



**COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
REPORT OF UNION TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH**

YOUTH PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

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FOREWORD

The Union Territory of Chandigarh occupies a singular and foundational position within the broader narrative of post-independence Indian urbanism, modern statecraft, and civilizational renewal. Conceived as an archetype of visionary town planning, modernist architecture, and harmonious living, the territory is currently navigating a vital transition. It is evolving from an administrative center into a dynamic, sustainable knowledge corridor and smart-governance benchmark for the wider region. The Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the Union Territory of Chandigarh captures the essence of this historical juncture. It maps a future where the timeless architectural legacy and open urban ecology of the "City Beautiful" are harmonized with the modern imperatives of digital public infrastructure, non-motorized and multimodal transport mobility, and resilient economic diversification.

When we examine the evolution of statecraft and regional development, it becomes increasingly clear that effective policymaking requires far more than basic macroeconomic forecasting or rigid spatial zoning. True urban governance demands a nuanced understanding of social behavior, citizen incentives, and the evolving socio-spatial dynamics that shape civic life.

Traditional rational choice models often fail to account for the complex realities of human decision-making and community adaptation within rapid urbanizing corridors. This framework succeeds precisely because it aligns structural economic models with the lived, everyday realities of Chandigarh's diverse demographic. By focusing on equitable resource distribution, institutional capacity building, universal civic accessibility, and targeted urban poverty alleviation, the report offers a detailed blueprint. It bridges the critical gap between aggregate economic growth and genuine human flourishing.

At the Youth Peace and Development Forum (YPD FORUM), our core conviction is that sustainable development cannot be achieved without social cohesion and the active, structural engagement of the next generation. Peace and development are inherently mutually reinforcing concepts. Neither can endure if a society fails to integrate its youngest members into its socio-political and economic fabric.

Chandigarh stands on the cusp of an inspiring demographic transition, serving as an educational, technological, and innovation magnet for the entire Northern region. With a burgeoning youth population driving research, startups, creative industries, and higher education, there exists a profound window of opportunity. The true test of any development framework will be its ability to translate world-class civic infrastructure into accessible, merit-driven platforms for youth entrepreneurship, empowering them as the primary co-creators in the future of the Union Territory.

The Comprehensive Development Framework Report acknowledges these shifting dynamics by prioritizing human capital, social equity, and environmental sustainability. It recognizes that the enduring strength of a planned territory lies not merely in its concrete monuments or structured grid, but in the latent intellect, civic pride, and energy of its people. The policies outlined herein reflect a deep understanding of behavioral economics, recognizing that citizens are active stakeholders whose choices must be nurtured through sound, participatory policy architecture. By mitigating entrepreneurial friction, promoting green technology adoption, and ensuring inclusive welfare for vulnerable peri-urban and rehabilitation settlements, the framework creates a foundation for sustainable, long-term stability.

A crucial component of this vision is balancing rapid technological modernisation with the rigorous preservation of Chandigarh's unique heritage and ecological integrity. The preservation of green lungs, pedestrian pathways, and architectural identity alongside the adoption of cutting-edge smart-city governance is not a contradiction, but an essential synthesis.

Development policies must address the regional tri-city ecosystem, ensuring that urban expansion remains ecologically balanced, decongested, and socially inclusive. Furthermore, we must recognize that true peace is built upon justice, administrative transparency, and shared opportunity. By enhancing institutional accountability and civic trust, this report strengthens the foundations of lasting social harmony.

This comprehensive document is a vital intervention in the ongoing discourse regarding municipal state capacity, urban sustainability, and regional transformation in India. It provides policymakers, urban planners, industry leaders, and civil society with the analytical rigor and empirical depth needed to drive transformative change. It serves as an enduring reminder that the ultimate goal of economics and political thought is the elevation of the human condition.

I commend the extensive research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and visionary effort that have gone into the creation of this document. It is my sincere hope that it will serve as a definitive, actionable guide for administrators and citizens alike. With the right policy architecture in place, we can build a resilient, forward-looking, and fundamentally inclusive Chandigarh for generations to come.

Dheeraj G. N.
Chairman
Youth Peace and Development (YPD) Forum
New Delhi

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The Youth Peace and Development Forum (YPD Forum) expresses its sincere gratitude to all individuals whose dedication, expertise, and commitment made the preparation of The Comprehensive Development Framework Report for Union Territories possible.

This report forms part of a larger national initiative undertaken through the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks (CDF Council), constituted by the YPD Forum to facilitate the fast-track preparation of comprehensive development frameworks for all 28 States of India and 8 Union Territories of India. The Council represents the Forum's commitment to promoting evidence-based policymaking, strategic planning, and long-term developmental thinking across the nation.

The Forum places on record its deep appreciation to **Dheeraj GN**, Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, for his vision, leadership, and initiative in conceptualizing and guiding this ambitious project. The Forum also extends its heartfelt thanks to **Aravind Saj**, Vice Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, for his constant support and encouragement throughout the execution of this initiative.

Special appreciation is due to **Aman Chauhan**, Resource Person of the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks, for his valuable coordination support. The Forum further acknowledges the contributions of **Monish Krishna**, Secretary-General of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, whose administrative leadership, organizational support, and commitment have been instrumental in the successful implementation of the Council's activities.

The Youth Peace and Development Forum also records its appreciation for the dedicated incharges of the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks: **Pranav P, Suraj Kumar, Akshit Dehariya, Meeth R, Mihikha Mathur, Rishi Gurug, Vishvesh, Kashinath Rajagopal, Siddhart Singh Solanki**, and **Tanvi Harivanam**. Their research efforts, intellectual contributions, teamwork, and commitment to public policy and development studies have significantly strengthened the quality and substance of this report.

The Forum acknowledges the commitment, intellectual curiosity, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by each member of the Council. Through research, analysis, discussion, drafting, review, and continuous engagement with developmental issues, these members contributed significantly to the realization of the Council's objectives. Their willingness to dedicate their time and talents to a national developmental initiative reflects a commendable spirit of public service and constructive citizenship.

The Forum also recognizes that the preparation of a comprehensive development framework requires engagement with a wide range of ideas, perspectives, and sources of knowledge. Accordingly, sincere appreciation is extended to all researchers, academicians, policy experts,

development practitioners, government publications, statistical agencies, think tanks, and public institutions whose work provided valuable insights and reference material for this report. Their contributions to the broader body of knowledge on governance, economics, social development, environmental sustainability, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and public policy have enriched the quality and depth of this framework.

The Youth Peace and Development Forum is particularly grateful to the students, young researchers, and volunteers associated with the Forum who continue to demonstrate that youth can play a constructive role in addressing national challenges. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to public causes embody the ideals upon which the Forum was founded and reaffirm the importance of empowering younger generations to participate actively in nation-building.

The Forum further extends its appreciation to all well-wishers, supporters, advisors, and stakeholders who encouraged this initiative and contributed to its successful completion. Whether through guidance, feedback, consultation, or moral support, their contributions helped strengthen the quality and relevance of this work.

This report represents more than a policy document; it reflects a collective effort to envision a better future. It is the product of shared aspirations, collaborative research, and a common belief that informed planning and constructive dialogue can contribute to meaningful social, economic, and institutional progress. While the recommendations contained herein are intended to support the development of Nagaland, they also form part of a broader national effort to strengthen the foundations of a developed, inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous India.

As India advances towards the centenary of its independence in 2047, the Youth Peace and Development Forum remains committed to fostering research, dialogue, and innovation in support of national development. It is hoped that this report will serve as a useful resource for policymakers, administrators, researchers, civil society organizations, industry leaders, and citizens, and that it will contribute meaningfully to the ongoing pursuit of inclusive growth, good governance, and sustainable development.

With gratitude to all who contributed to this endeavour, the Youth Peace and Development Forum proudly presents this report as a modest contribution towards the shared vision of a stronger Nagaland and a developed India.

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PREFACE

This Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the Union Territory of Chandigarh has been prepared under the aegis of the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks (CDF Council), an initiative of the Youth Peace and Development Forum (YPD Forum) constituted to produce evidence based, policy oriented development frameworks for all 28 States and 8 Union Territories of India. It joins a growing body of work within this national series and represents the Forum's continuing conviction that rigorous, replicable, and locally grounded research can meaningfully inform the choices that administrators, legislators, and citizens make about the future of their territories.

Chandigarh occupies an unusual place in this national exercise. It is, geographically, the smallest constituent of the series, spread across a compact area of 114 square kilometres (Census of India, 2011). Yet it carries a symbolic and administrative weight far beyond its size. Conceived in the early 1950s as free India's first fully planned city under the master plan associated with Le Corbusier, Chandigarh was built to serve as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana following the reorganisation of the erstwhile Punjab state, and it continues to perform that dual function today while being administered directly by the Union government as a Union Territory. This arrangement, a planned city functioning simultaneously as a Union Territory and as the seat of two state governments, gives Chandigarh a governance architecture unlike any other constituent unit examined in this series, and it shapes almost every chapter of this report, from fiscal federalism to inter-governmental coordination to regional planning across the wider tri-city region of Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula.

The socio-economic profile that emerges from recent official data explains why Chandigarh is frequently described as an outlier of prosperity within the Indian union. Its Gross State Domestic Product stood at approximately ₹68,072.60 crore in 2024-25, having expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 9.83 percent between 2015-16 and 2024-25 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). At current prices, per capita income in the Union Territory reached approximately ₹5,05,137 in 2023-24, placing it consistently among the highest ranked constituent units in the country on this measure, a position it has held for much of the past two decades even as its precise national rank has fluctuated (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). On human development, Chandigarh has repeatedly figured among the top five ranked states and Union Territories in subnational assessments, alongside Goa, Delhi, Sikkim, and Kerala (Down To Earth, 2025), and the Union Territory's own administration continues to describe it as ranking first in the country on human development, quality of life, and e-readiness indices (Chandigarh Administration, n.d.). These achievements sit within a national context in which India itself improved to 130th position out of 193 countries in the Human Development Index, with a value of 0.685 for the 2023 assessment year, as reported in the Human Development Report 2025 (United Nations Development Programme, 2025).

Beneath these aggregate indicators lies a more layered demographic and social reality that this report seeks to examine rather than merely cite. Chandigarh remains overwhelmingly urban, with 97.25 percent of its population residing in urban areas as per the 2011 Census, a

share expected to have risen further in the intervening years (Census of India, 2011). Literacy stood at 86.43 percent as per the same Census, with a persistent gap between male literacy at 90.54 percent and female literacy at 81.38 percent (Suvidha Samajik Alliance for Children in Hazardous Districts, n.d.). The Union Territory's sex ratio, while improving from 749 in 1971 to 818 in 2011, continues to lag the national average, and its child sex ratio, though improved, points to concerns that recur across the health and social justice chapters of this report (Census of India, 2011). A defining constraint for this and every other chapter dealing with demography is that the decennial Census originally due in 2021 has not yet been conducted as of 2026, a gap that has been repeatedly noted by government departments and independent commentators alike. Wherever this report cites demographic figures, it distinguishes clearly between confirmed 2011 Census data, subsequent administrative estimates, and projections drawn from established growth trends, so that the reader is never left uncertain about the vintage or reliability of a given statistic.

The timing of this framework is not incidental. Chandigarh stands at a genuine inflection point. The city's founding identity as the "City Beautiful," organised around Le Corbusier's sector grid, generous green space, and pedestrian oriented planning, is now being asked to accommodate the demands of a digitally enabled, service and knowledge driven economy. The Union Territory has recorded 1.74 million wireless telecom subscribers and 0.17 million wireline subscribers as of December 2025 (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, as cited in India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026), reflecting a level of digital penetration that positions it well for the e-governance and smart city ambitions discussed in later chapters. At the same time, the Union Territory administration has moved to reform its municipal finances, including a significant revision of property tax rates intended to raise municipal corporation revenue from approximately ₹45 crore to approximately ₹90 crore annually (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026), a change with direct implications for the fiscal architecture examined in Chapter 2. These are the kinds of transitions, part infrastructural, part institutional, part fiscal, that a comprehensive development framework is best placed to capture in an integrated rather than fragmented manner.

In preparing this report, the research and drafting team has drawn upon a wide range of secondary sources: publications of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Reserve Bank of India, the Chandigarh Administration, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Census of India, the National Sample Survey Office, sectoral ministries of the Government of India, and independent research and statistical platforms that compile and standardise official data. Every statistic presented across the twenty-one chapters that follow is cited in accordance with the seventh edition of the American Psychological Association style, with the year of the underlying data stated explicitly rather than left to inference. Where 2026 data was available at the time of writing, it has been used; where the most recent verified figures pertain to 2024-25 or 2023-24, as is often the case with GSDP and per capita income series that are finalised with a lag, this is stated plainly rather than papered over. The team has treated this transparency about data vintage as a matter of basic research integrity, particularly given the Union Territory's unusual position as a small,

densely administered unit for which disaggregated statistics are not always published with the same frequency or granularity as for larger states.

The report is organised in twenty-one chapters, preceded by this Preface and an Executive Summary, and followed by an End Note and a consolidated Reference List. The chapters move from foundational profile and fiscal architecture (Chapters 1 and 2), through economic structure and private sector development (Chapters 3 and 4), into the social sectors of education, health, and social justice (Chapters 5 through 7), across physical and environmental infrastructure spanning transport, energy, water and sanitation, urban and rural development, and environmental and climate governance (Chapters 8 through 14), through institutional and technological governance themes (Chapters 15 and 16), into innovation, agriculture, and tourism as sectoral frontiers (Chapters 17 through 19), before concluding with cross-cutting thematic integration and a long-term Vision 2047 chapter that ties the preceding analysis to concrete, time-bound priorities (Chapters 20 and 21). This architecture is deliberately consistent with the template applied across other states and Union Territories in this series, so that the Chandigarh framework can be read comparatively alongside its counterparts, even as its content is built entirely around Chandigarh's own circumstances, data, and development trajectory. This report is intended for a wide readership: officials within the Chandigarh Administration and the coordinating departments of the Punjab and Haryana governments, members of the Union Territory's legislative and consultative bodies, researchers and academic institutions engaged with urban and regional studies, civil society organisations working across the tri-city region, and the students and young researchers who continue to constitute the backbone of the Forum's own research capacity. It does not seek to replace or duplicate the statutory planning instruments of the Chandigarh Administration, the Chandigarh Master Plan, or the deliberations of NITI Aayog. Rather, it is offered as a complementary, integrative document, one that draws together dispersed sectoral data into a single analytical frame and identifies where the Union Territory's own stated ambitions, from its Smart City Mission commitments to its digital governance programmes, might be sharpened, sequenced, or resourced more effectively. Finally, this framework is offered in the spirit in which the Forum's Chairman describes it in the Foreword that precedes this Preface: as a living, actionable document rather than a static one. Chandigarh's story since 1952 has been one of continuous adaptation, from an administrative capital built for half a million residents to a metropolitan node of well over a million (Census of India, 2011), and from a single-sector planned economy to one anchored today in trade, finance, real estate, and professional services, which together account for the overwhelming majority of the Union Territory's gross value added (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025).

Mihika Mathur

In-charge, Chandigarh Development Framework Project

**Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks
Youth Peace and Development Forum**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Executive Summary presents the principal findings and priority directions that emerge across the twenty-one chapters of the Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. It is organised around the same thematic clusters that structure the chapters themselves, moving from foundational profile and public finance through economic structure, social sector performance, physical and environmental infrastructure, governance and technology, sectoral frontiers, and finally the cross-cutting priorities that inform the Union Territory's Vision 2047 trajectory.

Chandigarh presents a distinctive development profile among India's states and Union Territories. Spread across a compact 114 square kilometres and functioning simultaneously as a Union Territory, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, and an anchor of the wider Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula tri-city region, it consistently ranks among the country's highest performing constituent units on income, human development, and quality of life indicators (Chandigarh Administration, n.d.; Down To Earth, 2025). At the same time, this report finds that Chandigarh's small geographic footprint and unusual administrative architecture, a Union Territory without its own elected legislature exercising full lawmaking powers, create governance and fiscal constraints that are qualitatively different from those facing larger states, and these constraints recur as a theme across the fiscal, urban, and governance chapters that follow.

On the foundational profile, the report finds that Chandigarh remains one of the most urbanised constituent units in India, with 97.25 percent of its population classified as urban and only 2.75 percent rural as per the 2011 Census, the last decennial enumeration conducted, since the Census originally due in 2021 has not yet taken place as of 2026 (Census of India, 2011). Literacy stood at 86.43 percent in the same Census, comprising 90.54 percent among males and 81.38 percent among females, a gap of just over nine percentage points that Chapter 1 and Chapter 5 examine in greater detail (Suvidha Samajik Alliance for Children in Hazardous Districts, n.d.). The Union Territory's overall sex ratio of 818 females per 1,000 males recorded in 2011 remains among the lowest in the country, although birth registration data maintained by the Chandigarh Administration itself recorded an improved sex ratio at birth of 935 females per 1,000 males in 2021, a divergence between Census-linked figures and administrative registers that Chapter 1 and Chapter 6 both flag as a priority for statistical reconciliation (Tribune News Service, 2021). On human development, subnational assessments have repeatedly placed Chandigarh among the top five ranked states and Union Territories in the country, alongside Goa, Delhi, Sikkim, and Kerala (Down To Earth, 2025), a position consistent with the Union Territory administration's own long-standing claim to rank first nationally on human development, quality of life, and e-readiness (Chandigarh Administration, n.d.).

The fiscal architecture examined in Chapter 2 presents a more cautionary picture than the headline human development ranking might suggest. The Union Budget 2026-27 fixed Chandigarh's total allocation at ₹6,545.52 crore, a reduction of ₹437.66 crore from the

₹6,983.18 crore provided in 2025-26, even as the Chandigarh Administration had sought a substantially higher allocation of approximately ₹8,379.81 crore to meet growing demands in health, education, transport, and urban infrastructure (Tribune News Service, 2026a). Of particular concern to this report is the composition of that reduction: revenue expenditure was set at ₹5,939.52 crore, down from ₹6,185.18 crore, while capital expenditure, the category most directly linked to asset creation and long-term infrastructure development, was cut sharply from ₹798 crore to ₹606 crore (Tribune News Service, 2026b). Part of this contraction reflects a structural change following the privatisation of the erstwhile UT Electricity Department, which reduced the energy sector allocation from ₹877.39 crore to ₹156.95 crore (Tribune News Service, 2026c), but the report finds that even after accounting for this one-time adjustment, the underlying trend in capital spending warrants close monitoring. On a more positive note, grants-in-aid to the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh were enhanced by 36 percent, from ₹625 crore in 2025-26 to ₹850 crore in 2026-27 (Tribune News Service, 2026c), and the sectoral distribution of the 2026-27 budget shows education receiving the largest single allocation at ₹1,295.38 crore, or 19.79 percent of the total, followed by housing and urban development at ₹1,127.95 crore, police at ₹970.53 crore, and health at ₹955.41 crore (Tribune News Service, 2026c). Chapter 2 also documents the Municipal Corporation's own revenue reform, a threefold increase in residential property tax rates and a doubling of commercial rates, projected to raise municipal property tax revenue from approximately ₹45 crore to approximately ₹90 crore annually (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

The economic structure and sectoral performance analysis in Chapters 3 and 4 confirms that Chandigarh's economy is overwhelmingly tertiary in character. The tertiary sector accounted for approximately 89.41 percent of gross value added at current prices in 2023-24, dominated by trade and repair services, real estate and professional services, and financial services, while the secondary sector contributed roughly 10.03 percent and the primary sector, agriculture, forestry, and fishing, accounted for a negligible 0.56 percent, reflecting the Union Territory's essentially urban and non-agrarian character (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). Gross State Domestic Product reached approximately ₹68,072.60 crore in 2024-25, having grown at a compound annual growth rate of 9.83 percent between 2015-16 and 2024-25 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026), while per capita income at current prices reached approximately ₹5,05,137 in 2023-24, a level that has historically placed Chandigarh among the top four ranked states and Union Territories nationally on this measure (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). Total exports from Chandigarh stood at approximately US\$117.68 million in FY26, led by machinery and mechanical appliances, man-made staple fibres, and arms and ammunition components (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). Chapter 4 finds that Chandigarh's industrial base, built around its Industrial Policy of 2015, is increasingly oriented toward information technology and other low-footprint, high-value sectors, a strategic choice consistent with the Union Territory's limited land availability.

The social sector chapters, covering education, health, and social justice, identify both notable strengths and persistent gaps. Chandigarh's educational infrastructure benefits from the presence of Panjab University and a well-established network of engineering and medical

institutions, and the report finds that the tri-city region's talent pipeline, drawing on an estimated workforce of over 30,000 IT graduates, has become a foundation for the region's information technology sector (Software Technology Parks of India, n.d.). Chapter 6 documents that Chandigarh's health outcomes generally track ahead of national averages, though the report notes that India's own maternal and child health indicators have improved substantially in recent years, with the national Maternal Mortality Ratio falling to 97 per 100,000 live births in the 2018-2020 period and the national Infant Mortality Rate at 35.2 per 1,000 live births as per the fifth National Family Health Survey, figures against which Chapter 6 benchmarks the Union Territory's own facility-level data (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as cited in Press Information Bureau, 2022; International Institute for Population Sciences, 2021). Chapter 7 finds that Chandigarh's Scheduled Caste population constituted approximately 18.86 percent of the Union Territory's population as per the 2011 Census, with no Scheduled Tribe population recorded, and identifies gender equity in workforce participation and elderly care infrastructure as recurring priorities.

The physical and environmental infrastructure chapters, spanning transport, energy, water and sanitation, urban development, rural development, environment, and climate, collectively describe a Union Territory whose planned-city legacy is now being tested by densification pressure and regional growth. Chapter 8 examines Chandigarh's road network, its international airport, and the unresolved question of mass rapid transit for the tri-city region. Chapter 9 documents the implications of UT Electricity Department privatisation for the power sector, a structural shift already visible in the fiscal data discussed above. Chapter 11 finds that Chandigarh's experience with national urban missions has been comparatively strong: the Union Territory was among only three states and Union Territories nationally, alongside Jharkhand and Nagaland, to complete all of their tendered projects under the Smart Cities Mission before its financial closure on March 31, 2025, with 97 projects worth approximately ₹2,694 crore reported as fully completed (ETV Bharat, 2025). At the more granular level, the erstwhile Chandigarh Smart City Limited itself documented ₹853 crore invested across 36 flagship initiatives, including ₹304 crore for sewage treatment plants and ₹334 crore for an Integrated Command and Control Centre, before its board was formally wound up and its assets transferred to Union Territory departments and the Municipal Corporation (Elets Technomedia, 2025; Tribune News Service, 2025). Chapter 13 and Chapter 14 find encouraging trends on the environmental front: Chandigarh's forest and tree cover increased from 40.52 square kilometres in 2021 to 46.18 square kilometres in 2023 as per the India State of Forest Report 2023 (Tribune News Service, 2025d), and the Union Territory improved its national ranking in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan air quality assessment from 27th position in 2024 to 8th position in 2025, an improvement attributed to expanded electric public transport, dust control enforcement, and legacy waste remediation (Tribune News Service, 2026d). These gains notwithstanding, real-time monitoring in 2026 has periodically recorded the Union Territory's Air Quality Index in the "unhealthy" range, underscoring that the improvement in national rankings has not yet translated into consistently safe ambient air quality (IQAir, 2026).

The governance, technology, and innovation chapters find that Chandigarh is comparatively well positioned on digital infrastructure, with 1.74 million wireless telecom subscribers and 0.17 million wireline subscribers recorded as of December 2025 (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, as cited in India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). Chapter 17 documents the tri-city region's emergence as a secondary information technology hub, with Software Technology Parks of India data showing that IT exports from the STPI-Mohali unit alone grew from approximately ₹7 crore at its establishment in 1998 to approximately ₹4,000 crore in recent years (Software Technology Parks of India, n.d.), supported by an expanding network of incubators, including the Atal Incubation Centre at the Indian School of Business Mohali campus and STPI Mohali's own plug-and-play incubation space. The Chandigarh Administration's own Startup Policy of 2025, implemented through the Start-in-Chandigarh nodal cell, allocates approximately ₹10 crore annually toward incubator upgrading grants and founder support, with specific provisions for women, transgender, and other underrepresented founders (eChai Ventures, n.d.). Chapter 19 finds that the tri-city region's growing reputation as an information technology destination is increasingly linked to its comparative cost advantage, with comparable technical talent available at roughly 30 to 40 percent lower cost than in Bengaluru, a differential that the report identifies as a structural competitive advantage worth deliberate policy reinforcement.

Finally, the cross-cutting and vision chapters synthesise these sectoral findings into a set of integrated priorities for the period to 2047. These include reconciling the divergence between Census-based and administrative demographic data pending the next decennial Census, protecting capital expenditure from further erosion even as revenue commitments rise, sustaining and institutionalising the gains achieved under the Smart Cities Mission now that its dedicated special purpose vehicle has been wound up, converting the tri-city region's cost and talent advantages into a durable knowledge economy cluster, and translating recent improvements in forest cover and air quality rankings into sustained, health-relevant reductions in ambient pollution. Taken together, the chapters that follow argue that Chandigarh's central development challenge is not one of resource scarcity in the aggregate, given its consistently high per capita income and human development standing, but one of institutional coordination across a joint capital, three contiguous urban local bodies, and two neighbouring state governments, a challenge that recurs, in different forms, in nearly every chapter of this report.

CHAPTER 1: UT PROFILE, GEOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY

Chandigarh occupies a place in India's constitutional and administrative architecture unlike that of any other constituent unit. It is at once a Union Territory in its own right, the joint capital of two full-fledged states, and the anchor of a rapidly growing tri-city urban region that straddles the Punjab-Haryana boundary. This chapter establishes the foundational profile against which the remaining chapters of this framework are read. It examines the Union Territory's physical geography and ecology, its administrative architecture, its demographic structure and trajectory, its linguistic, religious, and cultural composition, its standing on the Human Development Index, the extent and distribution of poverty and deprivation within its small territorial footprint, the disparities that persist beneath its high aggregate indicators, and finally its position across the principal national ranking instruments that now shape competitive federalism in India.

1.1 Geographic and Ecological Characteristics of the Union Territory

Chandigarh is located at approximately 30.74 degrees north latitude and 76.79 degrees east longitude, at the foothills of the Shivalik range, the outermost and geologically youngest sub-range of the Himalayas (Chandigarh City, 2025). The Union Territory occupies a compact 114 square kilometres, ranking 34th among Indian states and Union Territories by area, and is bounded on the north, west, and south by Punjab and on the east by Haryana (MapsOfIndia, 2020). This small territorial footprint, smaller than many individual municipal wards in India's larger metropolitan cities, is central to understanding much of what follows in this report, since it constrains the range of policy instruments, particularly around land, agriculture, and large-scale infrastructure, that are available to Union Territory planners in a way that does not apply to full states.

The Union Territory's terrain slopes gently from northeast to southwest, a gradient that was deliberately exploited in the city's original 1950s master plan to ensure natural drainage and cross-ventilation across the urban grid (Chandigarh City, 2025). Chandigarh experiences a humid subtropical climate characterised by long, hot summers, a short monsoon season, and mild winters. Average summer temperatures range between approximately 25 and 37 degrees Celsius, occasionally touching 44 degrees Celsius in peak summer, while winter temperatures, arriving in mid-November and persisting through mid-March, range between approximately 3.6 and 23 degrees Celsius. The Union Territory receives average annual rainfall of approximately 979 millimetres, concentrated in the southwest monsoon months (MapsOfIndia, 2020).

Two seasonal watercourses define Chandigarh's hydrology: the Sukhna Choe and the Patiala-ki-Rao, both descending from the Shivalik foothills (MapsOfIndia, 2020). The Sukhna Choe was dammed in 1958 to create Sukhna Lake, a 3 square kilometre rain-fed reservoir designed by Le Corbusier in collaboration with chief engineer P. L. Verma as a recreational and ecological centrepiece for the new city (Incredible India, n.d.; Wikipedia,

2026a). The lake, now formally recognised as a National Wetland, has silted considerably since its creation, with its water-spread area reduced from an original 188 hectares to approximately 1.5 square kilometres at typical operating levels, a consequence of erosion from the geologically fragile Shivalik catchment upstream (Anantam IAS, 2026). Surrounding the lake, the 26 square kilometre Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary was formally notified in 1998 to protect the lake's catchment and its associated scrub and forest habitat, which supports species including sambar, spotted deer, wild boar, and pangolin, along with over 150 recorded bird species, including migratory Siberian ducks, storks, and cranes that winter at the lake (Wikipedia, 2026b; MapsOfIndia, 2020). In 2020, the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared Sukhna Lake a living entity in law, and in November 2024 the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change formally notified an eco-sensitive zone extending up to 2.035 kilometres around the wildlife sanctuary on the Haryana side in Panchkula district, a recognition of the ecological fragility of the catchment that feeds the lake (Tribune News Service, 2024).

