



# Performance of Aam Aadmi Party's In Punjab from 2013 to 2022

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigated how Aam Aadmi Party became so popular after its formation and emerged as the second largest party in Punjab. This research paper analyzes the recent election results of Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab; especially focus on how Aam Aadmi Party gained so popular. In 26 November 2012, Arvind Kejriwal was formally launched the Aam Aadmi Party, after the victory of Delhi elections in 2015; the people of Punjab is attracted to Aam Aadmi Party with many expectations. in this study, the reasons behind the victory of Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab find out.

**Key Words:** Aam Aadmi Party, Punjab, Bhagwant Maan.

## INTRODUCTION

The Aam Aadmi Party was born out of a movement, which began in many parts of India in April 2011. The movement was known as the 'Anna's Movement'. The movement is the most powerful example of democracy and the powerful role of media in democratic nation India. Through media, Aam Aadmi Party amplified the movement's messages and mobilized the masses.

The ground was almost set up, when they feeling "betrayed" by the government when it rejected their draft, Congress and other leaders challenged them to join politics, win elections and come to parliament if they wanted to "fight system from within", root out the evil of corruption and get the Jan Lok Pal passed.

Arvind Kejriwal took as a challenge and except the challenge, Arvind Kejriwal announced that he is going to form a political party and that he intended the formal launch to be on 26 November 2012, coincide, which is the anniversary of India's adoption of its Constitution in 1949. In this way, a wind of change that had started blowing in Indian politics with the emergence of a political party called Aam Aadmi Party. The party's name reflects the phrase Aam Aadmi (common man) whose interest Arvind Kejriwal proposed to represent.

The party was formally launched in New Delhi on 26 November and in March 2013, it was registered as a political party with the Election Commission of India, and Aam Aadmi Party became National Political Party of India.

In Punjab political region, there are two main political parties, one is the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and second one is Indian National Congress. The Shiromani Akali Dal came in power in 2007 after defeating the Congress. In 2014, there was an entry of a third key player in Punjab Politics that was the "Aam Aadmi Party".

When Aam Aadmi Party contested in 2014 general elections and got four Lok Sabha seats surprising all from Punjab. They performed very well in 2014 general elections. It was surprising for all the political parties.

Punjab was made Aam Aadmi Party's natural choice for expansion because Punjab was the only state which gave Aam Aadmi Party's candidates victories in Lok Sabha elections. In Lok Sabha 2014 elections, Aam Aadmi Party got 414 out of the 434 candidates. They lost almost every seat it contested elsewhere in the country. Aam Aadmi Party's candidates were unable to safe their security deposits.

At the same time, Punjab was the only state, which people showed their interest in the new born political party. By showing their faith and interest in Aam Aadmi Party and People of Punjab send four leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party in Parliament. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from New Delhi's political background, the Aam Aadmi Party has come to the centre stage in Punjab by successfully projecting itself as a party with variation.

In Delhi, Aam Aadmi Party done a great job by filing of corruption cases against capitalist and politicians during the Aam Aadmi Party's short term has raised a ray of hope that the rule of law can be implemented if there is strong political will. When Aam Aadmi Party came on the sight it was like a breath of fresh air for these idealists and previous idealists who had entered middle or late middle age.

#### PERFORMANCE OF THE AAM AADMI PARTY IN THE 2014 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

The Aam Aadmi Party made an amazing entry into Punjab politics by winning four seats in the Lok Sabha election and Malwa area of Punjab. This victory has initiated a new political process by breaking the hold of two political forces e.g the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party (SAD-BJP) alliance and the Congress. The advantage of an anti-incumbency wave against the State and central government was reaped by the Aam Aadmi Party in the elections. The Aam Aadmi Party has also succeeded in checking the 'Modi Wave' by getting a huge number of votes in almost all the constituencies in the State.

