



Capt Flags 60:40 In Filling Posts, UT To Audit

TOI Breaks New Ground By Getting Chief Ministers Of Punjab And Haryana To Grapple With The Future Of Chandigarh In The Company Of The Punjab Governor At Its Summit

TOI breaks new ground by getting Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana to grapple with the future of Chandigarh in the company of the Punjab Governor at its summit. The UT Administration has decided to get an audit conducted to ensure a 60:40 ratio in places for filling vacancies from Punjab and Haryana.

Maintain 60:40 ratio: Panel The parliamentary standing committee on home affairs in 2017 had directed the Chandigarh administration for maintaining 60:40 ratio for filling vacancies in Chandigarh. The committee recommended that the system should be adhered to and there should be no violation of this arrangement sanctioned by the Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966.



Set up Tricity Capital Development Council, suggests social scientist

Pramod Kumar, director, Institute for Development and Communication (IDC), has suggested setting up a Tricity Capital Development Council. He has also suggested that a common police emergency control system with dial 100 in Tricity be set up. "The administrative division between three entities affects safety and security of citizens. This division works to the advantage of violators of law, be it sexual harassment and even political protests. Within the Tricity Capital Development Council, a sub-group for maintenance of law and order be set up," suggested Kumar.



Chandigarh asks to keep separate identity

Aswal Grover and Tanya Koak... Chandigarh is emerging as the satellite town of Delhi. It has a potential to develop as a global destination in terms of culture, trade, knowledge exchange. It can locate a diplomatic enclave to realize this potential. The main focus should be to reach out to the people and influence policy planning institutions like CRIC (Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster) be strengthened besides setting up an institution like Indira International Centre, Delhi," said Kumar.

PUNJAB REORGANISATION ACT

On November 1, 1966, Chandigarh and a few adjoining villages were made a Union Territory under Section 4 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act. A seat in the Lok Sabha was allocated to the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The Government of India appointed a chief commissioner as head of the UT. A chief architect, chief engineer, and estate officer looked after respective functions, while new posts of home secretary and finance secretary were created to assist the commissioner. The chief commissioner got powers to frame bylaws and rules pertaining to building, land use, sale of developed plots, and other related matters. As a temporary arrangement in 1984, the Punjab governor was designated as the administrator of Chandigarh and the post of chief commissioner was changed to adviser to the UT administrator.

Citizen reporters don't do it to make headlines

TOI honours public-spirited, vigilant citizens of the Tricity who highlighted its problems. Retired director of health and family welfare runs a hobby development association with friends to hold painting competitions and photography classes in order to teach children how to dispose of garbage at public places.

GIRISH ANAND Motivational speaker chasing his childhood dream of exposing all the anomalies in the city's civic infrastructure that affect a common man, he claims to be "very satisfied" with the response his complaints have got. **GROUP CAPTAIN ABHIJIT BOSE (RETD)** Former Air force officer believes that charity begins from home. He has a habit of highlighting anything wrong he observes while commuting. For him every issue that makes residents' life problematic is important.

Let Tricity residents apply for govt jobs without domicile certificate: Badnore

UT administrator V P Singh Badnore called for need to allow residents of the Tricity to apply for government jobs without asking for domicile certificate. According to the Punjab Reorganization Act, Chandigarh is the joint capital of both Haryana and Punjab states. City residents are at a disadvantage against residents of Punjab and Haryana, who have the privilege of applying for jobs both in Chandigarh and their respective states. However, Chandigarh residents who apply for jobs in Haryana and Punjab, are asked to produce a domicile certificate of the respective state.

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Poor connectivity with UT slowing down development of Panchkula: Khattar

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar expressed concern over Panchkula's poor connectivity with Chandigarh getting in the way of its development. In the course of a discussion with Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh and UT administrator and Punjab governor V P Singh Badnore, Khattar elaborated on the difficulties faced by residents in the absence of proper road connectivity.

