - with the BJP emerging as the biggest beneficiary of the political churn.

With the civic election process expected to begin next month, the political churn in the outgoing House offers a striking snapshot of how dramatically the mandate of the December 2021 election has been changed during this single term without voters getting another chance to decide.

As many as 13 of the 35 councillors elected in 2021 - more than one in every three - have changed their political allegiance during the current term. The movement has not been limited to one-time defections. At least three councillors - Gurcharanjit Singh, Neha Musawat and Poonam - changed sides multiple times, in some cases just before the annual mayoral elections when even a handful of votes can determine control of the House.

The BJP has emerged as the biggest beneficiary. Of the 13 councillors who switched sides, six eventually moved to the BJP, taking the party’s strength from its original 12 to 18.

Sample this: Poonam’s political journey is perhaps the most striking. Elected on an AAP ticket, she moved to the BJP shortly before the mayoral polls, returned to the AAP about a month later and subsequently shifted back to the BJP.

Gurcharanjit Singh, elected on a Congress ticket, moved to the BJP in 2022. Ahead of the 2024 mayoral election, he shifted to the AAP and, within days, returned to the BJP. Neha too changed allegiance twice, moving from the AAP to the BJP and then back to the AAP.

The 2021 election saw the AAP emerging as the largest party with 14 councillors, but closely followed by the BJP with 12 councillors, and Congress with 8 with the SAD also finding representation. Since then, however, crossovers have altered that balance substantially.

The BJP’s rise from 12 to 18 has had a direct bearing on control of the civic body. The party retained the mayor’s post in 2022, 2023, 2025 and 2026. The exception was 2024, when the AAP-Congress alliance won the mayoral election after the Supreme Court intervened in the controversial poll.

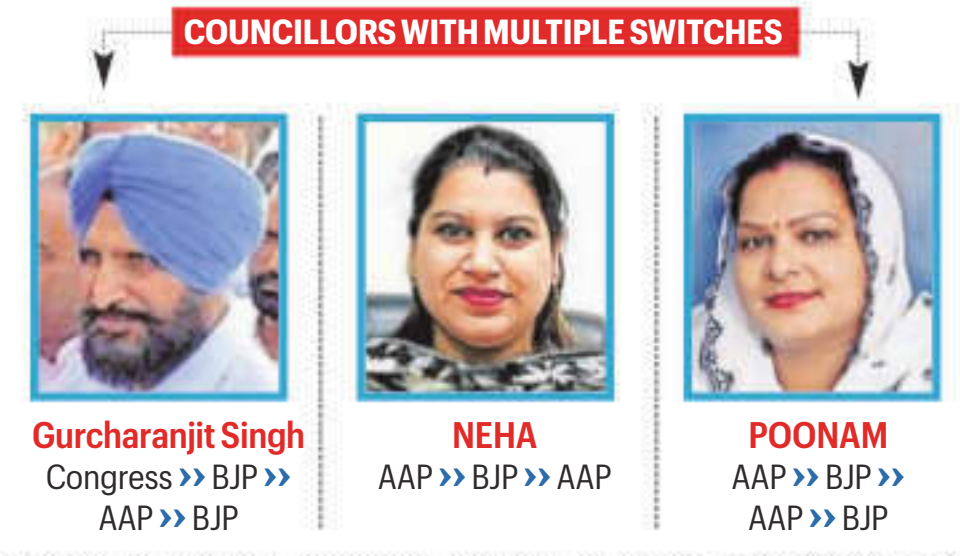
The pattern of switching is also one-sided. All 13 councillors who changed allegiance were originally elected from the Congress or AAP.

A mandate reshaped without another election

The political composition of the House has therefore been repeatedly redrawn even though Chandigarh voters went to the polls only once during the term.

Opposition parties have, at different points, alleged horse-trading and inducements in connection with such political switches. Councillors who

THE FAST MOVERS



Who moved from Cong to BJP

Harpreet Kaur Babla
Gurbax Rawat
Who moved from AAP to BJP
Suman
Lakhbir Singh

Who moved from AAP to Congress

Taruna Mehta
Prem Lata
Damanpreet Singh
Munaur
Ramchander Yadav

Who moved from SAD to AAP

Hardeep Singh

Poonam’s political journey is perhaps the most striking. Elected on an AAP ticket, she moved to the BJP shortly before the mayoral polls, returned to the AAP about a month later and subsequently shifted back to the BJP

changed sides, however, have justified their decisions by citing political or ideological differences, dissatisfaction with their previous parties, pressure or the interests of their constituents.