The valuable achievement of the Aam Aadmi Party was to won four seats in the Malwa region of Punjab. In Malwa one of its candidates, Bhagwant Maan, defeated an Akali strong and sitting member of the Rajya Sabha Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa with a high margin of more than 2.11 lakh votes in the Sangrur seat.

One other Aam Aadmi Party's candidate from Faridkot, Prof. Sadhu Singh, defeated his close challenger SAD candidate Paramjit Kaur Gulshan with a margin of more than 1.7 lakh votes.

The performance of the Aam Aadmi Party candidates was future better than the expectations of the political pandits in the State Punjab. Harvinder Singh Phoolka the Aam Aadmi Party's candidate from Ludhiana, lost to the Congress candidate Ravneet Singh Bittoo by a margin of less than 20,000 votes. The overall performance of the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab has made it an alarming force in the conventional bi-polar politics of the Punjab. The vote share of the Aam Aadmi Party is less than 2 percentage points than that of the SAD, while in terms of the number of seats won; the new political party is at a same level with it at four seats each. The Congress could get only three seats, though its vote share was the highest (33.1 per cent) among all the political parties. The presentation of the Aam Aadmi Party can be gauged from the fact that it stood second in Ludhiana and was at third position on all the remaining seats in Punjab.

2014 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULTS IN PUNJAB						
S R N O	PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	CHANGE FROM 2009	VOTE	CHANGE % SINCE 2009
1	CONGRESS	13	3	-5	33.1	-12.13
2	SAD (BADAL)	10	4	-	26.4	-7.25
3	Bhartiya Janta Party	03	2	+1	8.6	-1.09
4	Aam Aadmi Party	13	4	+4	24.4	24.4
5	OTHERS				7.1	-4.4
6	NOTA				.4	--
TOTAL			13	13	100	
SOURCE: NES 2014, CSDS UNIT1						

<sup>1</sup> Thehinducentre.Com, "Is The Aap Agame Changer in Punjab."

## AAM AADMI PARTY IN PUNJAB

Aam Aadmi Party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal imported a large group of “coordinator” from other states and began building Aam Aadmi Party’s organization in Punjab as early as 2015.

The Aam Aadmi Party known, that Aam Aadmi Party already has four Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from the state Punjab. Aam Aadmi Party was build-up to the Punjab Assembly Elections 2017.

Arvind Kejriwal was likely to hand over the mass of his tasks in Delhi to Manish Sosodia to focus on Punjab. With the Prakash Singh Badal and his son Sukhbir Singh and deputy chief minister of Punjab and Punjab Congress Chief Caption Amrinder Singh allegedly linked to corruption cases, this helps project the Aam Aadmi Party as credible alternative in the state Punjab. The Aam Aadmi Party was expected to highlight its track record of Delhi government to strengthen its electrical chances in Punjab. There is the need for a change in government was sorely felt by common man of Punjab.

In 2017 Punjab Assembly elections, almost every opinion poll recommended an Aam Aadmi Party massive wins in Punjab.

The Aam Aadmi Party message of a drug free corruption frees Punjab. Posters of a smiling Arvind Kejriwal adorned rooftops. Anger against the Akalis seemed to have found a symbol in the widely seen ‘Jharo’. When Punjab Assembly Election result was out, everybody got surprised to know that Aam Aadmi Party was unable to change the goodwill it had built as an anti-establishment force raging against the system, into an inclusive vote for change. Among high-profile contest Aam Aadmi Party’s candidate, Bhagwant Mann lost his hold. Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal has won the Jalalbad assembly seat with a margin of 18,500 votes defeating Aam Aadmi Party’s Punjab leader Bhagwant Mann. The outcome of 2017 Punjab Assembly elections was full of surprises. The three-cornered fight among the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and the Shiromani Akali Dal coalition proved one-sided, with the Congress winning 77 seats of the 117 seats in the Assembly.