Chandigarh's ecological trajectory over the past several years has been cautiously positive on the specific metric of forest and tree cover. According to the India State of Forest Report 2023, released by the Forest Survey of India on December 21, 2024, and confirmed in a Lok Sabha reply by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Chandigarh's total forest and tree cover increased from 40.52 square kilometres in 2021 to 46.18 square kilometres in 2023, a net gain of 5.66 square kilometres over two years (Tribune News Service, 2025d). Within this total, forest cover specifically rose from 13 square kilometres in 2001 to 25 square kilometres in 2023, while tree cover outside recorded forest area rose even more sharply, from 2 square kilometres in 2001 to 21.18 square kilometres in 2023 (Tribune News Service, 2025d). This growth has been credited to the Greening Chandigarh Action Plan, an annual coordinated plantation exercise involving the Forest Department, the horticulture wing of the Engineering Department, and the Municipal Corporation (Tribune News Service, 2025d). Chapter 13 of this report examines these environmental trends, together with the Union Territory's ambient air quality performance, in greater depth.

1.2 Administrative Divisions: Districts, Divisions and Sub-Union Territory Units

Chandigarh's administrative architecture departs fundamentally from the pattern followed by India's states. As a Union Territory constituted on November 1, 1966, under Section 4 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, following the bifurcation of the erstwhile Punjab state into Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh is administered directly by the Government of India through the Ministry of Home Affairs under Article 239 of the Constitution of India, and it has no elected legislative assembly of its own (Wikipedia, 2026c). The Union Territory is headed by an Administrator appointed by the President of India, an office that has been held ex officio by the sitting Governor of Punjab since 1984 (Wikipedia, 2026c). Day-to-day administration is carried out by a Chief Secretary and a cadre of civil servants drawn substantially from the Indian Administrative Service under the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa,

Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, with the Administrator's financial powers delegated to the Chief Secretary's office (Wikipedia, 2026c).

Unlike the multi-district states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, Chandigarh functions administratively as a single, undivided district. District-level administration is headed by a Deputy Commissioner, whose office at Sector 17 coordinates grievance handling, revenue functions, and inter-departmental enforcement across the territory (Wikipedia, 2026d). Below the district level, the Union Territory is organised into sub-divisions for administrative convenience. The South Sub-Division, for instance, covers all sectors south of Dakshin Marg, from Sector 32 through Sector 56, along with a defined set of villages, including Maloya, Kajheri, Badheri, Attawa, Buterla, Burail, Palsora, Nizampur, Kumbra, and Dadu Majra, that predate the city's founding and were subsequently absorbed within Municipal Corporation limits as the urban area expanded (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-a). These villages retain a distinct administrative character, being served by dedicated police stations and offering localised services such as scheduled caste and Other Backward Classes certification, even as they are formally integrated into the city's municipal governance (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-a).

Civic administration within the urban area itself is the statutory responsibility of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, an elected local body established in 1994 under the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act as extended to the Union Territory, which functions in parallel with, rather than as a subordinate of, the Union Territory Administration (Wikipedia, 2026c). The Municipal Corporation, headquartered at the New Deluxe Building in Sector 17, is responsible for water supply, sewerage, drainage, road maintenance, sanitation, fire services, and property tax administration (Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, n.d.). Alongside the Municipal Corporation, a cluster of specialised parastatal bodies carries out sector-specific functions: the Chandigarh Housing Board handles urban housing construction, the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation handles industrial promotion and tourism, and the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking operates the city's public bus network (Chandigarh Online, n.d.). Policing is headed by an Inspector General of Police, assisted by a Deputy Inspector General, with separate Senior Superintendents of Police for crime and law and order on one hand and traffic and security on the other (Chandigarh Online, n.d.). Judicial functions for the territory are exercised by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, a single high court common to Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh, a further illustration of the Union Territory's structurally shared institutional arrangements with its two neighbouring states (Wikipedia, 2026c). Chandigarh's basic urban planning unit remains the sector, the grid-based neighbourhood module conceived under Le Corbusier's original master plan, and this sector-based organisation continues to structure everything from postal addressing to sub-divisional jurisdiction across the Union Territory today.

1.3 Demographic Structure: Population, Density, Growth and Composition

As per the 2011 Census of India, the last decennial enumeration conducted in the country, Chandigarh's population stood at 1,055,450 persons, comprising 852,574 Hindus, 138,329 Sikhs, and smaller populations of other religious communities discussed in Section 1.4 below

(Census of India Network, 2011). This represented a substantial increase from the 2001 Census figure of 900,914, a decadal growth rate of approximately 17.1 percent between 2001 and 2011, driven overwhelmingly by in-migration rather than natural increase, consistent with Chandigarh's role as an employment and education destination for the wider Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh region (Chandigarh Administration, n.d.-a). At 114 square kilometres, this population translated into a population density of approximately 9,258 persons per square kilometre as per the 2011 Census, among the highest population densities recorded for any state or Union Territory in India (Census of India Network, 2011).

The Union Territory's population is overwhelmingly urban in character. As per the 2011 Census, 97.25 percent of Chandigarh's population resided in urban areas, with only 2.75 percent classified as rural, and the rural population itself declined by 68.53 percent during the 2001-2011 decade as agricultural land at the urban periphery was progressively absorbed into the built-up city (Census2011.co.in, 2026). This is a substantially higher urbanisation ratio than that recorded by any full Indian state, and it is a defining feature of the demographic and planning challenges examined throughout this report, since it means that Chandigarh's development priorities are almost entirely urban rather than rural in character, a point returned to in Chapter 11 and Chapter 12.

On sex ratio, the 2011 Census recorded 818 females per 1,000 males in Chandigarh, an improvement from 777 in 2001 but still among the lowest overall sex ratios recorded for any state or Union Territory in the country (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Chandigarh, n.d.). Child sex ratio, measured for the population aged 0 to 6 years, improved more substantially over the same decade, from 845 females per 1,000 males in 2001 to 867 in 2011 (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Chandigarh, n.d.). More recent administrative data suggest further improvement, though with a notable data quality complication that this report flags for the attention of Union Territory planners: birth registration data maintained by the Registrar of Births and Deaths recorded a sex ratio at birth of 935 females per 1,000 males for 2021, considerably higher than the figure of 838 females per 1,000 males recorded for the same period by the National Family Health Survey round released around the same time, prompting the Chandigarh Health Secretary to formally request reconciliation of the two data sources with the Union Health Ministry (Tribune News Service, 2021). This divergence illustrates a broader theme that recurs across this report, namely that Chandigarh's small population base makes its demographic indicators more sensitive to sampling variation between different data collection instruments than is the case for larger states, and this report recommends that future editions of this framework track both administrative registration data and survey-based estimates side by side rather than relying on either single source.

Literacy in Chandigarh stood at 86.43 percent as per the 2011 Census, comprising 90.54 percent among males and 81.38 percent among females, a gender gap of 9.16 percentage points that had narrowed from 12.5 percentage points recorded in the 1971 Census (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Chandigarh, n.d.). This overall literacy rate placed Chandigarh well above the national literacy rate of 72.98 percent recorded in the same Census, and the Union Territory's authorities have described it as heading toward universal literacy, a claim

examined further in Chapter 5 of this report (Census of India Network, 2011; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Chandigarh, n.d.). Since the decennial Census originally scheduled for 2021 has not yet been conducted as of 2026, current population estimates rely on projections built from the confirmed 2001-2011 growth trajectory rather than on a fresh enumeration. Applying this approach, independent demographic tracking services place Chandigarh city's 2026 population at approximately 1.45 million, with the wider metropolitan area, encompassing adjoining urban development in Mohali and Panchkula, estimated at approximately 1.55 million (Census2011.co.in, 2026). This report treats these 2026 figures explicitly as projections rather than confirmed counts, and it joins the recommendation made in the Preface that the pending Census be prioritised, given how materially Chandigarh's compact and rapidly changing population base can shift between decennial counts.

1.4 Linguistic, Ethnic, Religious and Cultural Profile

Chandigarh's official languages are Punjabi, Hindi, and English, reflecting both its origin as the successor capital to undivided Punjab and its function as a national administrative and educational centre (Wikipedia, 2026e). Punjabi and Hindi are the dominant languages of everyday communication, while English retains a prominent role in administration, higher education, and the Union Territory's expanding information technology sector, discussed further in Chapter 17.

On religious composition, the 2011 Census recorded Hindus as the majority community at 80.78 percent of the population, followed by Sikhs at 13.11 percent, Muslims at 4.87 percent, Christians at 0.83 percent, Jains at 0.19 percent, Buddhists at 0.11 percent, and a small residual category of those stating no particular religion or other affiliations (Census of India Network, 2011). This composition reflects Chandigarh's specific historical role as a resettlement destination for Partition-displaced populations from the erstwhile undivided Punjab in the 1950s, and its subsequent function as an administrative and educational magnet for the broader Punjab and Haryana region.

On social composition, the Scheduled Caste population of Chandigarh stood at 199,086 persons as per the 2011 Census, or 18.86 percent of the Union Territory's total population, with a sex ratio among the Scheduled Caste population of 872 females per 1,000 males, notably higher than the Union Territory's overall sex ratio (Census of India Network, 2011). Chandigarh recorded no Scheduled Tribe population in the 2011 Census, a pattern consistent with its origins as a planned, non-tribal urban settlement rather than a region with an indigenous tribal demographic base (Census of India Network, 2011). Chapter 7 of this report examines the welfare architecture serving the Scheduled Caste population and other social groups in greater detail.

Culturally, Chandigarh's identity is inseparable from its founding as free India's first fully planned city. The city's Capitol Complex, comprising the Palace of Assembly, the Secretariat, and the High Court, all designed by the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2016 as part of the transnational serial nomination "The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern

Movement," placing Chandigarh's civic architecture within a global heritage designation shared with sites across seven countries. Beyond its planned architectural heritage, Chandigarh is home to the Rock Garden created by the self-taught artist Nek Chand from industrial and urban waste materials beginning in the 1950s, now one of the Union Territory's most visited cultural attractions, and to Panjab University, one of North India's oldest and most prominent institutions of higher learning, whose research output and graduate pipeline are discussed further in Chapter 5 and Chapter 17. The Union Territory's migrant-heavy demographic composition, drawing residents from across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and further afield from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for employment in its services and government sectors, has additionally produced a layered, cosmopolitan urban culture that coexists with its formal planned identity, a duality that recurs as a theme across the social sector chapters of this report.

1.5 Human Development Index: Union Territory Ranking and Trend Analysis

Chandigarh has consistently ranked among India's very highest performing states and Union Territories on composite human development measures. Subnational assessments of India's Human Development Index have repeatedly placed Chandigarh among the top five ranked constituent units in the country, alongside Goa, Delhi, Sikkim, and Kerala, a group whose HDI scores approach or exceed the threshold associated with very high human development internationally (Down To Earth, 2025). The Chandigarh Administration's own official communications go further, describing the Union Territory as ranking first nationally on the Human Development Index, on quality of life, and on e-readiness, a claim that, while self-reported, is broadly consistent with the independent subnational assessments cited above (Chandigarh Administration, n.d.-b).

This strong relative standing should be read against the trajectory of India's national HDI performance, which forms the benchmark against which any constituent unit's standing is ultimately assessed. India's HDI value rose from 0.633 in the 2021 assessment to 0.644 in the 2022 assessment and further to 0.685 for the 2023 assessment year, the most recent year for which data is available, placing India at 130th position out of 193 countries in the Human Development Report 2025, an improvement from 134th position recorded just three years earlier (United Nations Development Programme, 2025; Deccan Herald, 2023). The 2025 Human Development Report noted that this progress reflected sustained improvement particularly in mean years of schooling and national income per capita, both dimensions in which Chandigarh's own indicators, examined in Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 of this report, perform well above the national average (United Nations Development Programme, 2025).

The three components conventionally used to construct HDI, a health index built from life expectancy, an education index built from expected and mean years of schooling, and an income index built from gross national income per capita, each align with findings elaborated elsewhere in this report. On income, Chandigarh's per capita income at current prices reached approximately ₹5,05,137 in 2023-24, a level that has placed the Union Territory among the top four ranked states and Union Territories nationally on this measure for much of the past two decades (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025), a topic developed fully in Chapter 3. On education,

Chandigarh's 86.43 percent literacy rate as per the 2011 Census, discussed in Section 1.3 above, together with its concentration of higher education institutions anchored by Panjab University, supports strong performance on the schooling dimension of HDI, a topic developed in Chapter 5. On health, while disaggregated life expectancy data specific to Chandigarh was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, the Union Territory's health infrastructure and maternal and child health indicators, benchmarked against national Sample Registration System and National Family Health Survey data in Chapter 6, provide the relevant supporting evidence. This report recommends that future Union Territory-specific HDI estimation, ideally computed and published directly by the Chandigarh Administration's Economic and Statistical Organisation rather than inferred from aggregate subnational assessments, would materially strengthen the evidence base for this and future comprehensive development frameworks.

1.6 Poverty, Inequality and Multidimensional Deprivation Indices

Chandigarh's high aggregate income and human development standing coexists with a more complicated picture on multidimensional poverty specifically. NITI Aayog's first National Multidimensional Poverty Index report, released in November 2021 and based on National Family Health Survey 4 data with a 2015-16 reference period, recorded a multidimensional poverty headcount ratio of 5.97 percent for Chandigarh, placing it among the Union Territories with comparatively higher multidimensional poverty at that time, behind Dadra and Nagar Haveli at 27.36 percent, the combined Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh figure of 12.58 percent, and Daman and Diu at 6.82 percent, but higher than Puducherry at 1.72 percent, Lakshadweep at 1.82 percent, Andaman and Nicobar Islands at 4.30 percent, and Delhi at 4.79 percent (National Herald India, 2021). This finding is a useful corrective to any assumption that Chandigarh's high per capita income automatically translates into uniformly low multidimensional deprivation, and it is a theme this report returns to in Section 1.7 below in the specific context of intra-Union Territory disparities.

At the national level, against which Chandigarh's 2015-16 reference period figure of 5.97 percent should be read, India's overall multidimensional poverty headcount ratio stood at 24.85 percent in 2015-16 as measured by National Family Health Survey 4, declining to 14.96 percent by the National Family Health Survey 5 round covering 2019-21, and NITI Aayog's own discussion paper subsequently estimated a further decline to approximately 11.28 percent by 2022-23, with roughly 24.82 crore individuals having moved out of multidimensional poverty nationally between 2013-14 and 2022-23 (Press Information Bureau, 2023; NITI Aayog, 2024a). Given that this national decline has been driven disproportionately by improvement in states with historically high poverty headcount ratios, such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh, and that Chandigarh's own 2015-16 baseline was already comparatively low, this report was unable to identify a separately published, Chandigarh-specific multidimensional poverty estimate based on the more recent National Family Health Survey 5 reference period, and it recommends this as a specific data gap for the Chandigarh Administration and NITI Aayog to jointly address in future statistical publications.

On income inequality specifically, disaggregated Gini coefficient data for Chandigarh alone was not identified in the course of this research, a further data gap this report flags rather than papers over. At the national level, India's Gini index, a standard measure of income concentration, declined from 28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23, indicating a modest reduction in measured income inequality nationally over the intervening decade, even as the top decile of income earners nationally continued to hold a disproportionate 57 percent share of national income as of the most recent estimates available (Drishti IAS, 2025). Given Chandigarh's concentration of high-income professional, administrative, and services sector employment alongside a substantial population of lower-income migrant workers engaged in construction, domestic work, and informal trade, this report considers it likely that intra-Union Territory income inequality is a meaningful, if currently under-measured, dimension of Chandigarh's development profile, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration commission a dedicated household income and consumption survey to establish a Union Territory-specific Gini coefficient baseline.

1.7 Intra-Union Territory Disparities: Aspirational Districts and Backward Region Identification

Because Chandigarh functions administratively as a single, undivided district rather than as a multi-district state, it falls outside the scope of NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme, an initiative launched in January 2018 to identify and provide focused development support to India's most underdeveloped districts based on health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure indicators. No Union Territory constituent of the CDF Council's national series with a single-district administrative structure, Chandigarh among them, has been designated under this programme, since the programme's district-comparison methodology presupposes the kind of multi-district variation found within larger states. This does not mean, however, that intra-Union Territory disparity is absent in Chandigarh; rather, it means that such disparity manifests at a finer spatial grain, between planned sectors and specific unplanned or semi-planned settlements, than the district-level Aspirational Districts framework is designed to capture.

The clearest evidence of this finer-grained disparity lies in the set of erstwhile revenue villages that predate Chandigarh's founding and were subsequently absorbed within the Municipal Corporation's jurisdiction as the planned city expanded outward, including Maloya, Kajheri, Badheri, Attawa, Buterla, Burail, Palsora, Nizampur, Kumbra, and Dadu Majra, among others (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-a). These settlements, several of which are documented as having transitioned from agrarian livelihoods to semi-urban occupations while retaining substantial elements of their pre-urban physical layout, sit within the same sub-divisional administrative boundaries as Chandigarh's formally planned sectors but typically exhibit markedly different housing density, infrastructure provisioning, and service delivery standards, a pattern consistent with Wikipedia's own documentation of Kajheri as a traditional village retaining its original layout even as it is formally listed among the villages under the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh (Wikipedia, 2026f). Chapter 11 of this report, on urban development, housing, and smart cities, and Chapter 12, on rural

development and decentralised governance, both examine the specific policy instruments, including in-situ upgradation and targeted infrastructure investment, that the Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation have deployed or could further deploy to close these intra-territorial gaps.

A second dimension of intra-Union Territory disparity concerns the Union Territory's small residual rural population, just 2.75 percent of the total as per the 2011 Census, and which declined sharply over the preceding decade as agricultural land at the urban fringe was absorbed into built-up development (Census2011.co.in, 2026). This shrinking rural population, concentrated at the Union Territory's northern and eastern peripheries bordering Punjab and Haryana respectively, faces a distinct set of development challenges from the urban core, including agricultural livelihood transition, land acquisition compensation adequacy, and access to urban-standard civic infrastructure, that this report examines further in Chapter 12. Given the very small absolute population involved, standard state-level rural development instruments designed for large agrarian populations require considerable adaptation before they can be meaningfully applied within Chandigarh's context, and this report recommends that the Union Territory Administration develop a dedicated, small-scale rural transition strategy specific to its remaining rural population rather than applying national rural development programme parameters designed for much larger rural populations elsewhere in the country.

1.8 Union Territory's Position in National Rankings Across Key Development Indicators

Chandigarh's position across India's principal national ranking instruments confirms the broadly strong development profile documented throughout this chapter, while also revealing specific areas where performance, though comparatively strong among Union Territories, still leaves room for improvement in absolute terms. On NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, the country's principal instrument for tracking state and Union Territory progress against the Sustainable Development Goals, Chandigarh was ranked the top-performing Union Territory in the 2023-24 edition, released on July 12, 2024, with a composite score of 77 out of 100, ahead of Jammu and Kashmir at 74, Puducherry at 74, Andaman and Nicobar Islands at 70, and Delhi at 70 (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, as cited in AffairsCloud, 2024; The Print, 2024). This score placed Chandigarh within the "Front-Runner" category, defined by NITI Aayog as a composite score between 65 and 99, alongside 31 other states and Union Territories nationally, though it remained below the top-scoring states of Uttarakhand and Kerala, which each recorded composite scores of 79 in the same edition (Vision IAS, 2024). Chandigarh's SDG performance built on an earlier strong showing in the 2020-21 edition of the same index, in which the Union Territory was specifically recognised, alongside Kerala, for strong performance on Sustainable Development Goal 2, zero hunger (Deccan Herald, 2021).

On environmental governance rankings, Chandigarh registered a marked improvement in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Swachh Vayu Survekshan, the Union

government's annual air quality assessment conducted under the National Clean Air Programme, rising to 8th position nationally in the 2025 edition from 27th position in 2024, a jump of 19 places attributed by Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee officials to expanded electric public transport, stricter dust control enforcement at construction sites, and scientific remediation of legacy waste (Tribune News Service, 2026d). On urban infrastructure delivery specifically, Chandigarh was one of only three states and Union Territories nationally, alongside Jharkhand and Nagaland, to complete all of their tendered projects under the Smart Cities Mission ahead of its financial closure on March 31, 2025, with a national tally recording 97 completed projects worth approximately ₹2,694 crore for Chandigarh specifically (ETV Bharat, 2025), a performance examined in greater depth in Chapter 11.

On economic rankings, Chandigarh's per capita income at current prices, having reached approximately ₹5,05,137 in 2023-24, has placed it consistently among the top four ranked states and Union Territories nationally over the past two decades, a position it held as recently as 2017-18 behind only Goa, Delhi, and Sikkim (Tribune News Service, 2019a; StatisticsTimes.com, 2025), and this ranking is developed fully in Chapter 3. On multidimensional poverty, as documented in Section 1.6 above, Chandigarh's 2015-16 reference period headcount ratio of 5.97 percent placed it in a middling position specifically among Union Territories, behind Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Delhi, a comparatively less favourable ranking that stands in some tension with the Union Territory's otherwise strong showing across income, human development, and SDG-based rankings, and which this report identifies as the single clearest area where Chandigarh's aggregate reputation for prosperity requires more granular, ground-level policy attention than its headline rankings alone would suggest.

Taken together, the evidence assembled in this chapter establishes Chandigarh as a Union Territory whose small size and unusual dual-capital administrative status produce a development profile that is, on most conventional national rankings, exceptionally strong, while simultaneously masking specific and identifiable pockets of deprivation, data uncertainty, and administrative complexity that recur as themes throughout the fiscal, economic, social, and infrastructural analysis presented in the chapters that follow.

CHAPTER 2: FISCAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNION TERRITORY

Chandigarh's fiscal architecture is unlike that of any full Indian state examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, and unlike even that of India's two Union Territories with legislatures, Delhi and Puducherry. As a Union Territory without a legislative assembly, administered directly by the Government of India under Article 239 of the Constitution, Chandigarh does not present its own state budget through an elected finance minister, does not independently access market borrowing in the manner of a state government, and does not receive a share of the divisible pool of central taxes through the horizontal devolution formula that the Finance Commission recommends for states. Instead, Chandigarh's entire annual expenditure programme is voted upon and allocated as part of the Union Budget itself, presented in Parliament by the Union Finance Minister alongside the budgets of India's other Union Territories without legislatures. This chapter examines the structure, scale, and recent trajectory of that unusual fiscal arrangement, drawing on the most recently available Union Budget documents, Chandigarh Administration disclosures, and national audit and Finance Commission material.

2.1 Revenue Framework: Own Tax Revenue, Non-Tax Revenue and Devolution

Chandigarh's revenue framework rests on three distinct pillars: its own tax revenue, collected directly by the Union Territory's Excise and Taxation Department; non-tax revenue, including property tax and user charges collected principally through the Municipal Corporation; and Union Budget allocation, which functions as the Union Territory's equivalent of central devolution, since Chandigarh does not receive a state-style share of the divisible pool of central taxes.

On own tax revenue, the Excise and Taxation Department reported excise revenue collection of ₹965.71 crore during the 2025-26 excise policy year, with Union Territory officials projecting that final collections would cross ₹1,000 crore against a fixed policy target of the same figure, an outcome chief secretary H. Rajesh Prasad described as reflecting stronger compliance enforcement under the revised excise policy (A2Z TaxCorp, 2026). For the 2026-27 excise policy year, 96 of 97 retail liquor vends had been successfully allotted at the time of reporting, generating bids worth ₹560.85 crore against a reserve price of ₹450 crore, a premium of approximately 24.6 percent that points to continued strong demand in the Union Territory's regulated liquor retail market (A2Z TaxCorp, 2026). On the taxation side specifically, the same department reported Goods and Services Tax collections of ₹2,454 crore for financial year 2025-26 (A2Z TaxCorp, 2026), a figure discussed further in Section 2.7 below. This performance builds on an earlier established growth trajectory: as early as January 2023, the Chandigarh Excise and Taxation Department reported that gross GST

collection had grown by 22.63 percent year-on-year up to December of the preceding calendar year, reaching ₹1,742.14 crore for the period, with the amount remitted specifically to the Union Territory treasury rising by 36.75 percent to ₹1,489.55 crore (Tribune News Service, 2023).

On non-tax revenue, the single most significant recent reform has been the restructuring of Municipal Corporation property tax rates. The Chandigarh Administration implemented a threefold increase in residential property tax rates and a doubling of commercial property tax rates, a reform projected to raise the Municipal Corporation's annual property tax collection from approximately ₹45 crore to approximately ₹90 crore (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). This reform is of particular significance to this report because Municipal Corporation own-revenue generation has historically been a structurally weak link in Chandigarh's overall fiscal position, with the civic body depending heavily on grants-in-aid from the Union Territory Administration rather than its own tax base, a dependency examined further in Section 2.6 below.

On the devolution equivalent, the Union Budget 2026-27 fixed Chandigarh's total allocation at ₹6,545.52 crore, comprising ₹5,939.52 crore under the revenue head and ₹606 crore under the capital head (Tribune News Service, 2026a). This represented a reduction of ₹437.66 crore from the ₹6,983.18 crore provided in the 2025-26 Budget estimates, even though the Chandigarh Administration had formally sought a substantially higher allocation of approximately ₹8,379.81 crore to meet what it described as growing demands across health, education, transport, and urban infrastructure, and had subsequently scaled back its own internal ask to approximately ₹7,500 crore without success (Tribune News Service, 2026a). This allocation pattern, examined in full in Section 2.9 below, illustrates the structural vulnerability inherent in a fiscal model where a Union Territory's entire developmental resource envelope is determined annually through a single centralised budgetary process rather than through a formula-based, rights-based devolution mechanism of the kind states receive.

2.2 Expenditure Profile: Composition, Quality and Efficiency

The sectoral composition of Chandigarh's 2026-27 Budget allocation offers a clear window into the Union Territory Administration's near-term spending priorities. Education received the single largest sectoral allocation at ₹1,295.38 crore, or 19.79 percent of the total Budget, followed by housing and urban development at ₹1,127.95 crore, or 17.23 percent, police at ₹970.53 crore, or 14.83 percent, health at ₹955.41 crore, or 14.60 percent, transport at ₹459.51 crore, or 7.02 percent, and energy at ₹189.67 crore, or 2.90 percent, with the balance of ₹1,547.07 crore distributed across various other sectors (Tribune News Service, 2026c). This distribution, with education, urban development, policing, and health together accounting for well over 60 percent of total allocation, reflects a spending profile consistent with Chandigarh's character as a dense, fully urbanised administrative and service-sector economy rather than one with substantial agricultural, industrial, or rural development expenditure obligations, a pattern that distinguishes its Budget composition from that of most full states examined elsewhere in this CDF series.

A structural discontinuity in the 2026-27 expenditure profile deserves particular note, since it illustrates how a single administrative decision can materially reshape headline fiscal comparisons across years. Following the privatisation of the erstwhile Union Territory Electricity Department, the energy sector allocation was reduced from ₹877.39 crore in the 2025-26 Budget estimates to ₹156.95 crore in 2026-27, an adjustment of ₹720.44 crore attributed by the Union Finance Ministry directly to this structural change rather than to any programmatic cut in the underlying activity (Tribune News Service, 2026b). Once this one-time adjustment is accounted for, the Finance Ministry's own presentation suggests that the underlying, like-for-like Budget estimate for 2026-27 actually reflects an increase of ₹282.28 crore, or 4.63 percent, over the comparable 2025-26 base (Tribune News Service, 2026b). This report considers it important to present both readings of the 2026-27 Budget, the headline year-on-year reduction and the structurally adjusted increase, since relying on either figure alone would give an incomplete picture of the Union Territory's actual expenditure trajectory.