For the BJP, the gains have been particularly significant. Six opposition councillors eventually joined the party, strengthening its position in a House where the annual mayoral election makes every seat politically consequential.

The anti-defection question

The churn has also revived the debate over whether municipal councillors should be brought under an anti-defection mechanism here. The issue assumes greater significance in Chandigarh because the mayor is elected every year. A few crossovers alter the numbers and, consequently, determine who controls the civic body.

In 2019, the Centre had sought views on extending anti-defection provisions to local bodies, with the BJP supporting the move. However, no such mechanism has been introduced for Chandigarh’s Municipal Corporation.

“The political question is consequently larger than the individual choices of councillors: when a candidate wins on a party symbol, does the mandate belong solely to the individual - or also to the party and the voters who backed that symbol,” a councillor requesting anonymity said.

The issue is particularly relevant as the debate over the mayor’s tenure continues. Congress MP Manish Tewari has sought a longer and more stable mayoral arrangement, while the UT Administration has proposed increasing the mayor’s term from one year to 2.5 years.

“A longer tenure could reduce the annual battle for numbers and bring greater administrative continuity. But unless political crossovers are addressed, the underlying arithmetic of the House could continue to change midway

through the term,” the councillor added.

Reasons aplenty for councillors who made the switch

Gurcharanjit Singh, who made three switches in the current term, told The Indian Express that his political moves were driven by people in his constituency.

“People only asked me to go to the AAP, and later they asked me to join the BJP. But now I will remain with the BJP permanently and contest all future elections on a BJP ticket. When I contested the municipal election on a Congress ticket, not a single Congress leader came to campaign for me. People voted for me because of my own work and standing among them, not because of the party. I have been to AAP, but they don’t have anything,” he said.

Poonam said circumstances had influenced her decision to return to the AAP before eventually moving back to the BJP.

“Initially, there was some pressure on me when I switched back to the AAP. My husband was in jail in connection with a murder case, and you know how politically you are grilled in such circumstances. So, I had to return to AAP at that point. But I later shifted to the BJP again because, at the end of the day, it is the work that matters. The public does not want to see which party you belong to; they want to see the work you are doing,” the councillor said.

Neha told The Indian Express that she left the AAP and joined the BJP over candidature issues.

“I had some differences within the party over the candidature, because of which I joined the BJP. Later, I returned to the AAP,” Neha said.



Moon’s rendezvous with Venus

VENUS, OFTEN described as ‘Earth’s twin’, in a rare lunar occultation observed in parts of Europe, Africa was seen near Moon on Monday

THE OPTICAL ILLUSION emerged as moon passed directly in front of Venus. Venus slowly disappeared and then shone again out on the other side a while later

Venus is seen near the waxing crescent Moon in the evening sky in Chandigarh on Monday.
KAMLESHWAR SINGH

Project Saarthi launched at GMSH-16 to help patients navigate hospital services

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 14

PATIENTS AND their attendants at Government Multi-Specialty Hospital (GMSH), Sector 16, will now have volunteers to guide them through registration counters, departments, diagnostic facilities and other services, with the UT Health Department launching Project ‘Saarthi’ on Monday.

The initiative, launched in collaboration with the NSS Cell of the Education Department, Chandigarh Administration, aims to make hospital services more accessible and reduce the confusion and inconvenience faced by patients, particularly the elderly, persons with disabilities and those unfamiliar with hospital procedures.

Under the project, trained “Saarthis” will assist patients and attendants in locating different departments and facilities and guide them through the procedures required to access healthcare services.

The project was launched under the guidance of Director Health Services Dr Suman Singh in the presence of GMSH-16 Medical Superintendent Dr Neena, Deputy Medical Super-



Trained ‘Saarthis’ at the institute will assist patients and attendants in locating different departments and facilities and guide them through procedures required to access healthcare services. FILE

intendent Dr Parmjit Singh, nodal officer Dr Sandeep Bansal, hospital officials and members of the NSS team.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Suman Singh said healthcare was not limited to diagnosis and treatment but also involved ensuring that patients could access services with dignity, empathy and ease.

The collaboration with the NSS Cell will bring trained student volunteers into the initiat-

ive. The Health Department said their involvement would promote a spirit of service and social responsibility while providing practical assistance to patients.

The department said Project Saarthi would help minimise confusion, improve accessibility and reduce waiting-related inconvenience, making the overall experience at GMSH-16 more responsive to patients’ needs.