Aam Aadmi Party got only 20 seats. Aam Aadmi Party came a distant second in the Punjab Assembly after the 77 won by Congress. The Aam Aadmi Party poor performance can gauge from the fact that its candidates in Ludhiana, Patiala, Khadoor Sahib, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Fatehgarh Sahib and Anandpur Sahib stood fourth. Aam Aadmi Party s Faridkot Member of Parliament Sadhu Singh remained on the third spot as per the trends. Meanwhile, the PDA failed to offer an alternative in statepolitics. Simarjeet Singh Bains of the Lok Insaaf Party only fought the elections as part of PDA from Ludhiana after parting ways with Aam Aadmi Party, gave some challenge to the congress. He lost to sitting Member of Parliament Raveet Singh Bittu.<sup>2</sup>

The Aam Aadmi Party suffered a setback ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, when two of its Member of the Legislative Assembly Amarjit Singh sandoa and Nazar Singh Manshahia joined the hand with Congress.<sup>3</sup> Aam Aadmi Party has emerged as the major opposition party to the Congress government with 22 seats. For the first time in the history of Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal had on third place. The Arvind Kejriwal led Aam Aadmi Party, which many expected to win the state, managed to bag just 23 seats, but scored better than the Shiromani Akali Dal - Bharatiya Janata Party alliance, which has won only 18 seats.

However, in 2017, Punjab Assembly elections have seen the Congress back to power after 10 years. It gave some much relief to the Congress party, which has been steadily losing its grip over the country since its defeat in the 2014 general elections.

### ANALYZING THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2017

The general elections of 2014 were the first time when the Aam Aadmi Party floated candidates in Punjab. When compared to Aam Aadmi Party performance in the year, where Aam Aadmi Party maintained its vote share but lost 22 of the 33 Assembly segments it had won in 2014. Its votes also plummeted. In Lok Sabha Elections it had, 34 per cent votes whereas this time it was summary to around 23per cent, whereas the Shiromani Akali Dal vote share was 25 per cent. The Congress got 38 per cent. Aam Aadmi Party was expecting to repeat the success of the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab in 2014, when Aam Aadmi Party had won four parliamentary seats. It had led in 33 Assembly segments. However, Aam Aadmi Party failed to do best in the Assembly elections but the decision to contest the 2017 Punjab elections was swift. In all, Aam Aadmi Party won 20 seats, of 11 were from the areas it won in 2014. The Congress throws up a mixed bag-overall, Aam Aadmi Party’s vote share dipped. However, the Congress made imposing gains in urban seats, such as in Amritsar East, Dera Bassi, Mukerian and Pathankot broadly, the Majha sub-region. However, the

<sup>2</sup>m.timesofindia.com,” AAP stares at bleak future in Punjab.”

<sup>3</sup>m.timesofindia.com,” AAP stares at bleak future in Punjab.”

Aam Aadmi Party's vote share also dipped significantly in a number of rural seats in the Malwa and Doab regions. For the Congress, it is one of the best performances in elections. Even the Congress party had expected to win 45-50 seats before the declaration of the polls. Their leaders had also admitted to a tough fight from debutant Aam Aadmi Party, which was riding high on high on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's fame and a strong anti-incumbency sentiment working against the Shiromani Akali Dal -Bhartiya Janta Party government.

Despite the electorate in Punjab reposing faith in the party by making it the principal opposition in the first ever assembly polls that is contested in February 2017, the party leadership in Punjab and in Delhi have brought it to a new political down with series of flip-flops and self-goals.

The Aam Aadmi Party dream was around the 69 seats in the Malwa region and they hope that the Akalis would be destroyed in their fort. But not only have the Akalis managed to grip on to some of their stronghold but Aam Aadmi Party's confidence that the anti-Akali votes would come only to them turned out to be totally wrong. After all, the Congress registered a 40 per cent vote share in Malwa in 2012 winning 31 seats here and it is not effortless to wipe out old loyalties suddenly. The Congress's other advantage was its presence across the state in Majha, Doaba as well as Malwa while the Aam Aadmi Party remained focused only on Malwa. Aam Aadmi Party's failure to rope in the hugely popular Navjot Singh Sidhu meant that the Congress got a charismatic face in Amritsar.