On expenditure quality and efficiency, this report was unable to identify a Chandigarh-specific expenditure efficiency audit or output-outcome framework analysis published separately from the general Union Budget documentation, a data gap this report flags rather than fills with estimation. What is documented, however, is the concern raised by opposition political representatives within the Union Territory regarding the composition, rather than merely the scale, of the 2026-27 allocation. Aam Aadmi Party leader Prem Garg specifically characterised the sharp reduction in capital expenditure, discussed in Section 2.3 below, as a "clear and worrying rollback of support," arguing that a growing city with rising healthcare, education, and transport demands could not sustain shrinking development funds (Tribune News Service, 2026b). This report treats such statements as evidence of the political salience of the expenditure composition question within the Union Territory, without independently verifying the specific efficiency claims embedded in them, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish a dedicated output-outcome monitoring framework, of the kind the Union Ministry of Finance already requires for centrally sponsored schemes, specifically for its own Budget heads, to allow more rigorous year-on-year expenditure quality assessment in future editions of this framework.

2.3 Capital Expenditure: Infrastructure Investment and Asset Creation

Capital expenditure, the Budget category most directly associated with long-term asset creation rather than recurring administrative cost, emerges from this analysis as the single area of greatest concern within Chandigarh's current fiscal trajectory. The Union Budget 2026-27 fixed capital expenditure for Chandigarh at ₹606 crore, down sharply from ₹798 crore in the 2025-26 Budget estimates, a reduction of ₹192 crore, or approximately 24 percent (Tribune News Service, 2026a, 2026c). Local commentary in the Union Territory has characterised this reduction as the most serious implication of the 2026-27 Budget, with anticipated spillover effects specifically identified across infrastructure project execution, hospital expansion, school building upgrading, and urban development works (Tribune News Service, 2026a).

This capital expenditure contraction should be read in the context of the structural energy sector adjustment discussed in Section 2.2 above, since the privatisation of the erstwhile Union Territory Electricity Department removed a category of spending, power infrastructure investment, that would previously have contributed meaningfully to the capital expenditure total. Even so, this report considers it prudent to treat the headline capital expenditure reduction as a genuine planning constraint for the Union Territory Administration over the near term, rather than assuming the structural adjustment fully explains it away, given that revenue expenditure itself was also reduced in absolute terms, from ₹6,185.18 crore to ₹5,939.52 crore, indicating that the overall Budget contraction was not confined to the energy-linked capital category alone (Tribune News Service, 2026b, 2026c).

One partially offsetting development within the 2026-27 Budget concerns grants-in-aid to the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh specifically, which were enhanced by 36 percent, from ₹625 crore in 2025-26 to ₹850 crore in 2026-27 (Tribune News Service, 2026c). Since a meaningful share of municipal grants-in-aid is typically directed toward asset-creating civic works, including roads, water supply infrastructure, and sanitation systems, this enhancement provides some counterbalance to the Union Territory-level capital expenditure contraction discussed above, even though the two Budget lines are formally distinct and are administered by different tiers of government within Chandigarh's overall governance architecture. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation jointly publish a consolidated capital expenditure dashboard covering both Union Territory Budget capital allocations and Municipal Corporation grant-funded capital works, so that future assessments of the Union Territory's aggregate infrastructure investment trajectory are not distorted by the current bifurcation of reporting between the two bodies.

2.4 Fiscal Deficit, Primary Deficit and Debt Sustainability

Fiscal deficit and primary deficit, the standard metrics used elsewhere in this national CDF series to assess a state's fiscal sustainability, apply only in a substantially modified form to Chandigarh, precisely because the Union Territory does not present an independent budget subject to its own Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework in the manner of a state government. Chandigarh's Budget is voted as part of the Union Government's own Budget, and its allocation, as documented in Sections 2.1 through 2.3 above, is a grant from the Consolidated Fund of India rather than a locally raised and locally borrowed resource envelope of the kind that would generate a conventional, Union Territory-specific fiscal deficit figure. As a result, the constitutional and fiscal responsibility apparatus that produces annually published fiscal deficit and primary deficit figures for states, and which this CDF series analyses in detail for those states, does not produce an analogous, independently reported figure for Chandigarh.

This does not mean fiscal sustainability is not a live concern for the Union Territory, however. The gap between the Chandigarh Administration's stated resource requirement of approximately ₹8,379.81 crore for 2026-27 and the ₹6,545.52 crore actually allocated, a shortfall of ₹1,834.29 crore, or roughly 22 percent of the requested figure, functions as the practical equivalent of a resource gap that the Union Territory Administration must manage

through expenditure prioritisation, deferred capital works, and enhanced own-revenue mobilisation of the kind discussed in Section 2.1 (Tribune News Service, 2026a). This report treats this resource gap as the most policy-relevant proxy available for assessing Chandigarh's current fiscal sustainability position, in the absence of a formally computed, Union Territory-specific fiscal deficit ratio, and it recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance jointly consider publishing a standardised fiscal sustainability indicator specifically for Union Territories without legislatures, comparable in spirit to the fiscal deficit-to-GSDP ratios already computed for states, to allow more rigorous year-on-year and cross-Union Territory comparison in future policy analysis.

2.5 Union Territory's Borrowings, Guarantees and Off-Budget Liabilities

Consistent with the structural position outlined in Section 2.4 above, Chandigarh, as a Union Territory without a legislature, does not independently access market borrowing instruments in the manner available to state governments under Article 293 of the Constitution, and this report did not identify any published record of Union Territory-level open market borrowing, government guarantees, or off-budget special purpose vehicle liabilities specifically attributable to the Chandigarh Administration in the sources reviewed. The Union Territory's capital requirements, to the extent they are met at all, are financed through the Budget allocation mechanism described in Sections 2.1 through 2.3, rather than through debt instruments serviced from the Union Territory's own future revenue.

At the sub-Union Territory level, the erstwhile Chandigarh Smart City Limited, a special purpose vehicle jointly funded on a 50:50 basis between the Union government and the Union Territory Administration and examined in detail in Chapter 11 of this report, represented the closest analogue within Chandigarh's institutional architecture to the kind of off-budget infrastructure financing vehicle that this CDF series tracks closely for states, several of which have accumulated material off-budget liabilities through such structures. In Chandigarh's case, however, available reporting indicates that Chandigarh Smart City Limited's ₹853 crore in cumulative project investment was financed through its budgeted central and Union Territory grant contributions rather than through market borrowing, and the entity was formally wound up in 2025 with its residual assets and any pending operational liabilities, reported at approximately ₹53 crore at the time of closure, transferred to the relevant Union Territory departments and the Municipal Corporation rather than left outstanding as a continuing off-budget liability (Tribune News Service, 2025c; Elets Technomedia, 2025). This report was unable to identify separately published data on the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh's own borrowing position, including any outstanding loans from financial institutions or the Housing and Urban Development Corporation of the kind common among urban local bodies elsewhere in India, and it flags this as a further specific data gap for future editions of this framework, given the Municipal Corporation's central role in the Union Territory's urban infrastructure delivery examined throughout the remainder of this report.

2.6 Finance Commission Awards: Allocation and Utilisation

Chandigarh's relationship with India's constitutional Finance Commission architecture is structurally distinct from that of the states examined elsewhere in this CDF series, and this distinction is important enough to state plainly rather than gloss over. Under Article 280 of the Constitution, the Finance Commission's principal recommendations, concerning the vertical share of the divisible pool of central taxes allocated to states collectively and its horizontal distribution among individual states, apply to states rather than to Union Territories without legislatures. The Fifteenth Finance Commission, whose recommendations governed the period through 2025-26, recommended that 41 percent of the net proceeds of Union taxes be shared with states collectively, a figure the Sixteenth Finance Commission, chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya and whose report was tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2026, has retained unchanged for the period 2026-27 through 2030-31, despite eighteen of India's twenty-eight states having sought a higher share of 50 percent (LegacyIAS, 2026). Since this 41 percent share is calculated and distributed among states rather than Union Territories without legislatures, Chandigarh does not receive a direct allocation through this specific channel, and its resource envelope instead flows through the annual Union Budget mechanism documented in Section 2.1.

Where Finance Commission recommendations do reach Chandigarh directly is through the grants channel for local bodies, since both the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Finance Commissions have recommended specific, ring-fenced grants for urban local bodies nationally, a category that includes the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh. The Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total of ₹9.47 lakh crore in grants over its five-year award period, comprising ₹4.4 lakh crore for rural local bodies and ₹3.6 lakh crore for urban local bodies nationally, together with ₹2.04 lakh crore for state disaster management, with local body grants split 80 percent basic, further divided between untied and tied components, and 20 percent performance-based, and made conditional on local bodies maintaining audited accounts and functioning under an active State Finance Commission (Lukmaan IAS, 2026). Notably, the Sixteenth Finance Commission has also discontinued three categories of grant that were available under its predecessor: revenue deficit grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific grants (Lukmaan IAS, 2026), a change whose implications for the Chandigarh Administration's future access to supplementary central resources this report recommends the Administration's Finance Department assess in detail as the Sixteenth Finance Commission's award period begins.

This report's overall assessment is that Chandigarh's position outside the primary Finance Commission tax devolution mechanism represents both a structural constraint and, in some respects, a structural insulation. It is a constraint because the Union Territory cannot claim a rights-based, formula-determined share of central tax revenue growth in the way a state can, leaving its resource envelope more directly exposed to annual Union Budget prioritisation decisions of the kind documented in Section 2.9 below. It is simultaneously a partial insulation because Chandigarh's allocation is not exposed to the horizontal devolution criteria, including income distance and demographic performance, that can work against

high-income, low-population-growth units such as Chandigarh under a state-style devolution formula. This report recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs, as the nodal ministry for Union Territories without legislatures, consider commissioning a dedicated study comparing the fiscal outcomes Chandigarh would have experienced under a hypothetical state-style Finance Commission devolution formula against its actual Union Budget allocation history, to inform a more evidence-based conversation about the adequacy of the current arrangement.

2.7 GST Implementation: Revenue Impact and Compensation Status

Goods and Services Tax has become a central pillar of Chandigarh's own tax revenue base since the tax's national rollout in July 2017, and the Union Territory's Excise and Taxation Department reported GST collections of ₹2,454 crore for financial year 2025-26, alongside the excise revenue of ₹965.71 crore discussed in Section 2.1, together forming the two largest components of Chandigarh's directly collected own tax revenue (A2Z TaxCorp, 2026). This continues a growth trajectory documented in earlier years: gross GST collection for the Union Territory grew by 22.63 percent year-on-year in the period through December of the 2022-23 financial year, reaching ₹1,742.14 crore, with the portion specifically credited to the Union Territory treasury growing even faster, by 36.75 percent, to ₹1,489.55 crore over the same period (Tribune News Service, 2023). The Union Territory's Excise and Taxation Department has continued to emphasise compliance enforcement as central to sustaining this growth trajectory, with chief secretary H. Rajesh Prasad directing officials in 2026 to intensify scrutiny of input tax credit claims, tax evasion, and unregistered custom bonded warehouses operating within Chandigarh (A2Z TaxCorp, 2026).

On GST compensation specifically, the mechanism under which states and Union Territories with legislatures received guaranteed compensation for revenue shortfalls during GST's first five years of implementation formally concluded at the end of June 2022, and this report did not identify any indication that the compensation mechanism, even during its operative period, applied differently to Chandigarh than to other GST-implementing jurisdictions, since Chandigarh's own tax administration functions as a full participant in the GST Council's unified indirect tax architecture notwithstanding its distinct constitutional status on the expenditure side. The continued strong growth in Chandigarh's own GST collections documented above suggests that the Union Territory's economy, dominated as established in Chapter 3 by trade, professional services, and real estate activity, has adapted comparatively well to the GST regime, with revenue buoyancy that has, if anything, strengthened rather than weakened in the years since compensation support ended.

2.8 Public Financial Management Reforms and Audit Compliance

Chandigarh's public financial management and audit oversight architecture operates through the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's dedicated reporting stream for Union Territories without legislatures. Because Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh together constitute the set of Union Territories administered without their own elected legislatures, the

Comptroller and Auditor General consolidates its compliance audit findings for these Union Territories into a single, joint report presented to Parliament, most recently Report No. 37 of 2025, titled "Union Territories without Legislatures (Compliance Audit - Civil)," which was tabled following a press release dated March 30, 2026 (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2026). This report structure, covering administrative and financial arrangements, budgetary allocation and expenditure across the covered Union Territories, expenditure sector observations, and revenue sector observations in a unified document, is itself a further illustration of how Chandigarh's audit and accountability architecture is institutionally bundled with that of other Union Territories without legislatures rather than maintained as a wholly separate, Chandigarh-specific reporting stream (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2023).

This report was unable to isolate Chandigarh-specific findings, paragraph by paragraph, from within these consolidated compliance audit reports, given the joint reporting format described above, and it flags this as a genuine limitation on the granularity of independent audit assessment currently available for Chandigarh specifically. This report recommends that the Comptroller and Auditor General consider, in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, whether a Union Territory-disaggregated summary annexure could be added to future editions of the Union Territories without Legislatures compliance audit report, given Chandigarh's comparatively large Budget size relative to several of the other Union Territories currently covered in the same consolidated document, so that future editions of this CDF report and other independent policy analysis can draw on Chandigarh-specific audit findings with greater precision. On the positive side of public financial management reform, the property tax restructuring documented in Section 2.1 and the sustained GST compliance enforcement documented in Section 2.7 both indicate an active, ongoing programme of revenue administration reform within the Chandigarh Administration's Finance and Excise and Taxation Departments, even in the absence of a fully disaggregated external audit record against which to benchmark that programme's results.

2.9 Centre-Union Territory Fiscal Relations: Trends and Themes

The trends documented across this chapter converge on a single overarching theme: Chandigarh's fiscal relationship with the Union government is one of near-total dependence on annual, centrally determined Budget allocation, tempered only partially by the Union Territory's own, comparatively robust and growing tax and non-tax revenue base. The 2026-27 Union Budget episode, in which the Chandigarh Administration's stated requirement of approximately ₹8,379.81 crore was met with an actual allocation of ₹6,545.52 crore, a reduction even in nominal terms from the ₹6,983.18 crore provided the previous year, illustrates both the scale of this dependence and its practical political consequences, with local elected representatives from the Aam Aadmi Party publicly characterising the outcome as a rollback of central support even as Finance Ministry officials attributed a substantial share of the headline reduction to the one-time structural effect of electricity department privatisation (Tribune News Service, 2026a, 2026b).

This report identifies three specific themes within this Centre-Union Territory fiscal relationship that merit sustained attention from both the Chandigarh Administration and the Union government going forward. First, the demand-allocation gap documented in Section 2.4, while not formally reported as a fiscal deficit in the manner applicable to states, functions as a real constraint on the Union Territory's capacity to deliver the healthcare, education, transport, and urban infrastructure investment its own planning documents identify as necessary, and this report recommends that future Union Budget presentations include a published, transparent methodology explaining how the annual Chandigarh allocation is determined relative to the Administration's own stated requirements, to reduce the current opacity around this negotiation. Second, the capital expenditure contraction documented in Section 2.3 warrants particularly close monitoring over the coming Budget cycles, since capital expenditure cuts, unlike revenue expenditure cuts, compound over time by deferring the asset creation on which future service delivery quality depends, a dynamic this report's infrastructure chapters, particularly Chapter 8 through Chapter 11, examine in concrete sectoral terms. Third, the Municipal Corporation's growing reliance on enhanced grants-in-aid, up 36 percent in 2026-27 alone, alongside its own property tax reform, suggests an emerging model in which local, rather than exclusively Union Territory-level, revenue mobilisation is increasingly central to Chandigarh's fiscal sustainability, a trend this report views as a broadly positive development consistent with the principles of fiscal decentralisation, but one that will require sustained institutional capacity building within the Municipal Corporation's own revenue administration functions to fully realise.

Taken together, this chapter's findings suggest that Chandigarh's fiscal architecture, while currently functional and supported by a genuinely buoyant own-revenue base in excise and GST collections, rests on an allocation mechanism that is structurally more exposed to annual central budgetary discretion than the formula-based devolution architecture available to India's full states. As subsequent chapters of this report, particularly Chapter 3 on economic structure and Chapter 11 on urban development, draw on this fiscal foundation to examine Chandigarh's sectoral development trajectory, this underlying fiscal vulnerability, notwithstanding the Union Territory's high per capita income and strong human development standing documented in Chapter 1, should be read as a persistent structural theme rather than a one-year Budget anomaly.

CHAPTER 3: ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, GROWTH AND SECTORAL PERFORMANCE

Chandigarh's economy is best understood not as a scaled-down version of a full state economy but as a distinct urban economic type: a compact, service-dominated, high-income enclave whose growth is driven overwhelmingly by administration, trade, professional services, and an emerging information technology sector rather than by agriculture or heavy industry. This chapter examines the size and composition of Chandigarh's Gross Union Territory Domestic Product, its income and price dynamics, the specific performance of its primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, the scale and character of its informal economy, its labour market outcomes, and the growth corridors that this report identifies as the most likely engines of the Union Territory's economic expansion through 2047.

3.1 Gross Union Territory Domestic Product: Trends, Growth Rate and Sectoral Share

Chandigarh's Gross State Domestic Product, referred to interchangeably as Gross Union Territory Domestic Product in Union Territory-level reporting, stood at approximately ₹68,072.60 crore in 2024-25, having expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 9.83 percent over the preceding decade, from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). This growth rate compares favourably with the national average nominal GDP growth rate over the same broad period, and it reflects the compounding effect of Chandigarh's transition from an administrative capital with a comparatively narrow economic base toward a more diversified urban service economy over the past decade.

On sectoral composition, Chandigarh's Gross Value Added at current prices for 2023-24 was overwhelmingly concentrated in the tertiary sector, which accounted for approximately 89.41 percent of the total, dwarfing the secondary sector's contribution of approximately 10.03 percent and the primary sector's negligible contribution of approximately 0.56 percent (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). This sectoral distribution is among the most tertiary-dominated of any state or Union Territory examined across this national CDF series, a consequence directly traceable to the specific findings on land area and urbanisation established in Chapter 1: with only 114 square kilometres of territory, of which the vast majority is built-up urban area, Chandigarh simply lacks the land base to sustain a meaningful agricultural sector or large-footprint manufacturing base, and its economic structure has evolved accordingly around activities that generate high value per unit of land, principally administration, trade, financial and professional services, and real estate.

This report considers Chandigarh's GSDP growth trajectory to be structurally sound but notes that its sustainability depends on continued growth within an increasingly narrow set of tertiary sub-sectors, a vulnerability examined further in Section 3.9 below in the context of growth corridor diversification. Unlike states with a more balanced primary-secondary-tertiary composition, Chandigarh's Union Territory-level growth trajectory does not benefit from cross-sectoral hedging against sector-specific downturns, a structural characteristic policymakers should weigh explicitly when setting medium-term growth targets for the Union Territory.

3.2 Per Capita Income and Purchasing Power Analysis

Chandigarh's per capita income at current prices reached approximately ₹5,05,137 in 2023-24, a figure that has consistently placed the Union Territory among the top four ranked states and Union Territories nationally on this measure over the past two decades (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). As early as 2017-18, Chandigarh's per capita income ranking placed it fourth nationally, behind only Goa, Delhi, and Sikkim, a small cluster of consistently high-per-capita-income constituent units that has remained broadly stable in composition even as their relative rankings have shifted modestly from year to year (Tribune News Service, 2019a).

This high per capita income figure, read alongside the multidimensional poverty findings presented in Chapter 1, Section 1.6, illustrates a recurring analytical caution that this report applies throughout: a high mean income figure, computed by dividing total Gross Union Territory Domestic Product by total population, can coexist with meaningful income dispersion beneath that mean, particularly in an economy such as Chandigarh's that combines a large, well-compensated administrative, professional, and services workforce with a substantial population of lower-income migrant workers engaged in construction, domestic work, and informal trade, as documented in Section 3.6 below. This report recommends that future Union Territory economic reporting present median household income and income decile distribution alongside the standard per capita income figure, to give policymakers and the public a fuller picture of purchasing power distribution across Chandigarh's population than the current mean-based reporting alone provides.

On purchasing power specifically, this report was unable to identify a Chandigarh-specific purchasing power parity adjustment or cost-of-living index published by an official statistical source, a further data gap flagged here rather than filled through estimation. Given Chandigarh's comparatively high real estate and consumer price levels, examined further in Section 3.8 below, this report considers it likely that Chandigarh's real, purchasing-power-adjusted per capita income advantage over other states and Union Territories is somewhat narrower than its nominal per capita income ranking alone would suggest, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration's Economic and Statistical Organisation commission a dedicated cost-of-living index for the Union Territory to enable more accurate future benchmarking.

3.3 Primary Sector: Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Consistent with the sectoral composition data presented in Section 3.1, Chandigarh's primary sector, encompassing agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and fisheries, contributed approximately 0.56 percent of the Union Territory's Gross Value Added in 2023-24, among the smallest primary sector contributions recorded for any state or Union Territory examined in this national CDF series (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). This negligible contribution is a direct consequence of Chandigarh's land use pattern, documented in Chapter 1, in which just 2.75 percent of the population resided in rural areas as per the 2011 Census, with the rural population itself having declined by 68.53 percent during the preceding decade as agricultural land at the urban periphery was progressively absorbed into built-up development (Census2011.co.in, 2026).

Given this trajectory, this report finds that primary sector policy in Chandigarh is properly understood not as a growth-oriented sectoral development agenda, in the manner appropriate for agrarian states, but as a managed transition strategy for the Union Territory's small and shrinking remaining agricultural population. Horticulture, particularly ornamental and nursery horticulture supplying Chandigarh's extensive public green spaces and residential gardens, together with the Greening Chandigarh Action Plan's annual plantation programme discussed in Chapter 1, represents one area where primary-sector-adjacent activity intersects productively with the Union Territory's urban planning priorities, though this report was unable to identify disaggregated economic value data for this specific horticultural activity. Chapter 12 of this report, on rural development, examines the specific livelihood transition support instruments available to Chandigarh's remaining rural and peri-urban agricultural population in greater detail.

3.4 Secondary Sector: Industry, Manufacturing and Mining

Chandigarh's secondary sector, contributing approximately 10.03 percent of Gross Value Added in 2023-24 (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025), is concentrated almost entirely within a compact, purpose-built industrial footprint rather than distributed across the Union Territory more broadly. Industrial activity is centred on the Industrial Area, Phase I and Phase II, a designated zone of approximately 1,450 acres planned from the outset for small-scale, low-pollution manufacturing, given the constraints on industrial land availability inherent in Chandigarh's original master plan (Development Institute, n.d.). Manufacturing activity within this zone spans electrical and electronic items, machine tools, pharmaceuticals, plastic goods, sanitary fittings, steel and wooden furniture, and food products, with a number of these items finding export markets abroad, and the sector's total estimated annual industrial output was assessed at approximately ₹650 crore as of the mid-2010s baseline documented in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Union Territory profile (Development Institute, n.d.). While this specific output figure is now dated, this report retains it here to illustrate the sector's historically modest scale relative to the tertiary sector's dominant contribution documented in Section 3.1.

The Union Territory's industrial policy framework has centred on the Industrial Policy of 2015, which introduced a single-window clearance system, online regulatory approvals, and a suite of ease-of-doing-business measures, including deemed approval provisions under which specified services, such as water and sewer connections, power connections, and licensing under the Factories Act, would be treated as automatically approved if not processed within a prescribed time limit (YourStory, 2019). The 2015 policy was explicitly designed to position Chandigarh as a hub for pollution-free, knowledge-based industrial activity, prioritising sectors such as information technology, information technology-enabled services, and light engineering over traditional heavy manufacturing, a strategic choice directly shaped by the Union Territory's land constraints documented in Chapter 1 (YourStory, 2019).

As of mid-2026, this report finds that the Chandigarh Administration has initiated the process of drafting an entirely new Industrial Policy, under directions from the Union government, explicitly modelled on the Gujarat Industrial Policy, with the stated objective of shifting the Union Territory's approach from merely facilitating business toward providing direct financial support and incentives to industries, including certification and regulatory compliance assistance and the possible creation of a dedicated industrial incentive fund (Tribune News Service, 2026e). Given the continuing land constraints that shaped the 2015 policy, the proposed new framework is expected to focus on modernisation, technology upgrading, and productivity improvement within existing industrial units rather than large-scale territorial expansion, with particular emphasis on micro, small, and medium enterprises (Tribune News Service, 2026e). This report considers this policy transition a significant near-term development to monitor, since a Gujarat-modelled incentive structure, if successfully adapted to Chandigarh's radically different land-constrained context, could meaningfully alter the secondary sector's currently modest contribution to Union Territory Gross Value Added over the coming Budget cycles, a theme this report returns to in Chapter 4.

3.5 Tertiary Sector: Trade, Finance, Real Estate and Services

The tertiary sector, contributing approximately 89.41 percent of Chandigarh's Gross Value Added in 2023-24, is unambiguously the defining feature of the Union Territory's economic structure (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025). Within this broad tertiary category, this report identifies four principal sub-sectors of particular significance: public administration and defence, given Chandigarh's dual function as Union Territory capital and joint capital of Punjab and Haryana; trade, hotels, and repair services, reflecting the Union Territory's role as a regional commercial hub for the wider tri-city and northern Punjab region; real estate, ownership of dwellings, and professional services, reflecting both Chandigarh's high property values and its concentration of legal, medical, educational, and consulting professional activity; and financial services, reflecting the presence of numerous regional and national banking and financial institution offices serving the tri-city catchment.

A further tertiary sub-sector of growing significance, examined in greater depth in Chapter 17 of this report, is information technology and information technology-enabled services. While much of the physical IT infrastructure investment associated with the tri-city region has

concentrated specifically in Mohali, within neighbouring Punjab, rather than within Chandigarh's own municipal boundaries, given greater land availability there, this report treats the broader tri-city IT ecosystem as functionally integrated with Chandigarh's own tertiary sector, since Chandigarh supplies a substantial share of the region's professional and graduate workforce, hosts corporate and administrative functions for firms with delivery operations elsewhere in the tri-city area, and captures downstream tertiary sector activity, including real estate, retail, and professional services demand, generated by the region's growing technology workforce (Dot Com Inventions, 2026). Software Technology Parks of India data indicate that information technology exports from the STPI-Mohali unit specifically grew from approximately ₹7 crore at the unit's establishment in 1998 to approximately ₹4,000 crore in recent years, with the tri-city region's technology workforce estimated at over 30,000 IT graduates (Software Technology Parks of India, n.d.), figures this report treats as indicative of the broader tri-city technology economy within which Chandigarh functions as the administrative and residential core rather than as figures directly attributable to Chandigarh's own municipal GSDP.

3.6 Informal Economy: Size, Significance and Integration Challenges

This report was unable to identify a dedicated, Chandigarh-specific study quantifying the size of the Union Territory's informal economy, whether measured by employment share, value added, or any other standard metric, and it flags this as one of the more significant data gaps identified across this chapter. This absence is notable given that Chandigarh's demographic profile, documented in Chapter 1, includes a substantial migrant population drawn from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar for employment in construction, domestic work, and informal trade, activities that in most Indian urban contexts fall predominantly within the informal economy.

In the absence of Chandigarh-specific quantification, this report draws two inferences from adjacent evidence presented elsewhere in this chapter and in Chapter 1. First, given that formal sector employment in Chandigarh is concentrated disproportionately in public administration, organised trade, and professional services, and given the Union Territory's comparatively high graduate employment outcomes documented in Section 3.7 below, this report considers it likely that a meaningful share of Chandigarh's lower-skilled workforce, particularly its migrant construction and domestic worker population, operates within the informal economy, outside the scope of the formal employment statistics that drive the Union Territory's otherwise favourable headline economic indicators. Second, the Municipal Corporation's own institutional structure includes a dedicated Urban Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Cell (Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, n.d.), whose existence this report treats as indirect confirmation that municipal authorities themselves recognise informal and precarious livelihoods as a distinct policy concern requiring dedicated institutional attention, separate from the Union Territory's mainstream economic development apparatus. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration commission a dedicated informal economy survey, potentially in partnership with the National Sample Survey Office's periodic

unincorporated enterprise surveys, to establish a reliable Union Territory-specific baseline for future editions of this framework.

3.7 Labour Market: Employment, Unemployment and Workforce Quality

Chandigarh's labour market presents one of the more genuinely puzzling combinations of indicators identified anywhere in this report: an unemployment rate that ranks among the highest in the country, alongside a graduate unemployment rate that ranks among the lowest. As per 2023-24 data shared by the Union Minister for Labour and Employment in the Rajya Sabha, Chandigarh recorded an overall unemployment rate of 7.1 percent, the fifth-highest among all Indian states and Union Territories, behind only Lakshadweep at 11.9 percent, Andaman and Nicobar Islands at 11.8 percent, Goa at 8.5 percent, and Kerala at 7.2 percent, and well above the national average of 3.2 percent and the neighbouring states of Haryana, at 3.4 percent, and Punjab, at 5.5 percent (Tribune News Service, 2026f). At the same time, the Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2022-23 recorded the lowest unemployment rate among graduates aged 15 years and above anywhere in India specifically in Chandigarh, at 5.6 percent, marginally ahead of Delhi at 5.7 percent, and dramatically below the highest recorded rates, including 33 percent in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and 26.5 percent in Ladakh (Careers360, 2023).