Kashmiri Pandits mark ‘Balidan Divas’

Chandigarh: The Kashmiri Sahayak Sabha (KSS), Chandigarh, observed ‘Balidan Divas’ at Kashmir Bhawan in Sector 24 on Monday, paying tribute to members of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community who fell to terrorism in the Valley.

The martyrdom of Taploo and all our martyrs remains a symbol of patriotism to the community and the nation,” said KSS president Sanjoo Pandita. Several Kashmiri Pandits from the Tricity attended the event.

ENS

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the general public that following person has applied for transfer of Flat /share/ transfer of Lease deed rights as under:-

Name of Applicant/ Transferee	Allottee/Owner	Flat, Cat & Floor	On the basis
Smt. Swarn Ahuja W/o Late Sh. Ravinder Kumar	Sh. Ravinder Kumar S/o Sh. Gobind Ram	1676, A, 2nd Floor	Nominee

Note:- Submit Objections, if any, in writing within 30 days of publication of this notice before the undersigned along with documentary evidence.
Secretary, Pushpac First (I) Sector 49-B, Chandigarh

नेनो विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
नॉलेज सिटी, सेक्टर-81, एस.एस. नगर, मोहाली - 140306, पंजाब
INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab
F. No. 9(3)/2026-INST Date: 14.09.2026
Admission to the Ph.D. Programme (January 2027 Session)
INST invites applications from prospective candidates for admission in areas related to chemical sciences, physical sciences, biological sciences, pharma and agri sciences for the session beginning in January, 2027.
Eligibility Criteria:-
Candidates must have:-
1) M. Sc. or M. Pharm. or M. Tech. in Basic or Applied Sciences, Engineering or related areas. Students who have appeared for the final year/semester examinations are also eligible, provided that the degree will be granted by the time of joining.
2) Qualified at least 1 National Examination such as GATE/GPAT/JEST/CSIR/UGC-NET, (TIFR/NCBS), ICMR-JRF, DBT-JRF or DST-INSPIRE.
Last date of submission of applications is 7th October, 2026. For details Candidates may visit Institute Website (https://inst.ac.in/careers/42).
वीएचडी: कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश (जनवरी 2027 सत्र के लिए)
नेनो विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईएनएसटी) अगस्तियों से जनवरी 2027 सत्र के लिए वीएचडी: कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। यह प्रवेश वैश्विक साइंस, रिसर्च साइंस, कारोबार साइंस, फार्मा और एग्री साइंस से संबंधित क्षेत्रों के लिए है।
प्रस्ताव मानदंड :-
अभ्यर्थियों को पास निम्नलिखित योग्यताएं होना आवश्यक है :-
1) बैचिक या एम्फाइंड साइंस, इंजीनियरिंग अथवा संबंधित क्षेत्रों में एमएससी. या एमफाइंड/एम्फाइंड की डिग्री। ये छात्रों को पास होने जिन्होंने अंतिम वर्ष/सेमेस्टर की परीक्षा दी है, बशर्ते कि प्रवेश के समय तक उन्हें डिग्री प्राप्त हो जाए।
2) अग्रणीयों में कम-से-कम एक राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा जैसे GATE/GPAT/JEST/CSIR/UGC-NET, (TIFR/NCBS), ICMR-JRF, DBT-JRF or DST-INSPIRE उत्तीर्ण की हो।
आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 7 अक्टूबर, 2026 है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए अभ्यर्थी संस्थान की वेबसाइट (https://inst.ac.in/careers/42) पर देखें।