Political experts said that the result of Vidhan Sabha election showed that Shiromani Akali Dal - Bhartiya Janta Party alliance managed to save its face despite the strong anti-incumbency. It showed that Shiromani Akali Dal was still popular among masses and people had benefited from their schemes. Shiromani Akali Dal suffered because of its unconstitutional appointment of people in charge of districts who wrongly wielded power and influence. 'Aam Aadmi Party failed to capture the incumbency votes and chance to become a formidable force said by Pramod Kumar, director of the Institute for Development and Communication at Chandigarh.<sup>4</sup>

For a party, which have to nurtures national ambitions and is in a hurry to get there, the Aam Aadmi Party seems to have made mistakes in the border state that cost it extremely. "I think he (Arvind Kejriwal) is summer storm. He came and he is gone. The AAP bubble had burst with their outright rejection by the Punjab voters," Amrinder Singh said in a press conference after trends gave the Congress a complete victory.<sup>5</sup> The Aam Aadmi Party was standing for sharing of river waters varies in Delhi and Punjab, leaving the party humiliated. The Aam Aadmi Party's dependence on its Delhi leadership is not just a problem of public perception—it also has led to the party floundering in unfamiliar waters during the campaign. It was their bad step and the Aam Aadmi Party has been careful to touching on Sikh religious issues. The Akalis and the Congress's leader in the state, Amarinder Singh, know how to use this interchange. Apparently, the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal issue is one of governance, and centers on Punjab's opposition to a channel that would carry to Haryana a major share of the river water that flows through Punjab. However, the Sikh population in the state is mostly rural, while the Hindu population is mainly urban. As a result, the issue of water primarily affects Sikhs. Thus, for several decades, right from the years of militancy up to the there, the Akalis have used water issues as a way to mobilize their followers. This mobilization is accompanied by representation and slogans that derive directly from Sikhism, including the everywhere whimper of "Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal" which roughly translates as "blessed is the person who says 'God Is the Truth.'" Since the Aam Aadmi Party viewed the Sutlej-Yamuna Link issue as merely one of authority, it cannot draw on the power of such symbolism. This was apparent at a 12 November, 2016 event at Kapoori village to protest the canal has planned building, at which the Aam Aadmi Party could gather only a slight crowd of a few hundred.

In these circumstances, with people ready to unseat the government in power and a new party unsuccessful to live up to the hope people had vested in it and some voters were, wear, previously again allowing for the Congress as an alternative. Amarinder Singh is older, but his intolerance of internal opposition, and his inability to get on with anyone within the Aam Aadmi Party, is unchanged. He is surrounded by media managers, who have been with him for decades, and earned him discredit when he was chief minister by acting as informal power brokers. Yet, even though many of the Congress's faults in Punjab have much to do with Amarinder Singh personally, the people of the state are liberal of his failings, as they are of Badal's. Amarinder Singh is a kind of anti-Badal, and exude pride rather than humility more in keeping with the classic idea of a leader in Punjab. In 2004, after the Supreme Court asked the central government to construct the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal, Amarinder Singh, as chief minister, defied the Congress high command and convened an overnight session of the Punjab assembly to pass the Punjab Termination of

<sup>4</sup> Business-standard.com," Punjab Election Results 2017: Congress makes the change after 10 years".

<sup>5</sup> Business-standard.com," Punjab Election Results 2017: Congress makes the change after 10 years".

Agreements Act, 2004, which abolished the state's water-sharing agreements. The state then halted the canal's construction. The Aam Aadmi Party has attempted to corner Amarinder Singh over this issue by releasing copies of an advertisement from 1982, in which Amarinder welcomed Indira Gandhi to the state to inaugurate the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal project—but the attack did not have much of an impact.<sup>6</sup> For apologies Arvind Kejriwal and other leaders of Aam Aadmi Party washed utensils at the Golden Temple complex to “atone” for the political and spiritual.