This report interprets this apparent contradiction as reflecting a genuine structural mismatch within Chandigarh's labour market rather than a data inconsistency. The Union Territory's overall unemployment figure appears to be driven substantially by constrained opportunities for its broader working-age population, including school-leavers and non-graduate workers, in an economy whose secondary sector, documented in Section 3.4, remains land-constrained and comparatively small, while its graduate population benefits disproportionately from Chandigarh's concentration of government, administrative, and professional services employment, together with the substantial number of vacant sanctioned government posts documented below. As of the reporting period covered by Tribune News Service (2026f), the Chandigarh Administration carried approximately 4,300 vacancies across its departments, including nearly 1,500 teaching posts in the Education Department, over 350 clerical posts, more than 250 posts within the Police Department, over 200 posts within the Health Department, and nearly 300 vacant assistant professor posts in government colleges, even as the Administration simultaneously employed approximately 17,000 outsourced staff and 5,000 contractual staff across its departments (Tribune News Service, 2026f). This coexistence of a large sanctioned-post vacancy backlog with substantial reliance on outsourced and contractual staffing, alongside a comparatively high overall unemployment rate, points toward a specific and addressable policy lever: accelerated, transparent recruitment against existing sanctioned vacancies, which this report identifies as one of the more immediately actionable labour market interventions available to the Chandigarh Administration, requiring primarily administrative rather than fiscal resolution.

On gender-disaggregated labour market outcomes, rural female unemployment in Chandigarh stood at 10.7 percent as per 2022-23 data shared by the Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment in the Rajya Sabha, a rate lower than Goa's 17.7 percent and Kerala's 9.2

percent comparators but still indicative of meaningfully constrained employment opportunities specifically for women within Chandigarh's small remaining rural population documented in Chapter 1 (Tribune News Service, 2023b). Given Chandigarh's near-total urban character, this report considers urban female labour force participation, examined further in Chapter 7 of this report on social justice and gender equity, to be of greater aggregate policy significance than the rural female unemployment figure specifically, notwithstanding the latter's comparatively high recorded rate.

Local commentary attributes at least part of Chandigarh's elevated overall unemployment rate to industrial migration and growing reliance on outsourced staffing arrangements within government departments themselves, with experts cited in Tribune reporting calling for a comprehensive policy response combining industrial growth promotion with streamlined government recruitment processes (Tribune News Service, 2026f). This report considers the new Industrial Policy process documented in Section 3.4, together with accelerated sanctioned-post recruitment, to represent the two most directly relevant policy levers available to the Chandigarh Administration for addressing this specific labour market challenge over the medium term.

3.8 Inflation, Price Stability and Consumer Welfare

Consumer price dynamics in Chandigarh are best understood against the backdrop of national retail inflation trends, since Chandigarh-specific, disaggregated inflation reporting is comparatively limited relative to the state-level detail available for larger constituent units. At the national level, India's Consumer Price Index, on the newly rebased 2024=100 series introduced in early 2026, recorded year-on-year inflation of 2.75 percent in January 2026, rising through the year to reach 4.38 percent in June 2026 and 4.45 percent in July 2026, with corresponding Consumer Food Price Index inflation of 5.32 percent and 5.52 percent respectively in those same months, remaining within the Reserve Bank of India's target comfort band of 2 to 6 percent throughout this period (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2026a, 2026b, 2026c). This national trend followed a period of unusually low retail inflation, with the Ministry of Finance reporting that retail inflation had dropped to 4.6 percent for the full 2024-25 fiscal year, the lowest level recorded in six years, aided by strengthened buffer stock management and subsidised retail distribution of essential food staples (Ministry of Finance, as cited in News on AIR, 2025).

Within this generally benign national inflation environment, evidence specific to Chandigarh suggests the Union Territory has experienced comparatively elevated price levels relative to other major Indian cities. A report prepared by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Government of NCT of Delhi, comparing the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers across fifteen major Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Indore, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Varanasi, Amritsar, and Lucknow, found that Lucknow and Chandigarh recorded the maximum Consumer Price Index values among the cities assessed for both the 2024 calendar year and the 2024-25 financial year (Business Standard, 2025). This finding, that Chandigarh's absolute price level, rather than its rate of price change, ranks among the highest of India's

major cities, is consistent with the Union Territory's documented high real estate values and comparatively high cost structure, and it has direct implications for the interpretation of the per capita income figures presented in Section 3.2, since a higher absolute price level erodes a portion of Chandigarh's nominal income advantage in real, purchasing-power-adjusted terms. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration's Economic and Statistical Organisation participate more systematically in inter-city price comparison exercises of the kind conducted by the Delhi government, to build a stronger, Union Territory-specific evidence base on consumer welfare and cost-of-living trends going forward.

3.9 Growth Corridors: Engines of Economic Expansion

Drawing together the sectoral evidence presented across this chapter, this report identifies three principal growth corridors most likely to drive Chandigarh's economic expansion over the medium to long term. The first is the tri-city information technology and knowledge services corridor, anchored functionally across Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula, in which Chandigarh's comparative advantage lies specifically in its residential quality of life, professional and graduate talent pool, and administrative and financial services infrastructure, complementing the more land-intensive IT park development concentrated in neighbouring Mohali documented in Section 3.5. The Chandigarh Administration's own Startup Policy of 2025, implemented through the Start-in-Chandigarh nodal cell with an annual allocation of approximately ₹10 crore toward incubator upgrading grants and founder support, including specific provisions for women, transgender, and other underrepresented founders, represents a direct Union Territory-level policy instrument supporting this corridor (eChai Ventures, n.d.), a theme developed fully in Chapter 17.

The second growth corridor this report identifies is municipal and Union Territory revenue-led infrastructure reinvestment, building on the property tax reform, GST collection growth, and excise revenue performance documented in Chapter 2. With Municipal Corporation property tax revenue projected to double from approximately ₹45 crore to approximately ₹90 crore annually, and with Union Territory GST collections reaching ₹2,454 crore in 2025-26, this report considers sustained own-revenue growth, reinvested specifically into the capital expenditure categories identified as under pressure in Chapter 2, Section 2.3, to represent a genuine, evidence-based growth corridor rather than an aspirational one, provided the capital expenditure allocation trends documented in that chapter are reversed in future Budget cycles.

The third growth corridor this report identifies is the modernisation of Chandigarh's existing industrial base under the new Industrial Policy currently being drafted, documented in Section 3.4. Given the Union Territory's fixed land constraints, this report considers productivity-led growth within the existing 1,450-acre industrial footprint, achieved through technology upgrading, cluster development for specific product categories such as fasteners and steel furniture, and expanded eligibility for information technology, electronics, and services sector activity within industrial zones, to represent a more realistic secondary sector

growth pathway than any strategy premised on territorial industrial expansion, which Chandigarh's land constraints render largely infeasible.

Taken together, these three corridors, knowledge services, revenue-led infrastructure reinvestment, and industrial modernisation, share a common structural logic: each seeks to extract greater economic value from Chandigarh's existing, fixed territorial footprint rather than pursuing the land-intensive growth strategies available to larger states examined elsewhere in this CDF series. This report considers this land-constrained growth model, oriented around productivity, human capital, and administrative efficiency rather than territorial expansion, to be both the central economic challenge and the central economic opportunity facing Chandigarh's policymakers as the Union Territory approaches the Vision 2047 horizon examined in Chapter 21 of this report.

CHAPTER 4: INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Where Chapter 3 examined the composition and performance of Chandigarh's economy in aggregate, this chapter turns to the specific policy instruments, institutions, and ongoing reforms through which the Union Territory seeks to attract investment, support its private industrial base, and manage the public sector undertakings still under its direct control. As established throughout this report, Chandigarh's land constraints and administrative structure shape every dimension of this agenda, from the compact, purpose-built industrial estate around which its manufacturing sector remains organised to the unusually collaborative, multi-jurisdictional governance arrangements required to plan infrastructure across the tri-city region.

4.1 Investment Climate Assessment and Ease of Doing Business

Chandigarh's investment climate presents a genuinely mixed picture when assessed against national benchmarking instruments, one that this report considers important to present honestly rather than selectively. On the one hand, the Union Territory's Industrial Policy of 2015 introduced a single-window clearance system, online regulatory approvals, and deemed approval provisions for time-bound services such as water and sewer connections, power connections, and licensing under the Factories Act, measures explicitly designed to reduce the transaction costs of doing business within the Union Territory (YourStory, 2019). On the other hand, independent national assessment of Chandigarh's overall urban livability and institutional performance has shown a marked decline over the period for which comparable data exists. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Ease of Living Index 2020 recorded Chandigarh's rank falling to 29th position nationally among 111 assessed cities, down sharply from 5th position in the inaugural 2018 edition, with an overall score of 54.40 out of 100, only marginally above the 2018 score of 53.16 (Tribune News Service, 2020). Within the index's four components, institutional, social, economic, and physical, Chandigarh performed particularly poorly on Citizen Perception, ranking 35th, and Economic Ability, ranking 34th, even as it had ranked first nationally on the Economic sub-index in the 2018 edition (Tribune News Service, 2020). The Union Territory similarly ranked a distant 23rd in the companion Municipal Performance Index 2020, introduced that year as a complementary assessment of urban local body governance quality (Tribune News Service, 2020).

This report treats this documented decline as a significant and somewhat underappreciated finding, given the persistence of Chandigarh's reputation, discussed throughout this report, as India's best-planned and most livable city. Local resident welfare representatives, cited in the same Tribune reporting, described the Ease of Living result as falling well below residents' expectations, noting that several north Indian cities, including Ludhiana, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, and Kanpur, all scored higher than Chandigarh within the million-plus city category despite lacking Chandigarh's planning heritage (Tribune News Service, 2020). This report was unable to identify a more recent, updated Ease of Living Index result for Chandigarh specifically, since the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has not published a

further full edition of the index since 2020 at the time of writing, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration treat the resumption of this national benchmarking exercise, whenever next conducted, as a priority opportunity to demonstrate whether the investment climate and institutional reforms documented elsewhere in this chapter, including the Smart Cities Mission completion documented in Chapter 1 and the new Industrial Policy process documented in Section 4.2 below, have begun to reverse the 2018-2020 decline.

4.2 Industrial Policy Framework and MSME Development

Chandigarh's principal industrial policy instrument remains the Industrial Policy of 2015, developed with the explicit objective of positioning the Union Territory as a hub for non-polluting, technology-driven, and knowledge-based industrial activity, given the land constraints on heavy manufacturing documented in Chapter 3 (YourStory, 2019). The 2015 policy established a Common Application Form system operating through a Single Window mechanism, a Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council to assist enterprises in recovering interest on delayed payments owed to them, and a Procurement Preference Policy under which 20 percent of relevant government procurement was to be sourced from local micro and small enterprises (YourStory, 2019). The policy also proposed the establishment of a Centre of Excellence targeting specific product clusters, including fasteners, nuts and screws, tractor parts, and bath fittings, industry segments in which Chandigarh's Industrial Area had already developed some specialisation (YourStory, 2019). A Confederation of Indian Industry statement at the time of the policy's launch specifically welcomed its emphasis on green and non-polluting industry categories, including information technology, information technology-enabled services, and light engineering (YourStory, 2019).

By 2022, the Chandigarh Administration had initiated a formal review of the 2015 policy, convened under the chairmanship of the Union Territory's then Member of Parliament, to examine the conversion of leasehold industrial and commercial properties into freehold units, the possibility of organising industries into clusters with backward and forward production linkages, and the recalibration of Floor Area Ratio charges applicable to industrial land (Tribune News Service, 2022). This review process has since evolved into the more comprehensive industrial policy overhaul documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.4, with the Chandigarh Administration, as of mid-2026, drafting an entirely new Industrial Policy modelled explicitly on the Gujarat Industrial Policy, under direction from the Union government, with an anticipated shift from facilitation-only measures toward direct financial incentives, including a proposed dedicated industrial incentive fund, certification and regulatory compliance support, and continued special emphasis on micro, small, and medium enterprises given the Union Territory's persistent land constraints (Tribune News Service, 2026e). This report considers the transition from the 2015 policy's facilitation-oriented model to the anticipated incentive-oriented model under the forthcoming policy to represent a substantive strategic shift, one whose implementation this report recommends the Chandigarh Administration monitor closely against clear, published performance indicators, including new MSME registrations, industrial land occupancy rates, and cluster-specific export performance, once the new policy is finalised and notified.

4.3 Large and Anchor Industries: Sectoral Analysis

Consistent with the land-constrained industrial profile documented throughout this report, Chandigarh does not host large-scale anchor industries of the kind found in states with substantial dedicated industrial corridors. The Union Territory's Industrial Area, Phase I and Phase II, spanning approximately 1,450 acres, was planned from the outset specifically for small-scale, pollution-free manufacturing rather than for large integrated industrial units, and its manufacturing base spans electrical and electronic items, machine tools, pharmaceuticals, plastic goods, sanitary fittings, steel and wooden furniture, and food products, with total estimated annual industrial output assessed at approximately ₹650 crore as of the mid-2010s Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises baseline documented in Chapter 3 (Development Institute, n.d.). No single enterprise or industry segment within this base functions as a dominant anchor employer in the manner that a large automotive, steel, or petrochemical facility might anchor an industrial economy elsewhere in India.

In place of a conventional anchor industry, this report identifies Chandigarh's own public administration function, encompassing the Union Territory Administration, the Punjab and Haryana state government secretariats housed within the Union Territory, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and associated central government offices, as functioning as the closest analogue to an anchor economic activity within Chandigarh's own economy, given its scale of direct employment and the substantial downstream tertiary sector activity, examined in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, that this administrative concentration generates in housing, professional services, retail, and hospitality. This report considers this administration-centred economic structure to be a defining and largely permanent feature of Chandigarh's economic identity, given the Union Territory's constitutionally anchored dual-capital function documented in Chapter 1, rather than a temporary condition likely to be superseded by a conventional industrial anchor over the period covered by this framework.

4.4 Special Economic Zones, Industrial Corridors and Clusters

This report did not identify any Special Economic Zone formally notified within Chandigarh's own 114 square kilometre territory, a finding consistent with the Union Territory's land constraints and its industrial policy emphasis, documented in Section 4.2, on cluster development within its existing Industrial Area footprint rather than greenfield zone expansion. Within that existing footprint, the clearest evidence of cluster-level industrial specialisation concerns the fastener and steel furniture segments, both of which the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Union Territory profile specifically identifies as showing a discernible cluster presence within Chandigarh's Industrial Area, even though formal interventions under the Ministry's Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme had not been initiated within the Union Territory as of that assessment (Development Institute, n.d.).

The more economically significant industrial corridor relevant to Chandigarh's own economy lies functionally outside its municipal boundary, in neighbouring Mohali, within Punjab, where greater land availability has supported the development of a more substantial

information technology and light industrial corridor examined in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, and further in Chapter 17 of this report. This report reiterates the analytical distinction established in Chapter 3 between this functionally tri-city, but jurisdictionally Punjab-based, corridor and Chandigarh's own directly attributable industrial output, while noting that the two are economically interdependent given Chandigarh's role as the residential, administrative, and professional services core for workers employed within the broader Mohali-centred corridor.

4.5 Foreign Direct Investment: Inflows, Sectoral Distribution and Policy

This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific foreign direct investment inflow data, whether from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade or from any other official source, and it states this data gap plainly rather than estimating a figure. National state-wise FDI ranking data reviewed for this report consistently identifies Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi, and Telangana as India's leading FDI-receiving states, driven respectively by financial and industrial infrastructure, manufacturing and port connectivity, the Bengaluru information technology and startup ecosystem, services sector headquarters concentration, and the Hyderabad technology and pharmaceutical corridor (IndiaDataMap, 2026), with the same reporting noting that most other states and Union Territories, a category within which Chandigarh's own data appears to fall, recorded negligible or unreported FDI inflows in recent years.

At the national level, India's overall FDI inflows grew by 17.9 percent year-on-year to reach US\$55.6 billion as reported in the Economic Survey 2025-26, presented on February 1, 2026, with growth attributed to robust GDP performance, stable macroeconomic fundamentals, continued ease-of-doing-business reform, and global investor interest in supply chain diversification away from China-concentrated manufacturing (ClarityUPSC, 2026). Nationally, FDI has concentrated disproportionately in financial services, information technology, and business services within the services sector (ClarityUPSC, 2026), sub-sectors that, as established in Chapter 3, align closely with Chandigarh's own tertiary-sector-dominated economic structure. Given this alignment, this report considers it plausible that Chandigarh could attract a meaningfully larger share of India's growing services-sector FDI than it currently appears to capture, particularly within the information technology and professional services categories examined in Chapter 17, provided the Union Territory's investment climate weaknesses documented in Section 4.1 are addressed. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration's Department of Industries commission a dedicated FDI facilitation cell, potentially in coordination with Invest India, specifically to track, target, and report Union Territory-specific FDI performance going forward, given the current absence of any disaggregated Chandigarh-specific data on this important investment channel.

4.6 Public Sector Undertakings: Performance and Reform Agenda

Chandigarh's public sector undertaking landscape has been reshaped decisively in recent years by the privatisation of the erstwhile Union Territory Electricity Department, a reform this report treats as the single most consequential public sector transition documented in this

chapter, given both its fiscal implications, already examined in Chapter 2, and the institutional contestation that accompanied it. The privatisation process was formally set in motion following the Union Finance Minister's May announcement that power distribution companies across India's Union Territories would be privatised, although the Chandigarh Administration had already engaged the Power Finance Corporation, a Government of India undertaking, as consultant to prepare a corporatisation proposal in advance of that national announcement (Tribune News Service, 2020a). The process proved unusually contested for what local elected representatives and employee unions consistently described as a genuinely profit-making department: former Members of Parliament Harmohan Dhawan and Pawan Kumar Bansal both publicly opposed the privatisation, with Dhawan citing record departmental revenue of ₹258 crore in the preceding year and noting that the department had remained profitable for five consecutive years, while also raising specific accountability questions regarding a ₹157 crore security deposit held by the department and the future terms of a concessional power supply arrangement under which the Bhakra-Beas Management Board had been supplying 3.5 percent of its generated power to the Union Territory at just 17 paise per unit (Tribune News Service, 2021b). The UT Powermen Union similarly opposed the move, noting the department's consistent profitability, its 9 to 10 percent aggregate technical and commercial losses, comparatively low tariffs of ₹2.50 per unit for the first 150 units of consumption, and unchanged tariffs over the preceding five years benefiting more than 2.34 lakh electricity consumers across the Union Territory (Tribune News Service, 2021c).

The privatisation process proceeded through a genuine legal contest, with the UT Powermen Union securing a stay of the tendering process from a Division Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on December 1, 2020, only for the Supreme Court to stay that High Court order on January 12, 2021, following which the Chandigarh Administration resumed the tendering process (Tribune News Service, 2021a). Twenty prospective bidders subsequently expressed interest in the Request for Proposal, including major national and international power sector entities such as Adani Transmission Limited, Tata Power Company Limited, GMR Generation Asset Limited, Sterlite Power, Torrent Power, ReNew Power, EDF India, and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, among others (Tribune News Service, 2021a), indicating strong commercial interest in the asset notwithstanding the political and labour opposition documented above. The Chandigarh Administration's public messaging throughout this process framed privatisation as a structural reform intended to improve service quality, operational efficiency, and financial health, promising specific consumer-facing improvements including 24/7 call centre and WhatsApp support, real-time outage tracking, online payment platforms, and 48-hour turnaround on new connection applications, while positioning Chandigarh as a prospective national model for power distribution reform (Tribune News Service, 2025e). As documented in Chapter 2, this privatisation had been substantially completed by the 2026-27 Budget cycle, with the associated Budget allocation restructuring, from ₹877.39 crore to ₹156.95 crore, reflecting the department's transition out of direct Union Territory Budget accounting.

Beyond the Electricity Department, Chandigarh's remaining public sector undertaking architecture, documented in Chapter 1, comprises the Chandigarh Housing Board, responsible for urban housing construction and examined further in Chapter 11, the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation, responsible for industrial promotion and tourism and examined further in Chapter 19, and the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking, responsible for public bus operations and examined further in Chapter 8 (Chandigarh Online, n.d.). This report was unable to identify recent, disaggregated financial performance data for these three remaining entities specifically, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish consolidated annual performance reports for each, covering both financial results and service delivery indicators, to allow more rigorous tracking of public sector undertaking performance across future editions of this framework.

4.7 Public-Private Partnership Framework and Pipeline

The most substantial public-private partnership-relevant infrastructure pipeline currently associated with Chandigarh is the Tricity Metro project, a mass rapid transit system proposed to serve Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula, Zirakpur, New Chandigarh, and Pinjore, examined further in the regional cooperation context of Section 4.8 below and in the transport infrastructure analysis of Chapter 8. The project's Comprehensive Mobility Plan, prepared by Rail India Technical and Economic Service, received in-principle approval from the Punjab and Haryana state governments and the Chandigarh Union Territory Administration, with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs subsequently approving the metro proposal component in June of the approval year (Swarajya, 2023a, 2023b). The Mass Rapid Transit System component alone is projected to cost over ₹10,570 crore, encompassing not only the rail corridors themselves but also associated bus terminals, depots, and intersection improvements (Swarajya, 2023b). By July 2024, the Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, the 23-member coordinating body governing the project and discussed further in Section 4.8, had approved an expansion of the first implementation phase from an initial 66 kilometres to 77 kilometres, with detailed alignment covering 35 kilometres within Chandigarh itself, 11 kilometres within Panchkula, and 31 kilometres within Mohali and New Chandigarh, structured across three corridors and excluding Chandigarh's heritage sectors, Sector 1 through Sector 30, from direct metro alignment (Indian Infrastructure, 2024; India Infra Hub, 2023).

This report notes that the project's detailed project report and alternative analysis report, prepared by Rail India Technical and Economic Service at an estimated preparatory cost of ₹6.54 crore, have faced documented coordination delays specifically linked to pending fund contributions from the Haryana government, a finding this report treats as directly illustrative of the multi-jurisdictional coordination challenge examined in Section 4.8 below (Tribune News Service, 2024b). The first implementation phase of the metro network is currently projected for the period 2027 through 2037, with a second phase anticipated thereafter, and the network is planned to operate predominantly at grade rather than underground, a choice that reduces capital cost relative to a fully underground system while requiring careful integration with Chandigarh's existing sector-grid road network (India, 2024). Beyond the

Tricity Metro, this report was unable to identify a formally published, consolidated public-private partnership project pipeline document specifically for the Chandigarh Administration, of the kind maintained by several state Public-Private Partnership cells elsewhere in this national CDF series, and it recommends that the Administration establish and publish such a pipeline, both to improve transparency around upcoming private investment opportunities and to provide a clearer basis for future editions of this framework to track project-level PPP performance.

4.8 Regional Cooperation: Shared Region and Growth

No theme in this chapter illustrates Chandigarh's distinctive governance position more clearly than the institutional architecture required to plan and deliver infrastructure across the tri-city region. Because Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula fall respectively under the Union Territory Administration, the Government of Punjab, and the Government of Haryana, any infrastructure project spanning the built-up tri-city area, most prominently the Tricity Metro project documented in Section 4.7, requires active, sustained coordination across three separate governments answering to three separate political and administrative accountability structures. The Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, established specifically to manage this coordination challenge, comprises officials from the central government, the Chandigarh Administration, and the governments of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab, and functions as the region's principal institutional mechanism for aligning mobility planning decisions across these otherwise separate jurisdictions (Swarajya, 2023b).

This report finds that this multi-jurisdictional coordination architecture has produced genuine, documented planning progress, including the joint approval of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan and the metro network's phased alignment discussed in Section 4.7, while also generating genuine, documented friction, most concretely illustrated by the funding-related delay to the metro project's detailed project report specifically attributed to pending Haryana government fund contributions (Tribune News Service, 2024b). This report considers this combination, real coordination achievement alongside real coordination friction, to be an accurate and important characterisation of Chandigarh's regional cooperation experience more broadly, rather than an isolated metro-specific difficulty. The same underlying dynamic recurs in the Union Territory's core constitutional function as joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, examined in Chapter 1, in its shared judicial institution, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and in historical infrastructure arrangements such as the Bhakra-Beas Management Board's concessional power supply to Chandigarh, cited in the electricity privatisation debate discussed in Section 4.6, all of which depend on sustained, functioning inter-governmental cooperation rather than on any single government's unilateral authority.

Beyond formal metropolitan governance mechanisms, this report also identifies the Chandigarh Administration's own committee-based approach to major regional infrastructure decisions as a further institutional feature worth noting: the Administration convened a dedicated eight-member committee, following a directive from the Union Territory Administrator, specifically to assess the economic and financial viability of the proposed tri-city metro system, benchmarking Chandigarh's case against comparably sized cities that

had successfully implemented metro systems elsewhere, and mandated to report within two months alongside consideration of alternative mobility interventions given the region's traffic congestion (Construction World, n.d.). This report views this kind of structured, time-bound, comparator-benchmarked institutional process as good practice worth formalising into a standing regional infrastructure evaluation capacity, rather than being convened afresh on an ad hoc basis for each major cross-jurisdictional project the tri-city region undertakes in the future.

Taken as a whole, this chapter's findings suggest that Chandigarh's private sector development and investment agenda cannot be fully understood, still less effectively advanced, purely through Union Territory-level policy instruments such as the Industrial Policy and Startup Policy documented above. Given the functional economic integration of the tri-city region documented throughout this report, from the IT corridor examined in Chapter 3 to the metro project examined in this chapter, this report's overarching recommendation for Chandigarh's investment and industrial policy going forward is that the Union Territory Administration pursue deliberate, institutionalised coordination with the Punjab and Haryana state governments as a core investment promotion strategy in its own right, alongside, rather than instead of, the Union Territory-specific reforms documented across this chapter.

CHAPTER 5: EDUCATION, ACCESS, QUALITY AND FUTURE READINESS

Education has historically been one of Chandigarh's strongest developmental credentials, and the evidence assembled in this chapter largely confirms that reputation while also identifying specific structural mismatches that warrant sustained policy attention. This chapter examines elementary education outcomes, the secondary and senior secondary transition, the Union Territory's substantial higher education capacity anchored by Panjab University, the comparatively underdeveloped technical and vocational training ecosystem, teacher recruitment and professional development, digital education infrastructure, inclusive schooling for children with disabilities, and the Union Territory-specific reform priorities that emerge from this analysis.

5.1 Elementary Education: Enrolment, Retention, Dropout and Learning Outcomes

Chandigarh's elementary education system performs strongly on the specific access indicators tracked through the Unified District Information System for Education Plus, the Union Ministry of Education's principal national school data platform. The UDISE+ 2025-26 report on School Education in India, released by the Education Ministry, identified Chandigarh among a small group of states and Union Territories, alongside Goa, Delhi, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, and Haryana, with zero schools recording zero student enrolment, a marked contrast to West Bengal, which topped the national chart with 4,133 such schools (Tribune News Service, 2026g). This finding indicates that Chandigarh's school network, however it may be structured across grade levels, is not carrying a burden of effectively defunct, unused school infrastructure of the kind documented in several larger states.

At the national level, against which Chandigarh's own performance should be read given the absence of separately published Union Territory-specific dropout figures in the sources available for this report, the UDISE+ 2025-26 report recorded a decline in the preparatory-level dropout rate, covering Classes 3 through 5, from 2.3 percent in 2024-25 to 1.8 percent in 2025-26, and a decline in the secondary-level dropout rate, covering Classes 9 and 10, from 8.2 percent to 7.0 percent over the same period (Tribune News Service, 2026g). This report was unable to isolate a Chandigarh-specific dropout figure from within this national aggregate, a data gap it flags explicitly rather than assuming Chandigarh's own rate mirrors the national trend, though the same UDISE+ analysis separately singles out Chandigarh, alongside Kerala, as an example of urban educational success illustrating the potential of effective schools and support systems in achieving near-zero dropout outcomes (IndiaDataMap, 2026), a characterisation this report treats as suggestive rather than definitively quantified in the absence of a disaggregated Chandigarh figure.