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ARMB Mohali, SCO 48, 2nd Floor, Phase 2, SAS Nagar, Mohali (Pb.), M: 93045-09813, E-mail: cs8312@pnb.bank.in
E-AUCTION / SALE NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT 2002
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable / immovable property(ies) mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive / Physical / Symbolic Possession (whichever is applicable) of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank / Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank / Secured Creditor from the respective Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.
The sale will be done through e-auction platform provided at the website https://baanknet.com on 06.10.2026 from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM
SUBMISSION OF EMD AND ONLINE DOCUMENTS VERIFICATION ON PORTAL https://baanknet.com MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE DATE OF AUCTION
M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai Portal Help Desk No. +91-82912-20220, E-mail id: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com, Availability 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on all working days for guidance on Auction process, Registration Status, Technical Assistance etc.
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Sr. No.	Property ID	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged Owner's Name (Mortgagors of Property/ies)	A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 B) Outstanding amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 D) Nature of Possession	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	LOT-1:- PUNBON49347117 LOT-2:- PUNBON49336550 LOT-3:- PUNBON49346849 LOT-4:- PUNB00072 LOT-5:- PUNBON49337026 Rahul Kumar 9304509813 Ishan Mehra 9041414009	LOT-1:- All part and parcel of land and building msg. 1K-12M bearing Khalsa No. 20R/10/4(1-9), 21R/6/2(0-03) Khewat No. / Khatauni No. 158/194 situated at Village Dabkhara HB-350, Tehsil Nangal, District Rupnagar, Punjab in the name of Ashok Kumar S/o Parmeshri Dass RTD No. 1031 Dated 02.12.2015. LOT-2:- All part and parcel of Res. House at land msg. 0K-10M bearing 10/148 share of land 07K-08M bearing Khata No. 255/382, Khalsa No. 777(7-8) situated at Village Kalsera HB No. 236. (Now House No. 401/14, Phase 1-B, Shivalik Avenue, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal, District Rupnagar, Punjab in the name of Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Ram Nath RTD No. 365 Dated 14.07.1998. LOT-3:- All part and parcel of Res. House at Land msg. 0K-6M bearing 8/23 share bearing Khalsa No. 2832/2426/596-597(1K-03M) Khewat / khata No. 267/511 as per Jamabandi for the Year 2010-11 situated at Village Dorbetta, Tehsil Nangal, District Rupnagar, Punjab, HB 280, Now at Ram Nagar, Nangal Township, Tehsil Nangal, District Rupnagar, Punjab having RTD No. 963 Dated 19.11.2015 in the name of Darshna Kumar W/o Sh. Ravinder Kumar. LOT-4:- All part and parcel of Res. House msg. 0K-17M bearing Khalsa No. 2928/2425(1-14) situated at Village Dobetta HB 280, Tehsil Nangal, District Rupnagar, Punjab in the name of Darshna Kumar RTD No. 933 Dated 09.11.2015. LOT-5:- All part and parcel of 13 - Biswa Land at Village Chaukiala (Near Ruhani Satsang Kendra & GPI Textile Ind) Bharatgarh - Nalagarh Road (Within Municipal Council Limit) Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt. Solan Himachal Pradesh bearing Khalsa No. 377/82, Khata No. 47, RTD No. 1684 Dated 14.07.2004 in the name Sanjiv Kumar Rana, Rajiv Kumar Rana, Sh. Raman Kumar, and Sh. Sunil Kumar.	30.06.2021 Rs. 5,86,88,159/- as on 31.03.2021 with further debited upto 31.03.2021 plus further intt and other charges w.e.f. 01.04.2021, less recovery if any 08.12.2021 SYMBOLIC POSSESSION Rs. 64,00,000/- Rs. 6,40,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. 71,00,000/- Rs. 7,10,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. 31,09,000/- Rs. 3,10,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. 70,00,000/- Rs. 7,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. 1,29,00,000/- Rs. 12,90,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay. SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay. SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay. SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay. SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay. SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay. SA No. 105/2025 pending at DRT-III Chandigarh. However, there is no stay.	

NOTE:- The IP at LOT-1 to 5 is in the Symbolic Possession of the Bank. Bank has filed Original Application in DRT-III Chandigarh which are pending for adjudication.
TERMS & CONDITIONS :- (1) The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: (2) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". (3) The particulars of secured assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (4) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through E-Auction platform provided at the website https://BAANKNET.com on 06.10.2026 between 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer https://BAANKNET.com (5) Over and above reserve price, Minimum One Bid Amount is Mandatory. (6) Outstanding charges / bill for electricity, house tax etc. shall be borne by auction purchaser.
STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Dated: 14.09.2026 Place: Mohali Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank

REMEMBRANCE
Tribute to a man of Principles
Late Sh. Adarsh Kumar Jain
(23.04.1944 - 15.09.2020)
on 6th Death Anniversary
Deeply remembered by Friends, Relatives and Family Members.
Management & Staff of
M/s. **Cloth Palace 22-D**, Chandigarh; M/s. **Cloth Palace Hillview**, Panchkula; M/s. Anant Designers (P) Limited, Mohali; M/s. Law Associates, Chandigarh; M/s. Anant Designer (India), Ludhiana; M/s. Travellers Delight, Panchkula; Anant Ram Charitable & Memorial Trust, Chandigarh. Ph. 0172-2700373; 2556905(S) M. 092165-38781, 092165-11086.