Punjab has seen a dramatic shift in favour of the Aam Aadmi Party. The people of Punjab have taken Bhagwant Mann, better known as a comic, seriously. For the very first time in Punjab, a government will be formed that is neither affiliated with the Congress nor the Akali Dal.

**Historic victory of Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab**

With the announcement of Bhagwant Mann as the Chief Minister candidate, the party was able to shed the outsider label that had been attached to it by the opposition. Bhagwant Mann, a famous comedian who has won the hearts of many Punjabis with his socio-political satire, is indeed a typical politician with a righteous, son-of-the-land persona.

**Punjabis were done with the Congress and the Akali Dal**

The message that echoed throughout the state was that the two major parties have ruled for 70 years but have failed to showcase growth. So it's time to give other party a try.

The people of Punjab were seeking release from both the Congress and the Akali Dal. Punjabis have also voiced this sentiment again.

The Aam Aadmi Party has a history of establishing governments at the last minute, including in the 2017 elections. The Punjabis have learned from their mistakes this time. Another reason for the victory in Punjab for Aam Aadmi Party is the huge add to among the youth, farmers, and religious voters in the last five years. The key factors for this were rising youth unemployment and deepening discontent, which the Aam Aadmi Party has more than made up for.

Similarly, Aam Aadmi Party's proposal to deposit ₹1,000 per month into the accounts of women in the state endeared them to this demographic, in spite of the fact that many agreed that such populist promises are frequently unfulfilled.

**Nothing worked in Congress' favor**

The Congress did not benefit from Captain Amarinder's withdrawal from the role of Chief Minister at the last minute. Charanjit Channi tried to interact with the public as much as he could. He visited door to door, temples, gurudwaras, and churches, as well as the Deras, and tried all he could. But, Charanjit Channi's efforts couldn't help him except for the Dalit votes.

Navjot Singh Sidhu obviously dropped out of the race. He earlier stated that even if the high command appointed Charanjit Channi as the chief minister, they would require 59 seats to establish a government. This allows Navjot Singh Sidhu to blame Charanjit Channi and the high command for the party's defeat. When the Congress Legislature Party meets this evening, there will be less debate about forming a government after the Aam Aadmi Party's victory, and more focus on the reasons for the setback.

Congress has suffered the nastiest setback. Punjab has traditionally been a bastion for the Congress party. The Aam Aadmi Party appears to have taken the fort in Punjab, just as it has in Delhi. Congress will now have to fight for its survival. Overall, Amarinder Singh's defeat by Congress is nothing short of sweet revenge.

**A big NO for the BJP**

For the first time in Punjab, the BJP ran alone. As a result, the party will have a better sense of what plan they need to enhance their position. It is important to jump into the water in order to swim. The BJP's senior brass will need to preparation forward as well.

For the first time, Aam Aadmi Party has emerged as a serious challenger to the BJP on a pan-India scale. With the Congress running out of steam, the Aam Aadmi Party's growth strategy may see it take on the saffron brigade in Gujarat, the latter's stronghold. With control of Delhi and Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party has established itself as a formidable opponent to the BJP.

The size of Aam Aadmi Party's victory will empower the party to declare that Arvind Kejriwal should lead an anti-BJP coalition in the upcoming general election. “Arvind Kejriwal will be Prime Minister,” claimed AAP's Raghav Chadha, pointing out that the party has demonstrated that its model of governance in Delhi works in other states as well.

In short, we should say that with the victory of Punjab. all the doors of nation is also opened for Aam Aadmi Party. People of Punjab fed up from ‘oldest parties’ of Punjab, therefore they gave the chance to Aam Aadmi Party and People of Punjab also looking for alternative political party. At that time, congress was

<sup>6</sup> Caravanmagazine.in,” Assembly Elections 2017:the AAP's Mistake in Punjab”.

performing badly almost everywhere. There was one rising Aam Aadmi Party as alternative that was Aam Aadmi Party.

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