A more structurally significant finding for this section concerns the composition of Chandigarh's school network by level. Analysis of UDISE+ data covering the 2021-22 through 2024-25 period found that 50.2 percent of Chandigarh's schools are classified as higher secondary schools, while only 5.3 percent are classified as primary schools, a distribution the analysis explicitly describes as reflecting the Union Territory's urban concentration and as constituting a critical supply-side constraint on dropout outcomes at the national level more broadly, in contrast to states such as West Bengal, where primary schools constitute 79 percent of the total school network against just 3.5 percent secondary schools (Education for All in India, 2026). This report interprets this finding cautiously: rather than indicating an elementary education access deficit within Chandigarh specifically, given the zero-zero-enrolment-schools finding documented above, this report considers it more likely that Chandigarh's compact urban geography allows a comparatively small number of larger, better-resourced primary schools to serve its elementary-age population effectively, a hypothesis this report recommends the Chandigarh Education Department test directly through published, disaggregated pupil-to-school ratio data at the primary level specifically, since the available national-level analysis does not itself distinguish between an access deficit and an efficient consolidation model when interpreting this particular structural finding for the Union Territory.

5.2 Secondary and Senior Secondary Education: Transition and Achievement

The clearest and most authoritative evidence available on Chandigarh's overall school education quality relative to other states and Union Territories comes from the Union Ministry of Education's Performance Grading Index, a composite instrument assessing states and Union Territories across domains including learning outcomes, access, infrastructure, equity, and governance. The Performance Grading Index 2.0 report released alongside the UDISE+ 2025-26 data identified Chandigarh as the highest-scoring state or Union Territory nationally, with Meghalaya recording the lowest score, and found that the performance gap between these two extremes had narrowed from 51 percent in 2017-18 to 31.4 percent in the most recent assessment, indicating a gradual, sustained reduction in inter-state educational disparities nationally even as Chandigarh has retained its position at the top of the composite ranking (EnsureIAS, 2026). This report treats Chandigarh's sustained top position on the Performance Grading Index as the single strongest available piece of evidence for the Union Territory's overall school education system quality, given the index's comprehensive, multi-domain construction relative to any single narrower indicator examined elsewhere in this chapter.

Notwithstanding this strong composite performance, this report identifies teacher availability as a specific, documented constraint on secondary and senior secondary education delivery within Chandigarh. As established in Chapter 3, Section 3.7, the Chandigarh Administration carried approximately 1,500 vacant teaching posts within its Education Department as of the reporting period covered by Tribune News Service (2026f), a vacancy volume this report considers difficult to reconcile fully with the Union Territory's simultaneously top-ranked Performance Grading Index standing, and one that this report recommends the Chandigarh

Education Department address as a matter of priority given its direct bearing on Pupil-Teacher Ratios and instructional continuity, particularly at the secondary and senior secondary levels where subject-specialist teacher availability is most consequential for the kind of positive learning outcomes reflected in the Union Territory's overall Performance Grading Index score.

5.3 Higher Education: Institutional Capacity, Gross Enrolment and Quality

Chandigarh's higher education profile is anchored by Panjab University, established in 1882 and accredited with an A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, one of North India's oldest and most prominent public universities. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework's India Rankings 2025, released by the Union Minister of Education on September 4, 2025, Panjab University recorded a genuine recovery after a difficult preceding year, improving from an overall rank of 60 to 57 and from a Universities category rank of 38 to 35, having suffered its steepest single-year decline of 16 ranks the previous year (Tribune News Service, 2025f). Within the State Public Universities category specifically, Panjab University ranked third nationally with a score of 69.92, up from 67.43 the previous year, trailing only Anna University and Jadavpur University, and the university also secured third position nationally in the dedicated Pharmacy category (Tribune News Service, 2025f). In Engineering, the university climbed from the 101-150 ranking band into 93rd position outright, and it achieved a first-time entry into the Sustainable Development Goals ranking category, within the 11-50 band, while maintaining its standing in the Innovation category (Tribune News Service, 2025f). Then Vice-Chancellor Professor Renu Vig specifically credited the university's teachers, staff, students, and research scholars for this improvement across the overall, engineering, and other ranking categories (Tribune News Service, 2025f). At the international level, Panjab University was ranked within the 601-800 band by Times Higher Education for 2026 and within the 1001-1200 band by QS World University Rankings, positioning it as a nationally significant but not yet globally top-tier research university (Shiksha, 2024).

This report considers it important to flag a specific point of potential confusion for readers of this framework: Chandigarh University, which outperformed Panjab University in the same NIRF 2025 rankings, securing 32nd position overall and 19th position in the Universities category against Panjab University's 57th and 35th positions respectively (CitiTimes, 2025), is a private university whose main campus is located not within Chandigarh Union Territory itself but in Gharuan, within Mohali district of neighbouring Punjab, notwithstanding its name (CitiTimes, 2025). This report treats Chandigarh University's strong and rapidly improving NIRF performance, having reached the top 20 nationally in the Universities category as early as the 2024 rankings just twelve years after its 2012 establishment (Careers360, 2024), as a further illustration of the tri-city region's broader higher education dynamism documented throughout this report, while maintaining the analytical distinction, consistent with the approach taken in Chapter 3 regarding the STPI-Mohali IT corridor, between institutions bearing the Chandigarh name and institutions falling within Chandigarh Union Territory's own jurisdiction and Gross Union Territory Domestic Product accounting.

This report was unable to identify a separately published, Chandigarh-specific Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher education, a standard indicator tracking the proportion of the eligible age cohort enrolled in tertiary education, and it flags this as a data gap for future editions of this framework to address, ideally through direct engagement with the All India Survey on Higher Education, the Ministry of Education's dedicated annual higher education data collection instrument, which this report was unable to access in sufficiently disaggregated form for Chandigarh specifically within the scope of this research.

5.4 Technical, Vocational Education and Training Ecosystem

Chandigarh's technical and vocational education ecosystem includes a network of Industrial Training Institutes and polytechnic institutions serving the Union Territory's school-leaving population, consistent with the broader national vocational education architecture. This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific enrolment, output, or placement data for these institutions within the sources reviewed, and it does not attempt to estimate such figures given the risk of misrepresenting the sector's actual scale and performance.

At the national level, against which this section's findings should be read pending the availability of Chandigarh-specific data, the National Education Policy 2020 mandates that at least 50 percent of students at the secondary and higher secondary levels access vocational education by 2025, a target that remains substantially unmet nationally: UDISE+ 2023-24 data recorded 18,610 secondary and higher secondary schools offering vocational courses under the National Skills Qualification Framework, an increase from 13,206 in 2021-22 and 15,454 in 2022-23, but this figure remains a small fraction of the approximately 2.88 lakh secondary and higher secondary schools nationally, indicating that significant scaling remains necessary to meet the National Education Policy 2020 target even at the national level (Education for All in India, 2026). Given Chandigarh's comparatively strong secondary and higher secondary school infrastructure documented in Section 5.1, with 50.2 percent of its schools classified at the higher secondary level, this report considers Chandigarh reasonably well positioned, in infrastructural terms, to expand vocational education access more rapidly than many larger, more rural states, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Education Department publish a dedicated, Union Territory-specific vocational education access figure to allow this report and future editions of this framework to assess progress against the National Education Policy 2020 target directly rather than by inference from national aggregates.

5.5 Teacher Recruitment, Training and Professional Development

Teacher availability emerges from this chapter's analysis as Chandigarh's most clearly documented, quantified education sector constraint. As established in Section 5.2 and in Chapter 3, the Chandigarh Administration's Education Department carried approximately 1,500 vacant teaching posts as of the period covered by Tribune News Service (2026f), the single largest category of vacancy among the Administration's approximately 4,300 total sanctioned post vacancies across all departments. Government colleges within the Union Territory carried a further nearly 300 vacant assistant professor posts over the same period

(Tribune News Service, 2026f), indicating that the recruitment constraint extends across both the school and higher education tiers of Chandigarh's public education workforce.

This report considers this vacancy backlog to be the most directly actionable education sector reform priority identified anywhere in this chapter, since, unlike infrastructure or curriculum reform, it requires primarily administrative recruitment action rather than new capital investment or policy redesign, and it directly affects the Pupil-Teacher Ratios that underpin the learning outcomes reflected in Chandigarh's strong Performance Grading Index standing documented in Section 5.2. This report was unable to identify separately published data on Chandigarh-specific in-service teacher training programme coverage or professional development expenditure, a further data gap it recommends the Education Department address through dedicated annual reporting, given the National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on continuous professional development as integral to sustaining teaching quality.

5.6 Digital Education, EdTech Integration and ICT in Schools

Chandigarh performs strongly on digital education infrastructure relative to most other Indian states and Union Territories. Analysis of UDISE+ data identified Chandigarh, alongside Delhi and Goa, as having near-universal digital infrastructure in schools, in contrast to states such as Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand and several north-eastern states, where significantly lower internet penetration continues to amplify broader educational disadvantage (Education for All in India, 2026). This finding is consistent with Chandigarh's broader digital readiness profile documented in Chapter 1 and Chapter 3, including its high telecom subscriber base and its administration's own self-description as a leader on e-readiness.

At the national level, against which this Chandigarh-specific finding should be read, the proportion of schools with internet connectivity rose from 63.5 percent in 2024-25 to 67.4 percent in 2025-26 as per the UDISE+ 2025-26 report, alongside broader infrastructure gains including 95.0 percent of schools now powered by electricity, 98.5 percent with girls' toilets, 97.2 percent with boys' toilets, 96.9 percent with handwashing facilities, and 99.5 percent with access to safe drinking water (Tribune News Service, 2026g). Given Chandigarh's documented position among the near-universal digital infrastructure states, this report considers it reasonable to infer that Chandigarh's own school infrastructure indicators across these same categories likely exceed the national averages cited above, though it was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific figures for each individual indicator and flags this as a further specific data gap for future editions of this framework to close through direct engagement with the Union Territory's own UDISE+ submissions.

5.7 Special Education: Children with Disabilities and Inclusive Schooling

This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific data on enrolment, retention, or learning outcomes for children with special needs, whether drawn from UDISE+ disaggregated reporting or from any other official source reviewed in the course of this research, and it states this data gap directly rather than filling it with estimation or inference from national aggregates, given the particular sensitivity of accurately representing outcomes

for this specific student population. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Education Department, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare examined in Chapter 7, publish a dedicated annual report on inclusive education provision within the Union Territory, covering enrolment of children with disabilities across mainstream and special schools, availability of resource teachers and assistive technology, and the accessibility status of school infrastructure, to allow this specific dimension of educational equity to be assessed with the same rigour this chapter has been able to apply to Chandigarh's overall access and quality indicators.

5.8 Union Territory-Specific Educational Challenges and Reform Priorities

Drawing together the evidence presented across this chapter, this report identifies four Union Territory-specific educational priorities for the Chandigarh Administration going forward. First, and most immediately actionable, is the resolution of the approximately 1,500 vacant teaching posts and nearly 300 vacant assistant professor posts documented in Section 5.5, a recruitment backlog that this report considers incongruent with Chandigarh's simultaneous top ranking on the national Performance Grading Index and that represents the clearest single lever available to the Chandigarh Administration for consolidating and extending its educational quality advantage. Second is the closer investigation of the school-level distribution mismatch documented in Section 5.1, between Chandigarh's high concentration of higher secondary schools and comparatively low concentration of primary schools, through disaggregated, Union Territory-specific pupil-to-school ratio data, to establish definitively whether this pattern reflects efficient urban consolidation or a genuine access constraint requiring targeted primary school infrastructure investment. Third is the systematic closing of the data gaps this report has identified across vocational education access, higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio, and inclusive education for children with disabilities, each of which currently limits this framework's, and by extension Chandigarh's own policymakers', ability to track progress with the same precision available for the Union Territory's strong headline indicators on access, digital infrastructure, and overall Performance Grading Index standing.

Fourth, and most structurally significant, this report identifies the relationship between public and private higher education provision within the tri-city region as a theme meriting sustained policy attention. As documented in Section 5.3, private institutions bearing the Chandigarh name but situated outside the Union Territory's own jurisdiction, most prominently Chandigarh University in Mohali, have begun to outperform Panjab University, the Union Territory's flagship public institution, on the National Institutional Ranking Framework's composite rankings, even as Panjab University has itself posted a genuine, credible recovery in its own right. Given that education received the single largest sectoral allocation in the Chandigarh Administration's 2026-27 Budget, at ₹1,295.38 crore or 19.79 percent of the total Budget documented in Chapter 2, this report recommends that a meaningful share of this substantial and growing fiscal commitment be directed specifically toward sustaining Panjab University's own competitive position, including through continued research infrastructure investment and faculty recruitment, alongside the school-level teacher recruitment priority

identified above, so that Chandigarh's public higher education capacity keeps pace with the tri-city region's increasingly dynamic and competitive private higher education landscape.

CHAPTER 6: HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION

Chandigarh's health sector occupies a distinctive position within this national CDF series: the Union Territory hosts two of northern India's premier tertiary care institutions, serving a catchment population many times larger than its own resident population, while its own residents' access to these very facilities is periodically strained by exactly that regional referral burden. This chapter examines Chandigarh's public health infrastructure, its epidemiological and maternal and child health profile, its universal health coverage architecture, its mental health services, the psychosocial dimensions of its migration-driven demographic structure, its nutrition programming, its population and family planning trends, and the broader health system strengthening agenda now underway.

6.1 Public Health Infrastructure: Facilities, Human Resources and Gaps

Chandigarh's public health infrastructure is anchored by two major tertiary care institutions of national significance. The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, one of India's foremost postgraduate medical and research institutions, operates the Nehru Hospital, a 1,400-bed facility with 98 rooms across five private wards, alongside dedicated research blocks for basic sciences (PGIMER, n.d.). The Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, established in 1991 with its foundation stone laid by then Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and administered under Panjab University, operates from a 36-acre campus and functions as a high-capacity tertiary care centre with an attached general hospital in Sector 16, together offering approximately 1,000 beds and full approval from the National Medical Commission (Smart Achievers, 2025). A third significant facility, the Government Multi-Specialty Hospital, Sector 16, together with the Sector 22 and Sector 48 hospitals, rounds out the Union Territory's core public secondary and tertiary care network (Prognoshealth, 2026).

A structural feature of this infrastructure, and one this report considers essential to understanding Chandigarh's health system rather than a peripheral detail, is the scale of the regional referral burden these institutions carry. Documented bed occupancy data from a period of acute system stress illustrates this dynamic starkly: during a period of surging patient volumes, the PGIMER Director reported that of 251 patients occupying beds in the institute's dedicated extension block, only 79 belonged to Chandigarh itself, with 82 from Punjab, 43 from Haryana, 27 from Himachal Pradesh, and eight from Uttar Pradesh, while of 381 occupied beds across PGIMER, GMCH-32, and the Government Multi-Specialty Hospital combined, only 162 were being used by Chandigarh's own residents (Tribune News Service, 2020b). This pattern, while documented during a period of exceptional system stress, illustrates a structural condition that persists in ordinary times as well, given that PGIMER and GMCH function as the highest-order tertiary referral institutions for the entire northern Indian catchment spanning Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and beyond. Where this Union Territory-level bed capacity is required specifically for Chandigarh's own resident population, the Union Territory Administration has, at points of acute need, formally requested dedicated bed reservations from both institutions, illustrating the ongoing tension

between Chandigarh's role as a regional referral hub and its responsibility to its own comparatively small resident population documented in Chapter 1 (Pressreader, 2020).

This referral burden and capacity tension is now being addressed through substantial new capital investment. On July 17, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹4,700 crore in Chandigarh, spanning healthcare, education, and road infrastructure across the tri-city region (IANS, 2026). The healthcare component of this package, valued at approximately ₹1,200 crore, included the inauguration of PGIMER's Advanced Mother and Child Centre, a 300-bed facility constructed at a cost of approximately ₹505 crore, equipped with advanced Neonatal Intensive Care Units and modular operation theatres and expected to enable PGIMER to manage more than 6,000 high-risk deliveries annually for women and newborns from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and neighbouring states (Edunovations, 2026). Alongside this, the Prime Minister inaugurated PGIMER's Advanced Neurosciences Centre, providing integrated neurology, neurosurgery, and neuro-critical care services, and laid the foundation stone for a 150-bed Critical Care Block under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, intended to strengthen emergency preparedness, intensive care capacity, and disaster response for the wider region (IANS, 2026; The Hawk, 2026). This report treats this investment package as directly responsive to the structural referral burden documented above, while noting that its stated beneficiary population explicitly spans Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh alongside Chandigarh itself, meaning the underlying tension between regional referral capacity and dedicated capacity for Chandigarh's own resident population, examined above, is likely to persist even as absolute capacity expands.

6.2 Epidemiological Profile: Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Burden

This report was unable to identify a recent, disaggregated, Chandigarh-specific epidemiological surveillance report covering the relative burden of communicable and non-communicable disease within the Union Territory's own resident population, as distinct from the tertiary referral caseload documented in Section 6.1, and it flags this as a significant data gap. Given Chandigarh's high urbanisation, documented in Chapter 1, and its comparatively older, more affluent, and more sedentary urban population profile relative to less urbanised states elsewhere in this CDF series, this report considers it reasonable to expect non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and hypertension, to constitute a substantial and likely rising share of Chandigarh's own disease burden, consistent with well-established national epidemiological transition patterns in India's more urbanised states and Union Territories, though it was unable to locate Chandigarh-specific prevalence data to confirm this expectation with precision. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Health Department, potentially through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme already operating nationally, publish a dedicated annual epidemiological bulletin disaggregating disease burden specifically for Chandigarh's resident population, separate from the tertiary institutions' much larger regional caseload, to allow more precise future public health planning.

6.3 Maternal and Child Health: MMR, IMR, Under-5 Mortality and Nutrition

Chandigarh's maternal and child health indicators, drawn from the National Family Health Survey series, present a genuinely strong overall profile, with one notable area of concern. The National Family Health Survey 5, conducted in 2019-21, recorded Chandigarh's Total Fertility Rate at 1.4 children per woman, the lowest recorded figure among all fourteen states and Union Territories covered in that survey phase, well below the national average and below even Uttar Pradesh's considerably higher 2.4, and placing Chandigarh substantially below the replacement level fertility rate of 2.1 (Press Information Bureau, 2021). This finding is consistent with Chandigarh's high urbanisation, strong female education outcomes documented in Chapter 5, and its position as a comparatively affluent administrative and professional services economy, all factors closely associated with lower fertility in Indian demographic research.

On child nutrition specifically, comparative analysis of National Family Health Survey 5 and the subsequent National Family Health Survey 6, covering the 2023-24 period, found that Chandigarh improved on child stunting, defined as low height for age reflecting chronic malnutrition, from 25.3 percent to 19.0 percent, a reduction of 6.3 percentage points and a figure that places Chandigarh's stunting prevalence below the national average of 29.3 percent recorded in the same survey round (Vyasa Integrated Healthcare, 2026). This report considers this stunting improvement to be a genuinely positive finding warranting recognition. Set against this improvement, however, the same comparative analysis recorded a marked deterioration in child wasting, defined as low weight for height reflecting acute malnutrition, which rose from 8.4 percent to 19.5 percent over the same period, a finding this report treats as a serious and specific area of concern requiring urgent Union Territory-level investigation, given that wasting is generally considered a more acute and immediately dangerous form of child malnutrition than stunting, reflecting recent or ongoing nutritional deprivation rather than cumulative long-term deprivation (Vyasa Integrated Healthcare, 2026). Full child immunisation coverage among children aged 12 to 23 months stood at 82.1 percent as per the same comparative dataset, marginally below the national figure of 82.6 percent (Vyasa Integrated Healthcare, 2026). On infant mortality specifically, the same source recorded Chandigarh's Sample Registration System-based infant mortality rate at 7 per 1,000 live births, a figure dramatically below the national context in which infant mortality, while declining nationally, remained considerably higher in several other states, with Bihar recording 47 deaths per 1,000 live births in comparable Sample Registration System reporting (PRS Legislative Research, 2021; Vyasa Integrated Healthcare, 2026).

This report was unable to identify a Chandigarh-specific Maternal Mortality Ratio figure disaggregated from the broader national or regional reporting reviewed in the course of this research, and it flags this as a further specific data gap, recommending that the Chandigarh Health Department publish this indicator directly given its centrality to standard maternal health monitoring frameworks nationally and internationally. Taken together, this report's overall assessment of Section 6.3 is that Chandigarh's maternal and child health profile combines genuinely strong performance on fertility management, infant mortality, and

immunisation with a specific, sharply worsening child wasting indicator that stands in tension with the Union Territory's otherwise favourable trajectory and that this report identifies as the single most urgent maternal and child health priority for the Chandigarh Health Department to investigate and address.

6.4 Universal Health Coverage: Union Territory Health Assurance Schemes

Chandigarh participates in India's national universal health coverage architecture principally through the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Union government's flagship health insurance scheme, with the Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, among the Union Territory's empanelled implementing institutions (GMCH, n.d.). Independent analysis of Ayushman Bharat claims data identified Chandigarh, alongside Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, as exhibiting sustained growth in scheme utilisation over a recent three-year period, in contrast to states such as Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which recorded declining utilisation over the same period (Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy, 2026). This report treats sustained utilisation growth as a broadly positive indicator of scheme awareness and provider network functioning within the Union Territory, while noting that it was unable to identify a Chandigarh-specific figure for total scheme enrolment or the proportion of the Union Territory's population covered, a further data gap this report recommends the Chandigarh Health Department address through dedicated Union Territory-level Ayushman Bharat coverage reporting.

The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, examined in Section 6.1 in the context of the newly announced 150-bed Critical Care Block at PGIMER, represents a further, capital-focused component of Chandigarh's universal health coverage architecture, aimed specifically at strengthening emergency, critical care, and disaster response infrastructure rather than at insurance coverage expansion. This report considers the combination of insurance-based demand-side coverage through Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and capital-focused supply-side infrastructure strengthening through the Health Infrastructure Mission to represent a coherent, complementary universal health coverage strategy for Chandigarh, provided the demand-side coverage data gap identified above is closed to allow proper monitoring of both dimensions together.

6.5 Mental Health Services: Availability, Access and Stigma Reduction

Chandigarh benefits from the presence of PGIMER's Department of Psychiatry, one of India's most established academic psychiatry departments, providing specialist mental health services as part of the institute's broader tertiary care mandate documented in Section 6.1. This report was unable to identify a dedicated, standalone mental health hospital operating within Chandigarh's own Union Territory boundary, distinct from psychiatric departments embedded within PGIMER and GMCH-32's general tertiary care structures, and it flags this as a specific institutional gap relative to states that maintain dedicated mental health institutions, though it notes that PGIMER's academic psychiatry department itself carries considerable specialist capacity that may partially offset the absence of a separate dedicated facility.

At the national level, against which Chandigarh's own mental health service access should be read given the absence of Union Territory-specific utilisation data, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reported that 77,634 hospital admissions amounting to ₹87 crore had been sanctioned for mental health-related treatment under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as of March 21, 2025, under a National Health Benefit Package that ensures cashless treatment for 22 procedures specific to mental health conditions, including intellectual disability, schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders, and autism spectrum disorder, out of 1,961 total covered procedures across 27 specialties (Minister of State for Health Prataprao Jadhav, as cited in Tishha News, 2025). The same national reporting documented the ongoing upgrading of over 1.75 lakh Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, incorporating Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders into Comprehensive Primary Health Care service delivery, alongside the sanctioning of 25 tertiary-level Centres of Excellence and support for 47 postgraduate mental health departments across 19 government medical colleges nationally (Tishha News, 2025). This report was unable to determine whether GMCH-32, examined in Section 6.1, is among the 19 government medical colleges receiving this postgraduate mental health department support, and it recommends the Chandigarh Health Department clarify Chandigarh's specific participation in this national mental health strengthening initiative in future public reporting. On stigma reduction specifically, this report was unable to identify any Chandigarh-specific public awareness or destigmatisation programming data, a further gap it flags for future attention given the well-documented national challenge of mental health stigma as a barrier to care-seeking independent of service availability.

6.5a Migration, Family Structure and Psychosocial Health

Chandigarh's demographic structure, documented in Chapter 1 as substantially shaped by in-migration from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, carries direct implications for family structure and psychosocial wellbeing that this report considers under-examined in currently available official data. Migrant urban populations of the kind that constitute a meaningful share of Chandigarh's residents, particularly those engaged in construction, domestic work, and other lower-income occupations documented in Chapter 3's discussion of the informal economy, commonly experience family separation, transition from joint to nuclear or single-person household structures, and reduced access to traditional community support networks, all factors with well-established associations with psychosocial stress in the broader public health literature on internal migration.

This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific research or administrative data quantifying these psychosocial dimensions of the Union Territory's migration-driven demographic structure, and it does not attempt to estimate their scale or severity in the absence of such data, consistent with the general approach to data gaps taken throughout this framework. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Health Department, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare examined in Section 6.6 and Chapter 7, commission dedicated research into the psychosocial wellbeing of the Union Territory's migrant population specifically, given the structural centrality of migration to Chandigarh's

demographic profile documented throughout this report and the corresponding absence of any dedicated evidence base on this specific dimension of population health.

6.6 Nutrition Programmes: ICDS, Mid-Day Meal and Poshan Abhiyan

Chandigarh's Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development has demonstrated strong, independently recognised performance in national nutrition programme implementation. In the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Incentive Based Awards Ceremony held in New Delhi on August 23, 2019, the Chandigarh Department of Social Welfare secured first position nationally in two categories: Integrated Child Development Services Common Application Software implementation, carrying an award of ₹1 crore, and overall excellence in implementation, carrying a further award of ₹1.5 crore (Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare, n.d.). This built on an earlier recognition at the Ministry's POSHAN Maah Award Ceremony held on October 10, 2018, at which Chandigarh received eight separate state-level awards across individual and state-level categories (Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare, n.d.).

Programmatically, Chandigarh implements the POSHAN Abhiyaan, India's flagship mission-mode nutrition programme launched on March 8, 2018, targeting reduced malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through convergent action across the Integrated Child Development Services, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and complementary interventions under the National Health Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). Within Chandigarh specifically, the Department of Social Welfare has implemented the AMRIT campaign, involving a dedicated follow-up booklet and card system for monitoring children with Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition at the Anganwadi Centre level, incorporating biofortified wheat products developed by the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute alongside standard nutritional interventions, and has conducted dedicated Anemia T3, meaning Test, Treat, and Talk, campaigns during POSHAN Maah observances (Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare, n.d.). This report considers the specific existence of the AMRIT campaign to be directly relevant to the child wasting deterioration documented in Section 6.3, since Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition monitoring is precisely the intervention category most directly targeted at addressing acute wasting, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration report specifically on AMRIT campaign coverage and outcome trends over the same 2019-21 to 2023-24 period covered by the wasting deterioration documented in Section 6.3, to establish whether campaign implementation intensity has kept pace with the documented worsening of this specific indicator.

6.7 Population Stabilisation and Family Planning

Chandigarh's population stabilisation profile, examined in Section 6.3 in the context of its Total Fertility Rate of 1.4 as per the National Family Health Survey 5, 2019-21, the lowest recorded among the fourteen states and Union Territories covered in that survey phase, indicates that the Union Territory has already achieved fertility levels substantially below

replacement level, a demographic condition shared with several of India's other high-income, highly urbanised states and Union Territories (Press Information Bureau, 2021). At the national level, against which this Chandigarh-specific finding should be read, overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate rose from 54 percent to 67 percent between the National Family Health Survey 4 and National Family Health Survey 5 rounds, a trend this report considers Chandigarh's own sub-replacement fertility level to be broadly consistent with, though it was unable to identify a Chandigarh-specific Contraceptive Prevalence Rate figure to confirm this directly (Press Information Bureau, 2021).

This report considers Chandigarh's population stabilisation policy priority to differ meaningfully from that of higher-fertility states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series. Rather than fertility reduction, which has already been substantially achieved, this report identifies the sex ratio at birth divergence documented in Chapter 1, between the 2011 Census figure of 818 overall and the more recent birth registration figure of 935 for 2021, itself in tension with a lower National Family Health Survey estimate for the same period, as the more pressing population-related policy priority for the Union Territory, given its direct bearing on long-term demographic balance independent of overall fertility levels. This report reiterates its Chapter 1 recommendation that the Chandigarh Health Department and Registrar of Births and Deaths jointly reconcile these divergent sex ratio data sources as a matter of priority.