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Haryana, Punjab CMs spar over states' share in Panjab University

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HOW TO TAKE TRICITY FORWARD

The only way forward is to pool the fiscal resources of the Tricity and engage in collective development. This can only happen if the administrations of Panchkula, Chandigarh and Mohali cooperate. The mismanagement among the police is enormous in the Tricity. In a crisis situation, the responsibility shifts from one city to another, ultimately resulting in delayed action. The formation of a single committee with representation from Mohali, Panchkula and Chandigarh is a must to coagulate the specialties of each city and develop the Tricity. The quota system in education should be done away with and criteria made equitable for every child in the Tricity. There should be a regulatory Citizen Forum to address the needs of public. It can act as a bridge between the administration and residents. The development of the Tricity should take place as a whole and not as separate cities. Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar came up with nice suggestions. I think they should be considered to make the Tricity free of obstacles. More such initiatives should take place where CMs, governor and the other authorities come together to resolve issues and public can make their suggestions. The joint committee proposed by the governor can be an important milestone to take the city forward. But the conflict between Punjab and Haryana over Chandigarh is a deterrent to development. The RWAs should be kept in loop while planning and executing development projects. Sometimes, administrative decisions are hasty and act against the interests of residents. People want better connectivity not just with Chandigarh but also with the international airport in Mohali. S.K Nayar, president, Citizens Welfare Association (CWA), said, "If one has to go the international airport, there is no direct route. One has to enter either Zirakpur or Chandigarh." For other bus routes, residents have to go to Chandigarh first and take buses from there. Residents have also been demanding proper bus stand with bus routes to different states. On June 30, Haryana transport department approved 34 buses of Delhi-Chandigarh and Chandigarh-Delhi routes to ply via Zirakpur to Panchkula and Kaika. This was done on the request of residents and local MLA Gian Chand Gupta. At present, the stretch from Housing Board Light point to transport light point (TPT) is the only road which directly connects Panchkula to Chandigarh. The Tricity can be utilized as a source of tourism with the presence of places like PCA stadium and Chandigarh's reputation as City Beautiful. The administration should keenly develop the tourism industry due to its high potential for revenue generation. I think much of cleanliness work is yet to be done in the Tricity. I have been living here since 1972 and over the years the level of cleanliness has come down. I think the issue of education was not addressed properly. Colleges in Panchkula, Chandigarh and Mohali should have a single system of affiliation. With changing times, the administrative system should become flexible. Due to rigid system, the revenue is going down. I think there is a need to interlink the infrastructure in the Tricity. Issues relating to education, health and snatching will be solved later. There is no consensus over anything. I want to say that due to quota system, most of the students take admission in Chandigarh schools after Class X. As a result, peripheral areas like Panchkula and Zirakpur are overlooked. The rules and regulations in Chandigarh are strict as compared to Panchkula and Mohali will be a part of so that common facilities can be shared by the people of Tricity and we can also get their suggestions to work on," said Khattar.

Administrator's Advisory Council To Include Residents Of Pk, Mohali

For a better coordination between Chandigarh, Panchkula, and Mohali to resolve the common issues of the Tricity UT administrator V P Singh Badnore has decided to have residents of Panchkula and Mohali as well as the administrator's advisory council. The council assists the administrator (who is also Punjab and Haryana governor) in policy matters since coming up in 2007. Badnore said he would invite prominent citizens of Panchkula and Mohali to join the AAC since their involvement would improve the quality of life in the Tricity. Residents of Panchkula and Mohali will also be on the council's sub-committee. Last year, the UT Administration constituted nine committees for two years to look after various things. Badnore said Chandigarh, Panchkula, and Mohali had started coordinating for law and order, and it has started showing results. "Regular meetings help us solve cases of snatching, murder, and rape," Badnore said. "A similar coordination and cooperation is required in health, education, and transport sectors as well."

School heads want quota scrapped, seek common education system

Every year, many students from Panchkula and Mohali fail to obtain admission in Chandigarh colleges and join Chandigarh schools to avail the benefit under the 65% quota. This has left schools of Panchkula and Mohali struggling to retain students after Class X. Tricity school heads have asked for a "Common Education System" for students of the Tricity and a quota system. Gulshan Kaur, principal, Bhawan Vidyalaya school, Panchkula, raised concern over 65% of quota in Chandigarh-based colleges. She said, "Due to the quota, there is exodus from Panchkula and Mohali."

Panchkula and Mohali need to be developed as smart cities, says Guv

UT administrator V P Singh Badnore has emphasized that Panchkula and Mohali need to be developed as smart cities since Chandigarh cannot live in seclusion. Moreover, there should be coordination for the smart city between Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula. He was speaking at the TOI summit here on Tuesday. Badnore recommended that some services of Chandigarh be relocated to Panchkula and Mohali also because of paucity of land in Chandigarh. Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar concurred with Badnore and flagged the concern of poor connectivity between Chandigarh and Panchkula. "We will have to make infrastructural development to improve connectivity between Chandigarh and Panchkula," said Khattar.