6.8 Health System Strengthening and Future Preparedness

Drawing together the evidence presented across this chapter, this report identifies three priorities for Chandigarh's continued health system strengthening. First is the effective operationalisation of the substantial new capital investment documented in Section 6.1, including the 300-bed Advanced Mother and Child Centre, the Advanced Neurosciences Centre, and the forthcoming 150-bed Critical Care Block under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, in a manner that meaningfully improves bed availability and service access for Chandigarh's own resident population specifically, given the well-documented regional referral burden that has historically constrained local access to the Union Territory's own tertiary institutions. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration establish and publish a specific, tracked minimum bed allocation for Chandigarh residents within these newly commissioned facilities, building on the precedent of the reserved-bed mechanism documented in Section 6.1, rather than allowing new capacity to be absorbed entirely into the broader northern Indian regional referral caseload as historical bed occupancy patterns might otherwise suggest.

Second is urgent, targeted investigation and response to the child wasting deterioration documented in Section 6.3, which this report considers the single most concerning specific health indicator identified anywhere in this chapter, given its magnitude, from 8.4 percent to 19.5 percent, its acute rather than chronic nature, and its direct tension with Chandigarh's otherwise consistently strong maternal and child health profile. This report recommends this be treated as an immediate priority for the AMRIT campaign and broader Anganwadi-level nutrition monitoring infrastructure documented in Section 6.6, with outcome tracking

reported publicly on at least an annual basis until the indicator demonstrates sustained improvement.

Third, this report recommends the systematic closing of the data gaps identified throughout this chapter, including Chandigarh-specific epidemiological surveillance for non-communicable disease, a disaggregated Maternal Mortality Ratio figure, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana enrolment and coverage data, Chandigarh's specific participation in national postgraduate mental health capacity building, and dedicated research into the psychosocial wellbeing of the Union Territory's migrant population, each of which currently limits both this framework's and the Chandigarh Health Department's own ability to monitor and respond to emerging health system priorities with the precision that Chandigarh's otherwise data-rich administrative environment, documented throughout this report, would ordinarily support.

CHAPTER 7: SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY WELFARE

This chapter examines the welfare architecture through which Chandigarh seeks to support its most vulnerable resident populations: Scheduled Castes, the Union Territory's small and largely absent Scheduled Tribe and identifiable Other Backward Classes populations, women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and minority communities, together with the broader beneficiary-linked social security system that underpins these category-specific programmes. As established in Chapter 1, Chandigarh's demographic profile, small in absolute terms but layered with meaningful social diversity arising from decades of in-migration, shapes the specific configuration of welfare need this chapter documents.

7.1 Scheduled Castes: Demographic Profile, Deprivation and Development Programmes

As established in Chapter 1, Chandigarh's Scheduled Caste population stood at 199,086 persons as per the 2011 Census, constituting 18.86 percent of the Union Territory's total population, with a sex ratio of 872 females per 1,000 males within this specific population, notably higher than the Union Territory's overall sex ratio (Census of India Network, 2011). The Chandigarh Administration's Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development implements a comprehensive suite of Scheduled Caste-focused welfare schemes, including Post Delivery Financial Assistance to Women for Nutrition, stitching charge reimbursement for school uniforms for Scheduled Caste children, free education provision for meritorious Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes students, the Apni Beti Apna Dhan scheme supporting girl children, dedicated holiday camps for Scheduled Caste children, financial encouragement for inter-caste marriage, and targeted skill development programming specifically for Scheduled Caste children living in jhuggies and slum areas (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-b). The Department additionally administers the Dr. Ambedkar Awas Yojana housing scheme for Scheduled Castes, monetary relief and rehabilitation support for victims of caste-based atrocities, and dedicated machinery for strengthening enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-b). The Department also periodically organises seminars on the life, mission, and work of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, reflecting a deliberate institutional emphasis on constitutional and civil rights awareness alongside material welfare provision (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-b).

This report was unable to identify disaggregated outcome data, such as Scheduled Caste-specific poverty, literacy, or employment figures distinct from the Union Territory-wide figures presented in Chapter 1, and it recommends that the Department of Social Welfare publish such disaggregated data to allow this and future editions of this framework to assess whether the scheme architecture documented above is translating into measurable convergence between Scheduled Caste and overall Union Territory development outcomes.

7.2 Scheduled Tribes: Rights, Forest Dwelling Communities and Welfare Measures

As established in Chapter 1, the 2011 Census recorded no Scheduled Tribe population within Chandigarh, a finding consistent with the Union Territory's origins as a planned, non-tribal urban settlement rather than a region with an indigenous tribal demographic base (Census of India Network, 2011). Consequently, this report finds that forest-dwelling community rights instruments, including the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006, have limited direct applicability within Chandigarh's own territorial boundary, in marked contrast to several other states and Union Territories examined elsewhere in this national CDF series. This report notes, however, that Chandigarh's role as an employment and education destination, documented in Chapter 1, may draw individual members of Scheduled Tribe communities from neighbouring states as migrants, a population this report was unable to separately quantify within the sources reviewed, and it recommends that any future Union Territory-specific survey work address this specific migrant Scheduled Tribe population distinctly from the Census-recorded resident population addressed above.

7.3 Other Backward Classes: Identification, Reservation and Social Mobility

Chandigarh's welfare architecture for Other Backward Classes operates substantially in conjunction with its Scheduled Caste programming, most notably through the shared free education scheme for meritorious Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes students documented in Section 7.1 (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-b). This report was unable to identify a separately published, Union Territory-specific Other Backward Classes population figure or a dedicated, category-specific development programme distinct from this shared education scheme, and it flags this as a data and programming gap relative to the more developed, category-specific architecture documented for Scheduled Castes in Section 7.1. Given the significance of reservation-based access to government employment and higher education documented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 respectively, this report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish a dedicated Other Backward Classes welfare and reservation implementation report, on the model of its Scheduled Caste reporting, to allow this specific population's development trajectory to be tracked with comparable rigour in future editions of this framework.

7.4 Gender Equity: Women's Participation in Education, Economy and Governance

Chandigarh's gender equity profile, drawing on evidence presented across preceding chapters of this report, presents a genuinely mixed picture that this report considers important to synthesise directly here. On education, documented in Chapter 5, Chandigarh's overall literacy rate of 86.43 percent as per the 2011 Census conceals a 9.16 percentage point gender gap, with male literacy at 90.54 percent against female literacy at 81.38 percent (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Chandigarh, n.d.). On fertility and reproductive health, documented in

Chapter 6, Chandigarh recorded the lowest Total Fertility Rate of any state or Union Territory covered in the National Family Health Survey 5, at 1.4 children per woman, a finding closely associated nationally with higher female educational attainment and labour force engagement (Press Information Bureau, 2021). On the labour market, documented in Chapter 3, rural female unemployment in Chandigarh stood at 10.7 percent as per 2022-23 data, a rate this report considers concerning even accounting for the Union Territory's very small rural population base documented in Chapter 1 (Tribune News Service, 2023b). On demographic balance, documented in Chapter 1, Chandigarh's overall sex ratio of 818 females per 1,000 males as per the 2011 Census remains among the lowest recorded nationally, even as more recent administrative birth registration data suggests improvement to 935 in 2021, a divergence this report has flagged repeatedly as requiring reconciliation (Tribune News Service, 2021).

On institutional protections, Chandigarh operates within India's national women's safety architecture, coordinated by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' Women Safety Division, established May 28, 2018, which oversees the National Crime Records Bureau and the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System nationally, alongside operational instruments including the Women Helpline 181 and the Emergency Response Support System 112 (Ministry of Home Affairs, n.d.). This national architecture is substantially funded through the Nirbhaya Fund, under which a total of ₹7,712.85 crore had been allocated up to financial year 2024-25, with ₹5,846.08 crore, or nearly 76 percent, utilised across projects including One Stop Centres, Fast Track Special Courts, Anti-Human Trafficking Units, Women Help Desks, Cyber Forensic cum Training Labs, and Safe City Projects (Press Information Bureau, 2025). This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific utilisation data for these national schemes, a further data gap it recommends the Chandigarh Police Department and Department of Social Welfare jointly address through dedicated Union Territory-level reporting. On workplace protections specifically, the Ministry of Women and Child Development's SHe-Box portal, implementing provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, and the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, 2020, apply nationally, including within Chandigarh's own substantial administrative and professional services workforce documented in Chapter 3 (Press Information Bureau, 2025).

This report's overall assessment is that Chandigarh's gender equity profile is characterised by strong aggregate outcomes on education access and fertility management, alongside persistent, specifically documented gaps in literacy parity, demographic balance, and rural female employment that warrant continued targeted attention notwithstanding the Union Territory's otherwise favourable development indicators documented throughout this report.

7.5 Child Rights, Protection and Development: POCSO, Child Labour and Nutrition

Chandigarh's child welfare architecture operates through a dedicated institutional network administered by the Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development. This

includes the Home for Delinquent and Neglected Children, operating as the Juvenile Justice Home at Sector 25, providing institutional care for children in need of care and protection under the national juvenile justice framework, alongside creche facilities for the children of working mothers and dedicated provisions for Disaster Risk Reduction affecting children (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-c). The Department runs 450 Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, first launched nationally on October 2, 1975, providing the institutional foundation for the nutrition programming examined in Chapter 6 (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-c; Hamara Neta, n.d.). A dedicated Incentive to New Born Girl Children scheme operates alongside the Apni Beti Apna Dhan scheme documented in Section 7.1, reflecting a specific, sustained institutional focus on girl child welfare consistent with the demographic balance concerns documented in Section 7.4 (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-c).

Chandigarh operates within India's national legal framework for child protection, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, both implemented through the Union Territory's judicial and child welfare institutional apparatus. This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific implementation data, including case disposal timelines or Child Welfare Committee caseload figures, and consistent with this report's general approach to matters concerning child protection, it does not attempt to characterise the scale or nature of protection cases within the Union Territory, restricting this section instead to documenting the institutional and legal architecture through which such protection is administered. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration's Child Protection Unit, operating under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, publish an annual, aggregated institutional performance report, covering caseload trends, disposal timelines, and rehabilitation outcomes at the systemic level, to allow future editions of this framework to assess institutional performance without requiring incident-level detail.

7.6 Welfare of Elderly Persons: Pension, Care Infrastructure and Policy

Chandigarh's elderly welfare architecture centres on the Old Age Pension Scheme administered by the Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development, which provides financial assistance to elderly residents whose applicant household income does not exceed ₹1.50 lakh annually, alongside the issuance of dedicated Identity Cards to Senior Citizens (Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare, n.d.). The Union Territory Administration additionally participates in the national Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (Indiastat, n.d.).

This report identifies a specific, documented policy debate concerning the adequacy of current pension amounts as a relevant recent development for this section. The Social Welfare Committee of the Union Territory's Administrator's Advisory Council, chaired by former Member of Parliament and Additional Solicitor General of India Satya Pal Jain, formally recommended that the Chandigarh Administration increase old age, disability, and widow pensions from ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 per month, and pursue this proposal with the Union government for approval, while also recommending construction of an additional old age

home and a dedicated Majdoor Bhawan, a facility where labourers could hold community functions at affordable rates, reflecting the Committee's specific attention to the welfare needs of Chandigarh's substantial migrant labour population documented throughout this report (Tribune News Service, n.d.-a). This report was unable to confirm whether this pension increase proposal has since been implemented, given the undated nature of the source material reviewed, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration publish current, dated pension amount figures to allow this specific policy question to be resolved definitively in future editions of this framework.

7.7 Persons with Disabilities: Rights, Accessibility and Empowerment

Chandigarh's disability welfare programming, administered by the Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development, encompasses scholarship provision, subsidy on petrol and diesel for personal mobility, prosthetic aid provision, unemployment allowance, and free vocational training specifically in computer skills and beauty culture (Chandigarh District Administration, n.d.-b). A dedicated Disability Pension scheme operates alongside targeted financial assistance for the purchase of aids and appliances for persons with disabilities (Hamara Neta, n.d.). This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific data on the accessibility status of public infrastructure, including the built environment and public transport accessibility examined in Chapter 8, for persons with disabilities, nor data on the Union Territory's disabled population size disaggregated by disability type, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration publish both as a matter of priority, given the centrality of accurate population and accessibility baseline data to any effective empowerment programming for this population.

7.8 Minority Communities: Development, Representation and Welfare

Chandigarh's religious minority population, documented in Chapter 1, comprises Sikhs at 13.11 percent, Muslims at 4.87 percent, Christians at 0.83 percent, Jains at 0.19 percent, and Buddhists at 0.11 percent of the Union Territory's total population as per the 2011 Census (Census of India Network, 2011). The Union Territory's principal dedicated institutional vehicle for minority welfare is the Chandigarh Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Minorities Finance and Development Corporation, which functions alongside the broader Department of Social Welfare architecture documented throughout this chapter (Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare, n.d.).

This report was unable to identify disaggregated welfare scheme utilisation, educational attainment, or economic outcome data specifically for Chandigarh's minority religious communities, distinct from the Union Territory-wide figures presented in Chapter 1, and it flags this as a data gap comparable to that identified for Other Backward Classes in Section 7.3. Given the institutional bundling of minority welfare with Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes finance functions within a single Corporation, this report recommends the Chandigarh Administration consider whether minority-specific welfare needs, which may differ meaningfully in character from caste-based deprivation, are being adequately addressed

within this shared institutional structure, or whether a more differentiated programmatic approach, informed by disaggregated outcome data, would better serve this population.

7.9 Social Security and Beneficiary-Linked Welfare Architecture

Chandigarh's broader social security architecture extends beyond the category-specific schemes documented in Sections 7.1 through 7.8 to encompass a set of cross-cutting beneficiary-linked instruments. For widows and destitute women specifically, the Department of Social Welfare provides a monthly pension alongside Financial Assistance to Dependent Children of Widows and Destitute Women, set at ₹1,000 per month per child for up to two children in a family since January 1, 2016, contingent on the child being under 18 years of age, the mother already drawing the widow pension, the family having resided in Chandigarh for more than three years, and the child not separately receiving a family pension from any state or central government (Scheme Kosh, 2026). A further scheme provides a one-time payment of ₹20,000 for the marriage of up to two daughters of widowed or destitute Scheduled Caste women (Scheme Kosh, 2026). These services have been available through the Chandigarh e-District portal since May 28, 2017, with beneficiaries able to track pension credit status through a dedicated Know Your Pension Status page that publishes month-wise pensioner lists and separately flags Aadhaar-inactive beneficiaries requiring bank account seeding to maintain continuity of payment (Scheme Kosh, 2026).

A further significant, and in this report's assessment somewhat underappreciated, pillar of Chandigarh's social security architecture is the Chandigarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, which administers a dedicated suite of schemes specifically for the Union Territory's construction workforce, a population this report has identified throughout as a substantial component of Chandigarh's migrant labour base. These include a Widow Pension scheme, a Maternity Benefit scheme, a Kanyadaan Scheme supporting daughters' marriages, an interest-free loan facility, funeral assistance, financial assistance for children of beneficiaries with physical or mental disabilities, financial assistance on the death or disablement of a beneficiary, scholarship support for beneficiaries' children, and a Supply of Tri-Cycles scheme supporting mobility for disabled beneficiaries (Hamara Neta, n.d.). This report considers the existence of this dedicated, sector-specific welfare board to be a genuinely important but insufficiently documented component of Chandigarh's social protection architecture, precisely because it targets the informal and semi-formal construction workforce identified in Chapter 3 as falling largely outside the scope of the Union Territory's mainstream formal-sector social security coverage, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish consolidated Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board beneficiary and expenditure data, integrated with the broader social security reporting recommended throughout this chapter, to allow the full scale of Chandigarh's social protection commitment to its migrant construction workforce to be properly assessed in future editions of this framework.

CHAPTER 8: TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport infrastructure in Chandigarh must be understood through the same land-constrained, tri-city-integrated lens applied throughout this report. This chapter examines the Union Territory's road network, its comparatively modest rail presence, its regionally significant airport, the logistics functions it can and cannot realistically support, the long-awaited urban mass transit system documented in earlier chapters, and the multimodal connectivity challenges that remain unresolved as Chandigarh approaches its Vision 2047 horizon.

8.1 Road Network: National Highways, Union Territory Highways and Rural Roads

Chandigarh's road network is organised according to the hierarchical system laid down in the city's original master plan, structured around a grid of numbered "V" category roads, from V1 arterial roads down to V7 pedestrian pathways, a system this report treats as one of the most internationally cited features of the city's planned urban form. Two principal arterial roads, Madhya Marg and Dakshin Marg, merge with the V1 network leading respectively toward Kalka and Ambala, connecting Chandigarh to the broader national highway system serving Himachal Pradesh to the north and the Delhi-bound national highway corridor to the south (Chandigarh Administration, 2021). The Chandigarh Master Plan 2031 itself documents a persistent tension within this otherwise celebrated road hierarchy: successive widening of road carriageways to accommodate growing vehicular traffic has come, in the Master Plan's own assessment, substantially at the expense of pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, a finding this report considers directly relevant to the sustainable and inclusive mobility priorities examined in Chapter 13 and Chapter 20 (Chandigarh Administration, 2021).

A structural planning challenge documented in the Master Plan concerns coordination across the tri-city region's separate road planning authorities. The Master Plan explicitly calls for Chandigarh's own road planning, Mohali's planning authorities in Punjab, and Panchkula's planning authorities in Haryana to be urgently synchronised under an Interstate Regional Transportation Plan, warning that fragmented planning across these three separate jurisdictions risks undermining seamless regional connectivity, and specifically recommends that neighbouring jurisdictions plan complementary bypass and ring road infrastructure in coordination with Chandigarh's own network rather than in isolation (Chandigarh Administration, 2021). This report considers this Master Plan finding, produced by the Chandigarh Administration's own planning process, to be a particularly credible internal

confirmation of the broader regional coordination challenge documented in Chapter 4, Section 4.8, since it demonstrates that the coordination gap is recognised within the Union Territory's own official planning documentation rather than being solely an external observation.

Given Chandigarh's near-total urbanisation documented in Chapter 1, with just 2.75 percent of its population classified as rural as per the 2011 Census, this report finds that rural road development, a major infrastructure priority in the agrarian states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, carries limited independent significance within Chandigarh's own transport policy, with any residual rural connectivity requirements properly understood as a subset of the Union Territory's broader peri-urban and village integration challenges documented in Chapter 1, Section 1.7.

8.2 Railways: Existing Network, Pending Projects and Expansion Proposals

Chandigarh's railway presence is modest in absolute terms, consistent with the Union Territory's compact territorial footprint documented throughout this report. Route length of railways across Chandigarh stood at approximately 16 kilometres as of the end of fiscal year 2022, according to Reserve Bank of India data (Statista, 2023). Chandigarh Railway Station itself functions as the Union Territory's principal rail gateway, situated within the built-up urban area and connected to the wider Indian Railways network serving Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and beyond, though this report was unable to identify recent, disaggregated passenger volume data specific to Chandigarh Railway Station within the sources reviewed.

This report identifies rail infrastructure as an area of Chandigarh's transport network warranting more systematic future documentation than was possible within the scope of this chapter, given the comparatively limited availability of Union Territory-specific rail data relative to the airport and road network data addressed in Sections 8.1 and 8.3. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration, in coordination with Indian Railways' Northern Railway zone under whose jurisdiction Chandigarh Railway Station falls, publish consolidated annual ridership, freight handling, and station infrastructure upgrading data specifically for the Union Territory, to allow future editions of this framework to assess rail's role within Chandigarh's broader multimodal transport system with the same rigour applied to road and air connectivity elsewhere in this chapter.

8.3 Aviation: Airport Infrastructure and Air Connectivity

Aviation represents the most dynamically growing segment of Chandigarh's transport infrastructure, and the evidence assembled in this section indicates genuinely strong recent momentum. Chandigarh Airport, operating under the International Air Transport Association code IXC, handled 4,149,840 passengers in the financial year running from April 2024 to March 2025, an increase of 11.5 percent over the preceding year, alongside 28,331 aircraft movements, up 7.7 percent, and 14,138 tonnes of cargo, a substantial 70.3 percent increase (Wikipedia, 2026a). This growth trajectory positions Chandigarh Airport among the busier

airports in northern India outside Delhi, and its strategic location at the foothills of the Shivalik range makes it the most practical air gateway for travellers heading to the Himachal Pradesh hill destinations of Shimla, Manali, Kasauli, and Dharamshala, extending its functional catchment well beyond the tri-city region itself (Happyfares, 2026).

The airport's governance structure directly reflects the tri-city regional cooperation architecture examined throughout this report: Chandigarh International Airport Limited, the operating entity, is held 51 percent by the Airports Authority of India, with the remaining 49 percent split equally between the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran and the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority, a joint venture structure spanning the Union Territory Administration's central counterpart and both neighbouring state governments' urban development authorities (Wikipedia, 2026a). The airport's current terminal, constructed by Larsen and Toubro and made operational on October 19, 2015, covers 53,000 square metres with capacity to handle 1,600 passengers simultaneously, five aerobridge-equipped bays, and eight remote parking stands, with a further taxiway added in April 2022 that increased aircraft handling capacity to 20 movements per hour (Wikipedia, 2026a).

Beyond the existing IXC facility, this report notes ongoing development of an entirely separate, greenfield Chandigarh International Airport, planned as a joint venture between the governments of Punjab and Haryana and the Airports Authority of India on approximately 300 acres of land in Punjab, distinct from the existing terminal examined above (Chandigarh Master Plan, 2021). This report treats this greenfield project as a further, physically larger-scale illustration of the same tri-state cooperation model already embodied in the existing airport's ownership structure, though it was unable to confirm this project's current implementation status with the same confidence applied to the existing airport's operational data documented above, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration and its Punjab and Haryana counterparts publish a joint, dated status update on this greenfield project's progress to allow future editions of this framework to track its development with appropriate precision.

8.4 Ports, Inland Waterways and Logistics Hubs

Consistent with Chandigarh's landlocked position at the foothills of the Shivalik range, documented in Chapter 1, this report finds that ports and inland waterways carry no direct relevance to the Union Territory's own transport infrastructure, and it does not examine this sub-theme further given the complete absence of any coastal or navigable waterway presence within Chandigarh's 114 square kilometre territory. On logistics hubs specifically, this report's assessment, consistent with the land constraint analysis developed throughout Chapter 3 and Chapter 4, is that Chandigarh's own territory is poorly suited to hosting large-scale freight logistics infrastructure, and that any meaningful logistics hub development relevant to the tri-city region is more likely to occur within the greater land availability of neighbouring Mohali and Panchkula, in the same pattern already documented for information technology park development in Chapter 3. This report was unable to identify a dedicated, currently operating logistics park or freight hub located specifically within Chandigarh's own municipal boundary, and it recommends that any future Union Territory logistics strategy be

developed in explicit coordination with Punjab and Haryana's own industrial and logistics infrastructure planning, consistent with the regional cooperation recommendation made throughout this report, rather than as a standalone Chandigarh-specific initiative.

8.5 Urban Mass Transit: Metro, Bus Rapid Transit and Integrated Mobility

The Tricity Metro project, examined substantially in Chapter 4, Section 4.7, in the context of its public-private partnership and financing dimensions, represents the centrepiece of Chandigarh's urban mass transit ambitions, and this section examines its planning evolution specifically as a mass transit intervention. The project's origins trace to an earlier, since-revised metro proposal that had been effectively shelved before being formally revived in November 2022, when Rail India Technical and Economic Service undertook to re-plan the project as a genuinely deliverable initiative, citing the tri-city region's combined population of approximately 3 million and its long-standing, worsening traffic congestion, itself associated with a rising incidence of road accidents and other mishaps over time (Wikipedia, 2026b). This revived planning process initially proposed a 64.5 kilometre network connecting Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula, receiving in-principle approval from the Government of India in March 2023 (Wikipedia, 2026b), a scope subsequently refined through the Comprehensive Mobility Plan process and expanded to the 77-kilometre first-phase network documented in Chapter 4, spanning 35 kilometres within Chandigarh itself, 11 kilometres within Panchkula, and 31 kilometres within Mohali and New Chandigarh, deliberately routed to exclude Chandigarh's heritage sectors from Sector 1 through Sector 30 (Indian Infrastructure, 2024).

Pending the metro network's implementation, scheduled for the 2027 through 2037 period as documented in Chapter 4, Chandigarh's existing urban mass transit relies principally on the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking's bus network, which operates dedicated routes connecting the airport to key city destinations, including the Inter-State Bus Terminal in Sector 17, though this report notes the absence of any direct rail or metro link to the airport terminal under current infrastructure, meaning airport access presently depends entirely on bus, taxi, and ride-hailing services (Kupi, 2026). This report considers the gap between Chandigarh's currently bus-dependent mass transit system and its ambitious, decade-long metro implementation horizon to represent a genuine near-term mobility planning challenge, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking's bus network receive dedicated interim capacity and route optimisation investment specifically to bridge this gap, rather than treating the metro project's eventual delivery as a substitute for near-term bus system strengthening.

8.6 Multimodal Logistics: Last-Mile Connectivity and Freight Corridors

Drawing together the evidence presented across this chapter, this report's overall assessment of Chandigarh's multimodal logistics position is that the Union Territory functions most effectively as a passenger and administrative connectivity node, anchored by its strongly performing airport documented in Section 8.3 and its planned metro network documented in Section 8.5, rather than as a freight or logistics hub in its own right, a role better suited to the

greater land availability of its Punjab and Haryana neighbours as documented in Section 8.4. Last-mile connectivity within Chandigarh's own urban core benefits from the city's original grid-based planning, which was designed from inception to support pedestrian and short-distance vehicular movement between residential sectors and neighbourhood-level commercial and civic facilities, even as the Master Plan's own self-assessment, documented in Section 8.1, acknowledges that subsequent carriageway widening has eroded some of this original pedestrian-oriented design intent.

This report identifies the airport-to-city and airport-to-railway-station connectivity gap, documented in Section 8.5, as the most immediately addressable last-mile connectivity priority within Chandigarh's current transport system, given the airport's strong and growing passenger volumes documented in Section 8.3 and the absence of any direct rail or metro linkage connecting it to the city centre, located approximately 12 kilometres away, or to Chandigarh Railway Station, located approximately 14 kilometres away (Happyfares, 2026). This report recommends that the metro network's eventual alignment, or an interim dedicated bus rapid transit corridor pending the metro's 2027-2037 implementation window documented in Section 8.5, prioritise this specific airport connectivity gap, given both the airport's demonstrated growth trajectory and its function as the primary air gateway not only for Chandigarh itself but for the substantially larger Himachal Pradesh hill-station catchment documented in Section 8.3, a functional role that this report considers underserved by current last-mile infrastructure relative to its regional economic significance.

CHAPTER 9: ENERGY, POWER AND RENEWABLE TRANSITION

Chandigarh's energy sector has undergone more structural change over the period covered by this framework than perhaps any other sector examined in this report, combining the far-reaching privatisation of its electricity distribution utility, documented in Chapter 4 and Chapter 2, with a genuinely striking and independently verifiable solar energy expansion that this report considers among the strongest sustainability achievements identified anywhere in this framework. This chapter examines power generation and dependence, transmission and distribution infrastructure, household electrification, renewable energy potential, energy efficiency, and the regulatory and tariff framework governing the sector.

9.1 Power Generation: Installed Capacity, Mix and Dependence Profile

Chandigarh, consistent with its land-constrained profile documented throughout this report, hosts no significant conventional thermal, hydroelectric, or nuclear power generation capacity of its own, and has historically depended almost entirely on power purchase arrangements and allocations from the broader northern regional grid to meet its electricity demand. The most significant of these legacy arrangements is a concessional supply agreement with the Bhakra-Beas Management Board, under which the Board supplies 3.5 percent of its generated power to the Union Territory at a rate of just 17 paise per unit, an arrangement dating to Chandigarh's historical role in the erstwhile undivided Punjab's river valley development and one that has featured prominently in recent public debate over the Union Territory's electricity sector reforms, examined in Section 9.2 below (Tribune News Service, 2021b).

Within this externally sourced generation profile, solar photovoltaic capacity has emerged as Chandigarh's most significant genuinely locally generated power source. As of the most recent reporting available, Chandigarh had achieved a total installed solar generation capacity of 103 megawatts, contributing approximately 6 percent of the Union Territory's total power consumption, a proportion this report considers substantial for a jurisdiction with no significant land available for utility-scale solar farms, achieved instead through distributed rooftop and floating installations documented fully in Section 9.4 below (TheIndiaPost, 2026; Tribune News Service, 2025g). This report considers the combination of near-total dependence on external, primarily thermal and hydroelectric, grid power for the bulk of Chandigarh's electricity supply, alongside a rapidly growing but still proportionally modest

distributed solar contribution, to accurately characterise the Union Territory's current generation and dependence profile, with the trajectory of that solar contribution, examined in Section 9.4, representing the most consequential near-term lever available to the Chandigarh Administration for altering this dependence profile over the coming years.

9.2 Transmission and Distribution: Infrastructure, Losses and Reliability

Chandigarh's electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure was, until recently, managed directly by the Union Territory's own Electricity Department, whose privatisation, examined at length in Chapter 4, Section 4.6, and Chapter 2, this report treats as the single most consequential transmission and distribution sector development of the period covered by this framework. Prior to privatisation, the Electricity Department's own performance data, cited by opposition representatives during the privatisation debate, recorded Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses of 9 to 10 percent, a loss rate the UT Powermen Union characterised at the time as evidence of the department's reasonably sound operational performance relative to loss rates recorded in several state-run distribution utilities elsewhere in India, alongside a consumer base of more than 2.34 lakh electricity connections and tariffs that had remained unchanged for the preceding five years, including a rate of ₹2.50 per unit for the first 150 units of monthly consumption (Tribune News Service, 2021c).

Following privatisation, the incoming private distribution licensee's public commitments, as documented by the Chandigarh Administration, specifically targeted service quality and reliability improvements beyond what the erstwhile departmental structure had delivered, including a 24/7 call centre and WhatsApp-based customer support channel, real-time power outage tracking accessible to consumers, a fully online bill payment platform, and a commitment to 48-hour turnaround on new connection applications (Tribune News Service, 2025e). This report was unable to identify post-privatisation performance data confirming whether these specific service commitments have been met in practice, given the recency of the transition documented in Chapter 2, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration, in its regulatory oversight capacity examined in Section 9.6 below, require and publish quarterly performance reporting against each of these specific, publicly committed service standards, to allow this report and future editions of this framework to assess whether privatisation has delivered the reliability and service quality improvements on which it was publicly justified.

9.3 Rural and Household Electrification: Coverage and Quality

Given Chandigarh's near-total urbanisation, documented in Chapter 1, with just 2.75 percent of the Union Territory's population classified as rural as per the 2011 Census, this report finds that rural electrification, a major infrastructure priority in the agrarian states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, carries limited independent significance within Chandigarh's own energy policy. This report did not identify any documented evidence of unelectrified rural settlements within Chandigarh's remaining rural population, and it treats the Union Territory's household electrification coverage as functionally complete, consistent with India's broader near-universal household electrification achievement under the

Saubhagya scheme and its successor initiatives, though it was unable to identify a Chandigarh-specific, dated household electrification percentage to confirm this assessment with precision, and it flags this as a data gap notwithstanding the low likelihood of any material electrification deficit given the Union Territory's demographic and infrastructure profile documented throughout this report.

9.4 Renewable Energy Potential: Solar, Wind, Hydro and Biomass

Solar energy represents, by a considerable margin, the most developed and most consequential renewable energy pathway within Chandigarh, and this report identifies the Union Territory's solar trajectory as among the strongest sustainability achievements documented anywhere in this framework. Chandigarh was formally declared a Model Solar City in 2013, with the Union government setting an initial target of 69 megawatts of installed solar capacity by 2022 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-b). Progress against this target accelerated substantially over the subsequent decade: from 16.20 megawatts installed as of 2017, of which 9.40 megawatts had been commissioned in that single year (MYSUN, n.d.), capacity grew to approximately 30 megawatts by around 2019 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-b), then to 75 megawatts by early 2025, with an administration target of reaching 120 megawatts by the end of that year (Tribune News Service, 2025h), and further to a cumulative 90 megawatts across 10,988 installation sites by mid-2025, generating a cumulative 270.26 million units of clean energy and delivering an estimated reduction of 186,479 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, according to Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society Chief Executive Officer Navneet Kumar Srivastava (Tribune News Service, 2025g).

By the most recent reporting available, Chandigarh had reached a total installed solar generation capacity of 103 megawatts, becoming, according to Administration officials, the first Union Territory in India to achieve 100 percent rooftop solar saturation across all eligible government buildings and government residential houses, spanning 6,366 buildings with a combined capacity of 67 megawatts, producing approximately 6,700 megawatt-hours of solar power monthly, with only a small fraction of buildings excluded due to structural constraints, heavy tree shadowing, or inadequate sanctioned electricity load capacity (TheIndiaPost, 2026). Having reached this public-sector saturation milestone, the Administration's stated focus has shifted decisively toward private residential rooftop adoption, with the Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society, the Union Territory's nodal solar implementation agency known as CREST, assessing that full private residential rooftop uptake could generate up to a further 150 megawatts of solar capacity citywide (Tribune News Service, 2025i). To accelerate this private uptake, the Chandigarh Administration submitted a proposal to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in October 2025 for an additional ₹30,000 subsidy on rooftop solar installations, layered on top of the existing central subsidy of ₹78,000 for a standard 3 kilowatt system available under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana, which would reduce a resident's net out-of-pocket cost for such a system from ₹78,000 to approximately ₹48,000 against a total system cost of around ₹1.56 lakh (Tribune News Service, 2025i). This proposal was explicitly framed as part of the

Administration's longer-term ambition to make Chandigarh the country's first carbon-free city by 2030 (Tribune News Service, 2025i).

Beyond conventional rooftop deployment, Chandigarh has also emerged as a leader in floating solar power adoption, having commissioned north India's largest floating solar installation, a 2.5 megawatt-peak plant at the Sector 39 Water Works, with a further 3 megawatt-peak floating installation completed and expected to be commissioned shortly thereafter (Tribune News Service, 2025g). The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has additionally adopted a rent-a-roof model, under which municipal building rooftops are leased to private solar developers who install, operate, and maintain photovoltaic systems at no upfront cost to the Corporation, feeding generated power into the grid and paying rent to the Corporation in return, an arrangement this report considers a genuinely innovative, fiscally efficient model for expanding public-sector solar capacity without requiring direct capital outlay from an already fiscally constrained Municipal Corporation, consistent with the capital expenditure pressures documented in Chapter 2 (EQ International, 2026). A complementary Renewable Energy Service Company model, approved by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission in 2022 though delayed in implementation pending central guidelines, allows residents to install rooftop solar plants at zero upfront cost, with empanelled private companies installing and maintaining systems for a 15-year period during which homeowners benefit from fixed electricity rates shielded from future tariff increases, before ownership transfers to the homeowner at the end of the contract term (Tribune News Service, n.d.-c).

This report was unable to identify comparable, quantified data on wind, hydro, or biomass renewable energy potential specific to Chandigarh, and given the Union Territory's small land area, dense urban built form, and absence of any significant water body beyond Sukhna Lake documented in Chapter 1, this report considers it likely that these alternative renewable pathways carry limited independent significance for Chandigarh relative to the solar-centred strategy documented above, though it flags the absence of any formal assessment of these alternative pathways as a data gap for completeness.

9.5 Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand-Side Management

Chandigarh's energy efficiency and demand-side management efforts are documented in this report substantially as a downstream benefit of the solar expansion programme detailed in Section 9.4, rather than as a separately tracked, independent policy stream. The Union Territory's Education Department, following comprehensive solar panel installation across its facilities, has reduced its own power bills to zero and, in periods of surplus generation, sells excess electricity back to the grid, an outcome this report treats as illustrative of the kind of net-positive demand-side transformation achievable through the government building solar saturation programme documented in Section 9.4 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-d). This report was unable to identify a dedicated, standalone energy efficiency programme for Chandigarh, of the kind implemented in several states through Energy Conservation Building Code enforcement, LED lighting replacement programmes, or industrial energy audit mandates, distinct from the solar-centred approach documented throughout this chapter, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration develop and publish a complementary,

dedicated energy efficiency strategy, particularly given that demand reduction through efficiency measures is generally recognised as a lower-cost lever for improving a jurisdiction's overall energy balance than supply-side capacity addition alone, even accounting for Chandigarh's genuinely strong solar supply-side performance documented above.

9.6 Union Territory Electricity Regulatory Framework and Tariff Policy

Chandigarh's electricity sector regulation falls under the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, a shared regulatory body established to serve Union Territories, including Chandigarh, that lack the population and market scale to justify a dedicated, standalone state electricity regulatory commission of the kind operated by full states. This shared regulatory structure has directly shaped the pace of specific sector reforms documented in this chapter: the Renewable Energy Service Company scheme documented in Section 9.4, though approved by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission as early as 2022, experienced implementation delays specifically attributed to pending guidelines from the central government, illustrating how Chandigarh's regulatory dependence on centrally coordinated guidance, a structural theme recurring throughout this report's fiscal and governance chapters, extends into energy sector policy implementation timelines as well (Tribune News Service, n.d.-c).

On tariff policy, this report has documented the pre-privatisation tariff structure of ₹2.50 per unit for the first 150 units of monthly residential consumption, unchanged for five years prior to the privatisation process examined in Chapter 4 (Tribune News Service, 2021c). This report was unable to identify a published, updated tariff schedule reflecting the post-privatisation distribution licensee's current rate structure, a data gap it considers particularly significant given the direct bearing tariff levels have on the financial case for the rooftop solar adoption documented in Section 9.4, and one that this report recommends the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission and Chandigarh Administration jointly address through prompt, transparent publication of the current, post-privatisation tariff schedule applicable to Chandigarh's residential, commercial, and industrial consumers.

Taken together, this chapter's findings present a genuinely encouraging trajectory on Chandigarh's renewable energy transition, tempered by significant, specific data gaps around post-privatisation transmission and distribution performance and current tariff structure that this report considers essential for the Chandigarh Administration to close, given how directly these two data gaps bear on whether the Union Territory's ambitious 2030 carbon-free city target, and the broader electricity sector reform agenda documented throughout this chapter and Chapter 4, are delivering their intended benefits to Chandigarh's residents and businesses.

CHAPTER 10: WATER, SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Chandigarh's water and sanitation infrastructure presents one of this report's more genuinely complex findings: a water supply system drawing on substantial, multi-decade regional infrastructure investment and now undergoing an ambitious 24x7 supply upgrade, alongside a solid waste management system whose official performance claims and independently published assessment data diverge sharply enough to warrant direct examination in this chapter. This chapter covers drinking water supply, irrigation infrastructure, sanitation and open defecation free sustainability, comparative Union Territory performance, solid waste management, and liquid waste and sewerage infrastructure.

10.1 Drinking Water Supply: Coverage, Quality and Infrastructure

Chandigarh's drinking water supply depends on two principal sources: surface water drawn from the Bhakra Main Canal at Kajauli, located approximately 27 kilometres from the city, and groundwater extracted through deep bore tubewells (Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, n.d.-b). The Kajauli source, governed by a 1983 inter-jurisdictional agreement, supplies not only Chandigarh but also Mohali, Chandimandir, and Panchkula, a further concrete illustration of the tri-city regional interdependence documented throughout this report (Wikipedia, 2026c). The Kajauli waterworks project was developed in phases, with Phases I through IV each contributing 20 million gallons per day of capacity and, following extended delays linked to inter-state disputes over funding allocation dating to the late 2000s, Phases V and VI were finally completed in 2021, adding a single pipeline with 80 million gallons per day capacity to enable an additional approximately 40 million gallons per day of supply and bringing Chandigarh's total allocated capacity to 120 million gallons per day (Grokikipedia, 2026). Groundwater supplements this surface water supply through a network historically comprising approximately 160 tubewells generating around 10 million gallons per day, subsequently expanded and instrumented with sensors across 204 tubewells and boosters as part of the Municipal Corporation's broader water infrastructure automation programme (Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, n.d.-b; Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, n.d.).

Despite this substantial infrastructure base, actual delivered supply has periodically fallen short of demand, particularly during peak summer months: reporting from 2020 documented that while Chandigarh typically received 90 to 95 million gallons per day of water, summer demand rose to between 120 and 125 million gallons per day, a gap contributing to intermittent low or no water supply episodes, compounded by the Sector 39 waterworks reservoir's limited half-day underground storage capacity, meaning water stored in the morning was supplied in the evening and vice versa, with any pipeline leakage between Kajauli and Chandigarh capable of triggering an acute city-wide water crisis (Tribune News Service, n.d.-e). A subsequent, and this report considers more authoritative, assessment published by the Chandigarh Environmental Information System in March 2023 confirmed that the Union Territory's then-current surface water supply of 87 million gallons per day was assessed as sufficient to meet the fresh water needs of the entire Union Territory, and found that Chandigarh met the prescribed service level benchmark on five of nine standard water supply indicators, with per capita water supply of 245 litres per day exceeding the national benchmark, while non-revenue water, cost recovery in water supply services, and efficiency in consumer complaint resolution were each identified as falling short of benchmark standards, with free water supply to slum areas specifically identified as a contributing factor to elevated unaccounted-for water levels (Chandigarh Environment Information System, 2023). Non-revenue water losses were separately documented at approximately 38 percent of total supply as of recent reporting (Grokikipedia, 2026), a loss rate this report considers substantial relative to the water supply reliability ambitions documented below.

In direct response to these documented gaps, the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has launched a pan-city 24x7 water supply project, building on an initial pilot already implemented in Mani Majra. In August 2025, the Corporation awarded a ₹58.61 crore contract to P&R Infrastructure Limited to upgrade the Kajauli waterworks, against an estimated project cost of ₹67.5 crore, with completion targeted for December 2025, involving replacement of inefficient pumps with energy-efficient alternatives projected to save approximately ₹5 crore annually in power costs, alongside full Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system monitoring (Tribune News Service, 2025j). This Kajauli upgrade component is being funded substantially through a ₹47 crore loan from the Agence Française de Développement, supplemented by Municipal Corporation contributions and central government schemes including the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, and encompasses installation of 13,700 smart water meters and laying of 20 kilometres of new pipeline to reduce distribution losses (Grokikipedia, 2026). A separate water supply distribution component of the same pan-city project was under tender preparation as of the same reporting period, with the full, city-wide conversion from intermittent to continuous pressurised supply, reaching the third floor of each house, targeted for completion by March 2029 (Tribune News Service, 2025j). This report considers this 24x7 water supply project, and specifically its explicit target of reducing non-revenue water from approximately 38 percent to 15 percent, to represent the single most consequential water infrastructure initiative currently underway in Chandigarh, directly addressing the specific service level benchmark shortfalls documented by the Chandigarh Environment Information System's 2023 assessment.

10.2 Irrigation Infrastructure: Command Area, Efficiency and Water-Use Productivity

Consistent with the negligible agricultural sector contribution documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.3, this report finds that irrigation infrastructure carries limited independent significance within Chandigarh's water resource management priorities. With just 0.56 percent of Gross Value Added derived from agriculture and allied activities and only 2.75 percent of the population classified as rural as per the 2011 Census, the Union Territory's water resource allocation, documented in Section 10.1, is overwhelmingly oriented toward urban drinking water and municipal supply rather than agricultural command area development. This report was unable to identify a dedicated, published irrigation command area or water-use productivity assessment specific to Chandigarh's small remaining agricultural land base, and it treats this absence as consistent with the low policy priority such infrastructure would rationally receive given the Union Territory's overall land use and economic structure documented throughout this report, rather than as a significant standalone data gap warranting dedicated future data collection, unlike several of the higher-priority data gaps flagged elsewhere in this framework.

10.3 Sanitation and Open Defecation Free Status: Post-ODF Sustainability

Chandigarh's sanitation performance is best assessed through the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Swachh Survekshan, India's annual national sanitation assessment exercise, against which the Union Territory has demonstrated a genuinely dramatic recorded improvement over the medium term, alongside emerging evidence of stagnation or contradictory reporting in the most recent assessment cycle. Chandigarh's Swachh Survekshan ranking improved from 66th position in 2021 to 11th position in 2023, a 55-place improvement over just two years, accompanied by the achievement of 100 percent door-to-door waste collection and over 90 percent source segregation across the city, according to reporting on the Union Territory's waste management transformation (Down To Earth, 2025).

This report considers Chandigarh's specific Open Defecation Free status to be a longstanding, well-established achievement given the Union Territory's near-total urbanisation and comparatively strong sanitation infrastructure documented throughout this report, though it was unable to identify a dedicated, recently published Open Defecation Free Plus or Plus Plus certification status specific to Chandigarh distinct from its broader Swachh Survekshan performance documented above, and it recommends the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation publish current certification status directly, given the increasing granularity of post-ODF sustainability certification tiers within the national Swachh Bharat Mission framework.

10.3a Comparative Union Territory Performance and Lessons

Chandigarh's Swachh Survekshan trajectory, examined comparatively against the other Union Territories covered elsewhere in this national CDF series, positions the Union Territory as a genuinely strong performer on sanitation assessment, with its 2023 ranking of 11th nationally,

encompassing states as well as Union Territories, placing it well ahead of most other Union Territories without legislatures examined in this series. This report considers the specific combination of infrastructure investment documented in Section 10.4 below, workforce formalisation documented in the same section, and Smart Cities Mission-funded sewage treatment plant investment, examined in the Executive Summary and Chapter 11, to represent a transferable model for other small, land-constrained Union Territories seeking to replicate Chandigarh's sanitation performance improvement, while cautioning, based on the data integrity concerns documented in Section 10.4 below, that other Union Territories should prioritise verified, third-party-auditable data collection alongside infrastructure investment, rather than relying solely on self-reported service delivery figures of the kind this report found to be internally inconsistent in Chandigarh's own recent reporting.

10.4 Solid Waste Management: Municipal, Biomedical and Hazardous Waste

Chandigarh generates approximately 490 to 550 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, according to reporting spanning the 2023 through 2025 period, a volume that has, at various points documented in this section, both exceeded and been claimed to be fully matched by the Union Territory's processing capacity, a discrepancy this report treats as a central finding of this section rather than a peripheral detail. The Union Territory's waste management infrastructure, as comprehensively documented in April 2025 reporting, includes three material recovery facility-cum-transfer stations with combined 200 tonnes-per-day capacity, two composting plants with combined 450 tonnes-per-day capacity, dedicated processing streams for sanitary and hazardous waste, a 150 tonnes-per-day automated construction and demolition waste plant, and a 30 tonnes-per-day horticulture waste facility supporting the city's 1,900 parks and gardens, with collection carried out through a fleet of 524 four-compartment vehicles separating wet, dry, sanitary, and domestic hazardous waste streams (Down To Earth, 2025). A particularly notable social dimension of this infrastructure transformation, and one this report considers deserving of specific recognition, is the formal integration of over 900 previously informal waste collectors into the Union Territory's waste management system through structured formalisation models, addressing a population that had historically scavenged waste from the Dadu Majra dumpsite across generations while remaining unrecognised, underpaid, and lacking basic working and living condition protections, with wages as low as ₹300 per day prior to formalisation (Down To Earth, 2025). This report treats this formalisation programme as directly connected to the informal economy findings documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.6, representing a concrete, documented instance of formal-sector integration for precisely the kind of informal urban livelihood this report identified elsewhere as generally under-addressed within Chandigarh's mainstream economic development apparatus.

Notwithstanding this substantial infrastructure and workforce formalisation progress, this report identifies a serious, specifically documented data integrity concern within Chandigarh's solid waste management reporting that it considers essential to present transparently. In parliamentary questioning, Chandigarh Member of Parliament Manish Tewari challenged the Union government's response regarding the "non-functioning" status of

the solid waste processing plant at Dadu Majra, which he stated had been reported as lying idle since April 2024, while the same government response claimed 100 percent door-to-door waste collection and segregation at source across 35 wards, and 100 percent processing of the Union Territory's 490 tonnes of daily waste generation (Tribune News Service, n.d.-f). Tewari specifically noted that this claimed 100 percent segregation figure directly contradicted the Swachh Survekshan portal's own published data, which recorded Chandigarh's segregation rate for 2024-25 at just 14 percent (Tribune News Service, n.d.-f). This finding is consistent with separate reporting confirming that in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 cycle, the Municipal Corporation failed to achieve its 100 percent target in both waste segregation at source and door-to-door waste collection categories, despite having spent, in that reporting's characterisation, crores of rupees on these specific projects over the preceding eight years (Tribune News Service, 2025k). Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban solid waste management component specifically, Chandigarh had been allocated ₹28.5 crore, with action plans of the full ₹28.5 crore approved and ₹21.27 crore already released as of the period covered by this parliamentary exchange (Tribune News Service, n.d.-f).

This report considers this documented divergence between Chandigarh's official, parliamentary-reported waste management performance and its own independently published Swachh Survekshan segregation data to be one of the most significant data integrity findings identified anywhere in this framework, and one that stands in genuine tension with the same Union Territory's strong 2021-to-2023 Swachh Survekshan ranking improvement documented in Section 10.3. This report does not attempt to adjudicate which figure, the 100 percent parliamentary claim or the 14 percent Swachh Survekshan portal figure, more accurately reflects Chandigarh's actual 2024-25 segregation performance, and it recommends instead that the Chandigarh Administration, the Municipal Corporation, and the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs jointly reconcile and publicly clarify this specific discrepancy, given its direct bearing on public confidence in both the Union Territory's own reporting and the Swachh Survekshan assessment mechanism more broadly. On the underlying infrastructure gap that likely underpins this reporting divergence, the Municipal Corporation has approved a new integrated solid waste processing plant of 550 tonnes-per-day capacity at Dadu Majra, structured as a 17-year concession comprising two years of construction and 15 years of operation and maintenance, alongside a nearer-term, smaller-scale automated segregation plant proposed at an estimated cost of ₹5.22 crore to process an additional 70 tonnes per day of currently unprocessed mixed waste, and a temporary composting facility with 200 tonnes-per-day interim capacity to prevent further accumulation at the Dadu Majra dumping ground while the larger integrated plant is constructed (Tribune News Service, n.d.-g, n.d.-h). Complementing this forward capacity expansion, the Municipal Corporation has also made substantial progress remediating legacy waste at Dadu Majra, having fully bio-mined the entire 5 lakh metric tonne legacy waste pile that had accumulated on 20 acres prior to 2005 through a ₹33 crore project inaugurated in December 2019, while a parallel, ₹68 crore project addressing a further 7.67 lakh metric tonnes of post-2005 legacy waste across a further eight acres remained under active implementation, with 1.7 lakh metric tonnes cleared as of the most recent reporting reviewed (Tribune News Service, n.d.-i).

10.5 Liquid Waste and Sewerage: Urban and Peri-Urban Treatment Infrastructure

Chandigarh's sewage treatment infrastructure received substantial capital investment through the Smart Cities Mission, examined in the Executive Summary and Chapter 11 of this report, with ₹304 crore of the Chandigarh Smart City Limited's total ₹853 crore flagship project investment directed specifically toward sewage treatment plant development, the single largest individual investment category within that Mission-funded portfolio (Elets Technomedia, 2025). This report was unable to identify a disaggregated, current operational performance assessment of these sewage treatment facilities, including total installed treatment capacity relative to the Union Territory's wastewater generation volume or compliance status against prescribed effluent discharge standards, and it flags this as a specific data gap given the substantial scale of the underlying capital investment documented above.

This report's overall assessment of Chandigarh's liquid and solid waste management sector, synthesising the findings of Sections 10.4 and 10.5, is that the Union Territory has made genuine, well-documented, and in several respects innovative infrastructure and workforce investments, including the informal waste picker formalisation programme, the legacy waste bio-mining completed at Dadu Majra, and the Smart Cities Mission-funded sewage treatment plant investment, while simultaneously exhibiting a significant and currently unresolved data integrity gap between its official performance claims and its own independently published assessment data. This report recommends that closing this specific data integrity gap, through transparent, jointly verified reporting between the Chandigarh Administration, the Municipal Corporation, and the relevant Union ministries, be treated as at least as high a near-term priority as further physical infrastructure expansion, given that accurate baseline data is a precondition for assessing whether that further infrastructure expansion, once delivered, actually achieves its intended sanitation and processing capacity outcomes.

CHAPTER 11: URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND SMART CITIES

Urban development sits at the very centre of Chandigarh's development story, given the Union Territory's near-total urbanisation documented throughout this report. This chapter examines urbanisation trends and governance architecture, the financial health of Chandigarh's urban local body, its housing and slum rehabilitation programming, its Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT implementation record, its heritage and cultural landscape assets, and the specific equity dimensions of its slum rehabilitation and in-situ upgradation efforts.

11.1 Urbanisation Trends and Urban Governance Architecture

As established in Chapter 1, Chandigarh's urbanisation rate of 97.25 percent as per the 2011 Census places it among the most completely urbanised constituent units in the Indian union, a demographic reality that makes urban governance, rather than any separate rural development stream, the primary organising axis of nearly all public service delivery within the Union Territory. Chandigarh's urban governance architecture, documented in Chapter 1, Section 1.2, is bifurcated between the Union Territory Administration, exercising overall executive authority under the Administrator, and the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, an elected local body established in 1994 with statutory responsibility for core civic functions including water supply, sewerage, drainage, road maintenance, sanitation, and property tax administration, functioning in parallel with rather than subordinate to the Administration.

This bifurcated governance structure's practical performance implications were documented substantively in Chapter 4, Section 4.1, through the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Ease of Living Index, on which Chandigarh's national ranking fell sharply from 5th position in the inaugural 2018 edition to 29th position in the 2020 edition, with particularly weak performance on the Citizen Perception and Economic Ability sub-indices, and a companion Municipal Performance Index ranking of just 23rd nationally in the same 2020 assessment cycle. This report reiterates its Chapter 4 assessment that this documented decline, from a city long celebrated internationally for its planned urban form, represents one

of the more significant and underappreciated findings in this framework, and one that this chapter's subsequent sections on Municipal Corporation financial health, housing delivery, and Smart Cities Mission implementation should be read as attempting to explain rather than as unrelated, standalone urban development topics.

11.2 Urban Local Bodies: Financial Health, Capacity and Service Delivery

The financial health of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, examined at length in Chapter 2, Section 2.1 and Section 2.3, in the context of the Union Territory's broader fiscal architecture, bears directly on this chapter's urban development analysis, since nearly every urban service delivery function examined in this chapter, from housing to sanitation to heritage conservation, depends substantially on Municipal Corporation revenue and capacity. As documented in Chapter 2, the Corporation's own property tax revenue has historically been structurally weak, a condition the Administration's threefold residential and doubled commercial property tax rate reform, projected to raise annual collection from approximately ₹45 crore to approximately ₹90 crore, is now directly intended to address (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). Grants-in-aid from the Union Territory Administration to the Municipal Corporation were separately enhanced by 36 percent in the 2026-27 Budget, from ₹625 crore to ₹850 crore, as documented in Chapter 2, Section 2.3, reflecting continued substantial dependence on Union Territory-level fiscal transfers even as own-revenue reform proceeds (Tribune News Service, 2026c).

This report's overall assessment, building on the fiscal analysis presented in Chapter 2, is that the Municipal Corporation's historical financial capacity constraints, rather than any deficiency in Chandigarh's underlying urban planning heritage, offer the most plausible explanation for the Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index decline documented in Section 11.1, since sustained service delivery quality, particularly on the Economic Ability and Citizen Perception dimensions on which Chandigarh scored weakly, depends directly on the kind of consistent operational and capital funding that a chronically under-resourced own-revenue base struggles to provide. This report considers the property tax reform and enhanced grants-in-aid documented above to represent a credible, if still unproven, remedial response to this specific financial capacity constraint, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation jointly track Ease of Living and Municipal Performance Index results in any future assessment cycle specifically against this reform timeline, to test directly whether improved Municipal Corporation financial health translates into the kind of citizen-facing service delivery improvement the current reform agenda is intended to achieve.

11.3 Housing: Demand Assessment, Affordability and Flagship Schemes

Chandigarh's housing sector is dominated by the Chandigarh Housing Board, established as the Union Territory's principal public housing delivery institution and responsible both for general urban housing construction and, as examined further in Section 11.6, for the Union Territory's extensive slum rehabilitation programming. On general market-facing housing provision, the Chandigarh Housing Board's Self-Financing Housing Scheme, initiated in

2008 specifically for Union Territory government employees, illustrates a clear and consistent demand pattern toward smaller, more affordable housing typologies: in the scheme's most recent demand survey, cited ahead of a planned 2025 relaunch, 3,096 registered applicants expressed interest in 1 BHK flats, against 168 for 2 BHK flats and 252 allotments of 3 BHK flats, a distribution this report considers a clear market signal favouring smaller unit development going forward (99acres, 2025). This report notes that an earlier iteration of the same Self-Financing Scheme, launched in 2018, had been shelved due to poor response, with the Housing Board attributing the scheme's planned 2025 relaunch specifically to stronger demand signals identified in its more recent survey work (99acres, 2025), a pattern this report considers indicative of the Housing Board's willingness to calibrate its own housing typology offerings to demonstrated market demand rather than persisting with a fixed product mix regardless of uptake.

11.4 Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT: Union Territory-Level Implementation Review

Chandigarh's implementation of the national Smart Cities Mission, introduced in the Executive Summary of this report, warrants detailed examination in this chapter given its direct relevance to the urban infrastructure themes examined throughout. Chandigarh was among only three states and Union Territories nationally, alongside Jharkhand and Nagaland, to complete all tendered projects under the Mission before its financial closure on March 31, 2025, with a national Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs tally recording 97 completed projects worth approximately ₹2,694 crore attributed to Chandigarh (ETV Bharat, 2025). At the more granular, entity-specific level, the erstwhile Chandigarh Smart City Limited, the dedicated special purpose vehicle jointly funded on a 50:50 basis between the Union government and the Union Territory Administration, documented investment of ₹853 crore across 36 flagship projects, with sewage treatment plants receiving the largest single allocation at ₹304 crore, examined further in Chapter 10, Section 10.5, and the Integrated Command and Control Centre receiving ₹334 crore, the second-largest allocation within this portfolio (Elets Technomedia, 2025). Following completion of its mandated project portfolio, Chandigarh Smart City Limited's board was formally wound up in 2025, with its residual assets and approximately ₹53 crore in pending operational liabilities transferred to the relevant Union Territory departments and the Municipal Corporation (Tribune News Service, 2025c).

This report considers the divergence between the national 97-project, ₹2,694 crore tally and Chandigarh Smart City Limited's own 36-project, ₹853 crore internal accounting, first flagged in the Executive Summary, to warrant brief further comment here specifically in the urban development context of this chapter. This report treats this divergence as most plausibly explained by differing project counting methodologies, with the national tally likely including sub-components or convergence projects implemented through other Mission-adjacent funding streams alongside the Smart City Limited's own directly executed flagship portfolio, though it was unable to obtain a definitive, line-item reconciliation between the two figures within the sources reviewed, and it repeats its Executive Summary

recommendation that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Chandigarh Administration jointly publish a reconciled, project-level accounting of the full Smart Cities Mission portfolio attributable to Chandigarh. On AMRUT specifically, this report has documented in Chapter 10, Section 10.1, the scheme's role, alongside a loan from the Agence Française de Développement, in co-funding the ongoing Kajauli waterworks upgrade central to Chandigarh's 24x7 water supply project, indicating that AMRUT funding continues to play an active, ongoing role in Chandigarh's urban infrastructure financing even as the more prominent, project-based Smart Cities Mission has now formally concluded.

11.5 Heritage Cities, Cultural Landscapes and Urban Tourism

Chandigarh's heritage and cultural landscape assets, documented substantively in Chapter 1, Section 1.4, centre on the Capitol Complex, comprising the Palace of Assembly, the Secretariat, and the High Court, all designed by Le Corbusier and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2016 as part of the transnational serial nomination recognising Le Corbusier's global architectural contribution. This UNESCO designation, this report notes, places direct heritage conservation obligations on the Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation, requiring that any urban development, infrastructure, or transport intervention within or adjacent to the Capitol Complex, including the metro alignment documented in Chapter 4 and Chapter 8, which was deliberately routed to exclude Chandigarh's heritage sectors from Sector 1 through Sector 30, be planned with explicit regard to World Heritage conservation requirements, a constraint this report considers a distinctive and largely positive feature of Chandigarh's urban planning environment relative to Union Territories and states without comparable World Heritage obligations.

Beyond the Capitol Complex, Chandigarh's Rock Garden, created from industrial and urban waste materials by the self-taught artist Nek Chand beginning in the 1950s, and Sukhna Lake, documented in Chapter 1 as both a National Wetland and a designed recreational centrepiece of the original city plan, together constitute the Union Territory's most visited cultural and recreational tourism assets. This report examines the specific tourism sector development strategy and economic contribution of these heritage and cultural landscape assets in greater depth in Chapter 19 of this report, treating their documentation in this chapter as establishing the underlying heritage and cultural asset base on which that later chapter's tourism sector analysis builds.

11.6 Urban Poverty, Slum Rehabilitation and In-Situ Upgradation

Chandigarh's slum rehabilitation programme represents one of the most extensive, sustained public housing interventions documented anywhere in this report, and this report considers it essential to present both its substantial achieved scale and its specific, documented equity tensions transparently. The programme's origins trace to at least November 2000, when the then Union Territory Administrator laid the foundation stone for the first phase of a mega-scheme to construct 16,000 dwelling units for the rehabilitation of what official documentation at the time termed illegal slum dwellers, with eligibility restricted to bona fide Chandigarh residents included on the voters list as of December 8, 1996 (Tribune News

Service, 2000). This programme evolved into the more structured Chandigarh Small Flats Scheme of 2006, under which the Chandigarh Housing Board had, as of March 2019, completed construction of 17,696 small flats across the rehabilitation colonies of Dhanas, with 8,448 flats, Mauli Jagran-II, with 1,568 flats, Sector-38 West, with 1,120 flats, Sector-49, with 1,024 flats, Ramdarbar, with 576 flats, and Maloya-I, with 4,960 flats constructed of which 2,390 had been allotted with possession handed over at that time (Kaur, 2020, as cited in ResearchGate). Contemporary reporting from the same period documented that over the preceding decade, the Administration had constructed approximately 25,000 flats across different city sectors specifically for slum dweller rehabilitation, as part of an explicit and sustained policy objective of making Chandigarh entirely slum-free (Tribune News Service, n.d.-j).

This slum-free objective has been pursued through the systematic razing of the Union Territory's largest informal settlements: Colony No. 5, the largest such settlement with over 7,000 dwelling units, was razed in 2013, while Colony No. 4, the second-largest with approximately 5,000 units, was targeted for clearance in subsequent years, with eligible residents rehabilitated under the Small Flats Scheme-2006 at the Maloya rehabilitation colony and, for residents not meeting Small Flats Scheme eligibility criteria, under the central government's Affordable Rental Housing Scheme (Tribune News Service, n.d.-j, n.d.-k). Through this sustained clearance programme, the Chandigarh Estate Office recovered approximately 200 acres of land from what official documentation termed encroachment, following the razing of Colony No. 5 alongside Mazdoor Colony, Kuldeep Colony, Pandit Colony, Nehru Colony, Ambedkar Colony, Kajheri Colony, and Madrasi Colony (Tribune News Service, n.d.-k). This report notes that an initial 2006 eligibility survey found only 2,400 families within the relevant colony population eligible for rehabilitation under the Small Flats Scheme's original criteria, prompting the Administration to subsequently conduct a fresh biometric survey specifically to capture residents who had been found ineligible or left out of the original 2006 assessment (Tribune News Service, n.d.-j).

This report identifies a specific, documented equity concern within the Small Flats Scheme's tenure structure that it considers important to flag directly rather than treat as a purely technical implementation detail. Flats allotted under the 2006 scheme were provided on a license basis rather than outright ownership, with beneficiaries required to pay monthly instalments over a 20-year period before ownership rights vested, with instalments starting at ₹800 per month, rising to ₹960 per month after five years, and to ₹1,152 per month after ten years, and with allotted flats explicitly prohibited from resale prior to the completion of this 20-year payment and tenure period (Kaur, 2020, as cited in ResearchGate). This report considers this extended, license-based tenure structure, while providing genuinely substantial improvements in housing quality and basic service access relative to prior slum conditions, as the same research documents residents gained access to amenities previously unavailable to them, to nonetheless represent a meaningfully constrained form of housing security relative to outright ownership, particularly given the 20-year duration involved and the associated resale restriction, which limits beneficiaries' ability to realise the asset value of their allotted housing or relocate for employment or family reasons during the full tenure period. This

report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration and Housing Board review the continued appropriateness of this instalment and tenure structure for beneficiaries rehabilitated under more recent phases of the programme, potentially considering accelerated ownership vesting timelines or income-linked instalment adjustment mechanisms, given the extended period that has now elapsed since the scheme's original 2006 design and the substantial body of implementation experience accumulated since, as documented throughout this section.

Taken together, this chapter's findings present a Union Territory that combines genuinely world-class planned urban heritage, substantial and sustained public housing investment at a scale this report considers to compare favourably with slum rehabilitation efforts documented elsewhere in this national CDF series, and a currently under-resourced, though actively reforming, urban local body whose financial capacity constraints this report identifies as the most plausible explanation for Chandigarh's documented recent decline on national urban livability benchmarking. The tenure security concern documented in Section 11.6, alongside the Smart Cities Mission accounting divergence documented in Section 11.4 and the solid waste data integrity concern documented in Chapter 10, together constitute this report's core recommendations for strengthening the transparency and equity of Chandigarh's otherwise substantively strong urban development programme going forward.

CHAPTER 12: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE

Rural development in Chandigarh must be read against a background theme that recurs throughout this report: a shrinking rural population and, this chapter finds, a shrinking Panchayati Raj governance footprint, as villages that once fell under rural administration are progressively absorbed into the Municipal Corporation's urban jurisdiction. This chapter examines Panchayati Raj institutional structure, national rural employment guarantee and livelihood programming as applicable to Chandigarh's residual rural population, rural housing, livelihood promotion, rural infrastructure connectivity, and community-based participatory planning institutions.

12.1 Panchayati Raj Institutions: Structure, Devolution and Capacity

Chandigarh's Panchayati Raj institutional footprint has been directly and substantially reshaped by a sustained administrative process of village-to-municipal absorption that this report considers the single most important finding in this chapter. As of the period documented in Tribune reporting, Chandigarh comprised 22 villages in total, of which nine already fell within Municipal Corporation limits, leaving 13 villages, Bahlana, Raipur Khurd, Raipur Kalan, Makhan Majra, Daria, Mauli Jagran, Kishangarh, Kaimbwala, Khuda Ali Sher, Khuda Jassu, Khuda Lahora, Sarangpur, and Dhanas, with a combined population of 50,135, still under rural Panchayati Raj administration (Tribune News Service, n.d.-1). Following more than five years of deliberation, the then Governor of Punjab and Union Territory Administrator gave in-principle approval to merge all 13 of these remaining villages into the Municipal Corporation, a decision the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat formally conveyed to the State Election Commission, which had already begun preparing for panchayat elections scheduled for that December, with the merger set to expand the Municipal Corporation's ward count from 26 to 33 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-1).

The stated rationale for this merger, as documented by local sarpanch representatives at the time, centred on a specific and structurally important governance limitation: over 80 percent of the population in these 13 villages had, by that point, settled outside the traditional lal dora village habitation boundary, a zone within which panchayats were legally barred from spending development funds on housing and infrastructure, meaning that the majority of these villages' actual resident population fell outside the effective reach of panchayat-administered development spending even while the villages remained formally under rural governance (Tribune News Service, n.d.-I). Both the then secretary of the sarpanch association and a former sarpanch of Kishangarh publicly welcomed the merger specifically on the grounds that it would extend proper municipal development spending authority to this majority, currently underserved, outside-lal-dora population (Tribune News Service, n.d.-I).

This report was unable to confirm the current, 2026 status of this merger process with certainty, given the dated nature of the source material reviewed, though the direction of travel it documents, continued absorption of Chandigarh's remaining villages into municipal governance, is entirely consistent with the broader urbanisation trajectory documented throughout this report, including the 68.53 percent decline in rural population recorded during the 2001-2011 decade alone, as established in Chapter 1. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish current, confirmed data on the number of villages, if any, still functioning as independent Gram Panchayats as of 2026, together with confirmed ward numbers for the Municipal Corporation, given the direct bearing this specific administrative status has on every subsequent section of this chapter, since national rural development schemes examined in Sections 12.2 through 12.5 depend on functioning Gram Panchayat institutional infrastructure to reach their intended rural beneficiary population, infrastructure that appears, on the evidence reviewed for this report, to be actively diminishing within Chandigarh's own jurisdiction.

12.2 MGNREGA: Coverage, Wage Trends and Livelihood Outcomes

This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific enrolment, employment day, or wage payment data for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, a finding this report considers consistent with, rather than contradictory to, the shrinking rural governance footprint documented in Section 12.1, given that effective scheme delivery depends on functioning Gram Panchayat administration of the kind increasingly limited within the Union Territory. This report flags the absence of this data directly rather than estimating a figure, given the very small underlying rural population base, just 2.75 percent of Chandigarh's total population as per the 2011 Census, that would in any case make any Chandigarh-specific MGNREGA statistics of limited standalone policy significance relative to the scheme's role in substantially larger rural states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series.

This report notes, for context, a significant national-level structural reform to this scheme currently underway: effective July 1, 2026, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme is being formally transitioned into a restructured Viksit Bharat

Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission, Gramin, introducing Gram Panchayat-level Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans requiring Geographic Information System-based planning tools and Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti data integration for durable, climate-resilient community asset planning, alongside newly issued, digitally linked Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards replacing the scheme's earlier job card system, and a mandatory 60-day seasonal pause on public works during peak agricultural sowing and harvesting periods to protect local farm labour availability (mg-nrega.com, 2026). Given the residual scope of Panchayati Raj governance documented in Section 12.1, this report considers it uncertain whether this national restructuring will have any meaningful practical application within Chandigarh's own shrinking rural jurisdiction, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration clarify directly whether any Gram Panchayats within the Union Territory remain eligible for or actively implementing this restructured scheme as it takes effect.

12.3 Rural Housing: PMAY-Gramin and Union Territory Schemes

This report was similarly unable to identify Chandigarh-specific beneficiary or completion data for the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, the national rural housing scheme providing permanent housing with basic amenities to homeless rural families or those living in kutchra or otherwise unsafe housing, and it notes that this absence is again consistent with the very small rural population base and shrinking Panchayati Raj governance footprint documented in Sections 12.1 and 12.2. At the national level, against which this specific Chandigarh data gap should be read, cumulative Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin completions had crossed 2.99 crore houses as of March 2026, against a revised total target of 4.95 crore homes by 2029 under the scheme's extended phase (Savitar Realty, 2026), with the scheme's benefit package including convergence with the Swachh Bharat Mission for toilet construction, MGNREGA-linked unskilled wage labour for house construction itself, and LPG, electricity, and drinking water connections through convergence with respective national schemes (Bajaj Finance, 2026; Savitar Realty, 2026).

Given Chandigarh's slum rehabilitation programming documented extensively in Chapter 11, Section 11.6, which addresses housing need for the Union Territory's substantial urban informal settlement population through the Chandigarh Housing Board's Small Flats Scheme rather than through the rural-specific Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin architecture, this report considers it likely that Chandigarh's most pressing housing need, both historically and currently, has been substantively addressed through the urban rather than rural housing policy channel, consistent with the Union Territory's near-total urbanisation documented throughout this report. This report nonetheless recommends the Chandigarh Administration confirm whether any residual rural households within the Union Territory's remaining village population, if any persist following the merger process documented in Section 12.1, have accessed Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin benefits, to ensure this specific, smaller population is not inadvertently overlooked between the Union Territory's predominantly urban housing policy focus and a national rural scheme whose local administrative infrastructure is, as documented above, actively diminishing.

12.4 Livelihood Promotion: SHGs, Cooperatives and Rural Enterprise

This report was unable to identify data on Self-Help Group coverage, cooperative institution density, or rural enterprise promotion specifically targeted at Chandigarh's rural or peri-urban population, distinct from the broader urban livelihood and informal economy considerations examined in Chapter 3, Section 3.6, and Chapter 7, Section 7.9, in the context of the Chandigarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. This report considers this specific data gap to be of lower policy priority than several others flagged throughout this framework, given the very small residual rural population base documented throughout this chapter, but it nonetheless recommends that any Self-Help Group or rural livelihood promotion activity that does exist within Chandigarh's remaining village population be documented and reported by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat referenced in Section 12.1, to ensure this population's livelihood needs are not administratively invisible as the broader village-to-municipal transition documented in this chapter proceeds.

12.5 Rural Infrastructure: PMGSY, Connectivity and Market Linkages

Consistent with the road network analysis presented in Chapter 8, Section 8.1, this report finds that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the national scheme dedicated to all-weather rural road connectivity, carries limited independent significance within Chandigarh's own transport infrastructure priorities, given the Union Territory's near-total urbanisation and its correspondingly urban-oriented, sector-grid road network documented in Chapter 8. This report did not identify any Chandigarh-specific Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana project data, road connectivity gap, or market linkage infrastructure deficit specific to the Union Territory's remaining rural or peri-urban settlements, and given the village merger process documented in Section 12.1, which specifically aims to extend full municipal, rather than merely rural, infrastructure standards to previously village-administered areas, this report considers continued municipal absorption, rather than continued investment through the rural-specific Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana channel, to represent the more appropriate and more likely effective infrastructure connectivity pathway for Chandigarh's remaining village population going forward.

12.6 Community-Based Development Institutions and Participatory Planning

Drawing together the evidence presented across this chapter, this report's overall assessment is that Chandigarh's community-based development institutions and participatory planning architecture is undergoing a genuine and significant institutional transition, from village-level Panchayati Raj governance toward Municipal Corporation ward-based governance, a transition this report considers substantively justified by the specific lal dora development spending limitation documented in Section 12.1, which had left a majority of the affected villages' population outside the effective reach of panchayat development spending even while nominally under rural administration. This report considers the perspectives of local sarpanch representatives, who welcomed this merger specifically because it would extend proper development spending authority to their own constituents, to be significant, credible evidence that this transition reflects a considered local judgement about which governance structure better serves these communities' actual development needs, rather than a purely top-down administrative simplification imposed without local input.

At the same time, this report considers it important to note that this transition, whatever its specific justification, represents a genuine reduction in the scope of decentralised, Panchayati Raj-based participatory governance within Chandigarh, replacing village-level self-governance institutions with ward-level representation within the considerably larger Municipal Corporation structure documented in Chapter 11. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration ensure that the specific community-level participatory planning mechanisms that villages previously exercised through Gram Sabha institutions are not simply lost in this transition, but are instead preserved or reconstituted in an appropriate ward-level or neighbourhood-level form within the Municipal Corporation's own governance architecture, so that the genuine, community-level development responsiveness that motivated the merger process in the first place is sustained rather than diminished as formerly rural communities complete their absorption into Chandigarh's predominantly urban governance system.

CHAPTER 13: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Chandigarh's environmental governance challenge is fundamentally one of protecting a small, ecologically fragile Shivalik foothill catchment under sustained urban pressure, a challenge this chapter examines across forest cover and biodiversity, land use and soil management, water bodies and wetland ecosystems, mineral resources, pollution, and the coastal and marine considerations that, as this chapter will note, carry no direct relevance to Chandigarh's landlocked geography.

13.1 Forest Cover, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation

Chandigarh's forest and tree cover trajectory, documented in Chapter 1, showed genuine improvement between the two most recent India State of Forest Report assessments, rising from 40.52 square kilometres in 2021 to 46.18 square kilometres in 2023, with forest cover specifically growing from 13 square kilometres in 2001 to 25 square kilometres in 2023 and tree cover outside recorded forest area growing even more sharply, from 2 square kilometres to 21.18 square kilometres over the same longer period, a trend the Forest Department attributes to the sustained, coordinated Greening Chandigarh Action Plan (Tribune News Service, 2025d). This report reiterates this finding here specifically in the context of biodiversity conservation, since the Union Territory's primary biodiversity asset, the 26 square kilometre Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary notified in 1998 to protect the catchment feeding Sukhna Lake, depends directly on this surrounding forest and tree cover for the habitat integrity supporting its recorded species population, including sambar, spotted deer, wild boar, and pangolin, alongside over 150 recorded bird species including migratory Siberian ducks, storks, and cranes that winter at the lake (Wikipedia, 2026b; MapsOfIndia, 2020).

The Chandigarh Master Plan 2031's own dedicated Ecology and Environment chapter identifies a specific Wildlife Corridor as a formal planning proposal, alongside dedicated sections addressing the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and the securing and enhancement of existing green cover, indicating that biodiversity conservation is treated as an integrated component of the Union Territory's statutory urban planning framework rather than as a standalone environmental policy stream separate from core land use decision-making (Chandigarh Administration, 2021). This report considers this integration, embedding wildlife corridor and green cover protection directly within the same statutory Master Plan document governing the Union Territory's urban development, to represent good practice worth highlighting, since it structurally reduces the risk that biodiversity considerations are treated as an afterthought to, rather than a binding constraint on, urban expansion decisions, a risk this report has documented in less favourable form in other infrastructure contexts throughout this framework, including the road carriageway widening at pedestrian and cyclist expense documented in Chapter 8.

13.2 Land Use Change, Soil Degradation and Land Resource Management

Land use change in Chandigarh, examined throughout this report, has been overwhelmingly characterised by the conversion of agricultural and undeveloped peri-urban land into built-up urban area, with the Union Territory's rural population declining by 68.53 percent during the 2001-2011 decade alone, as documented in Chapter 1, and the village merger process documented in Chapter 12 continuing this same underlying land use conversion dynamic into the present decade. This report considers this land use trajectory to be substantially complete rather than ongoing at scale, given that just 2.75 percent of Chandigarh's population remained classified as rural as per the 2011 Census, meaning the Union Territory's land use policy priority has shifted decisively from managing agricultural-to-urban conversion toward managing densification and redevelopment within its already overwhelmingly built-up existing footprint.

On soil degradation specifically, this report's most significant finding concerns the Shivalik foothill catchment feeding Sukhna Lake, documented in Chapter 1 as geologically fragile and prone to erosion, a condition that has directly caused the lake's substantial siltation and consequent reduction in water-spread area from an original 188 hectares to approximately 1.5 square kilometres at typical operating levels (Anantam IAS, 2026). The Chandigarh Master Plan 2031's Ecology and Environment chapter dedicates specific attention to protecting Sukhna Lake's catchment precisely because of this ecologically fragile Shivalik geology, alongside a dedicated section addressing the choes, the seasonal rivulets including the Sukhna Choe and Patiala-ki-Rao documented in Chapter 1, whose management is directly implicated in both the erosion and siltation dynamics affecting Sukhna Lake and the broader flood and drainage management considerations examined further in Chapter 14 of this report (Chandigarh Administration, 2021). This report recommends that catchment-area soil conservation measures, including afforestation, check dam construction, and erosion control structures within the upstream Shivalik catchment, be treated as a direct extension of the Sukhna Lake and wetland conservation priority examined further in Section 13.3 below, given the causal link between upstream soil erosion and downstream lake siltation documented throughout this section.

13.3 Water Bodies, Wetlands and River Ecosystem Health

Sukhna Lake, examined at length in Chapter 1 and referenced throughout this chapter, represents Chandigarh's single most significant water body and the centrepiece of its wetland and river ecosystem governance framework. Beyond its formal designation as a National Wetland and its 2020 recognition by the Punjab and Haryana High Court as a legal living entity, documented in Chapter 1, the lake's catchment received a further, more recent regulatory protection in November 2024, when the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change formally notified an eco-sensitive zone extending up to 2.035 kilometres around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary on the Haryana side in Panchkula district (Tribune News Service, 2024). This report considers this eco-sensitive zone notification a significant recent regulatory strengthening, since it extends binding development restriction authority beyond Chandigarh's own Union Territory boundary into neighbouring Haryana's Panchkula

district, representing a further concrete instance of the tri-city regional cooperation architecture this report has documented across fiscal, transport, and metropolitan governance domains in earlier chapters, now extended into ecological protection.

Beyond Sukhna Lake itself, Chandigarh's river ecosystem is defined by the two seasonal chores documented in Chapter 1 and Section 13.2, the Sukhna Choe and the Patiala-ki-Rao, both of which the Chandigarh Master Plan 2031 addresses as a dedicated planning concern within its Ecology and Environment chapter. This report was unable to identify a dedicated, published water quality monitoring dataset for these two chores or for Sukhna Lake itself, distinct from the siltation and catchment protection measures documented above, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee, examined further in Section 13.5 below, publish regular, dated water quality assessment data for both the lake and its principal feeding watercourses, to complement the encouraging catchment protection and forest cover trends documented in Sections 13.1 and 13.2 with equally rigorous water quality outcome tracking.

13.4 Mining and Mineral Resource Governance

Consistent with Chandigarh's compact, predominantly urban land use profile documented throughout this report, this report did not identify any significant mineral resource extraction or mining activity occurring within the Union Territory's 114 square kilometre territory, and it considers mining and mineral resource governance to carry negligible independent policy significance for Chandigarh relative to its role in the resource-rich states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series. To the extent any mineral resource governance concern applies within Chandigarh's own boundary, this report considers it most likely to relate to construction material sourcing, including sand and aggregate used in the Union Territory's ongoing urban infrastructure and housing construction documented in Chapter 11, rather than to any extractive mining activity based within Chandigarh itself, though it was unable to identify specific data on construction material sourcing practices or their environmental impact to examine this dimension further within the scope of this report.

13.5 Pollution: Air, Water, Noise and Soil, Status and Regulatory Response

Air quality represents the most extensively documented pollution dimension for Chandigarh within the sources available for this report, and this section's findings should be read alongside the Swachh Vayu Survekshan ranking improvement documented in Chapter 1, from 27th position nationally in 2024 to 8th position in 2025, an improvement Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee officials attributed to expanded electric public transport, stricter dust control enforcement at construction sites, and scientific remediation of legacy waste (Tribune News Service, 2026d). Notwithstanding this genuine ranking improvement, real-time ambient air quality monitoring reviewed for this report indicates that Chandigarh continues to experience periods of meaningfully unhealthy air quality in absolute terms: on June 30, 2026, Chandigarh's real-time United States Air Quality Index reading stood at 151, classified as Unhealthy, with PM_{2.5} concentration of 60 micrograms per cubic metre and PM₁₀ concentration of 69 micrograms per cubic metre, a reading that placed Chandigarh

among the 16 most polluted cities globally at that specific measurement point (AQI.in, 2026). This report's overall assessment, consistent with the position taken in Chapter 1, is that Chandigarh's improved national ranking and its continued periods of genuinely unhealthy absolute air quality are both accurate and simultaneously true findings, reflecting a Union Territory that is improving relative to its national peers while still falling meaningfully short of health-protective air quality standards in absolute terms, a distinction this report considers essential for the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee's continued public communication to maintain clearly, since ranking improvement alone should not be read by residents as confirmation of consistently safe air quality.

On the Chandigarh Master Plan 2031's own treatment of pollution, its Ecology and Environment chapter dedicates a specific section to air and noise pollution jointly, indicating that noise pollution, an environmental health dimension this report was unable to identify separate, dedicated monitoring data for within the sources reviewed, is formally recognised within the Union Territory's statutory planning framework as a related concern requiring integrated policy attention alongside air quality (Chandigarh Administration, 2021). This report recommends that the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee's public reporting be expanded to include regular noise pollution monitoring data, particularly given Chandigarh's dense, planned urban form and its documented traffic congestion pressures examined in Chapter 8, alongside its continued air quality monitoring, to provide a more complete picture of the Union Territory's overall pollution status than the currently air-quality-dominant public reporting provides. On soil pollution specifically, this report did not identify dedicated Chandigarh-specific soil contamination monitoring data within the sources reviewed, a further data gap it flags for completeness, though it considers this a lower priority than the air and water quality monitoring gaps documented throughout this section, given the absence of any significant industrial or extractive activity, documented in Section 13.4, that would typically be the primary driver of soil contamination risk in an urban jurisdiction of Chandigarh's specific economic profile.

13.6 Coastal and Marine Resource Management (Where Applicable)

Chandigarh, located at the foothills of the Shivalik range in northern India, several hundred kilometres from the nearest coastline, has no coastal or marine territory, and this report accordingly finds coastal and marine resource management to carry no application whatsoever to the Union Territory's environmental governance framework. This section is retained in this chapter's structure solely for consistency with the standardised template applied across this national CDF series, which includes states and Union Territories with genuine coastal management responsibilities, and this report notes its inapplicability to Chandigarh explicitly rather than either omitting the section or attempting to manufacture artificial content where none is warranted.

Taken together, this chapter's findings present a Union Territory whose environmental governance benefits from genuinely integrated statutory planning, through the Chandigarh Master Plan 2031's dedicated Ecology and Environment chapter, and from demonstrated, multi-year forest cover and air quality ranking improvement, while facing a persistent,

geologically driven catchment erosion and lake siltation challenge, continued periods of genuinely unhealthy absolute air quality notwithstanding relative ranking gains, and specific water quality and noise pollution monitoring data gaps that this report recommends the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee address as a priority complement to the encouraging trends already well documented in its public reporting.

CHAPTER 14: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

Climate change and ecological security represent, in this report's assessment, one of the areas where Chandigarh's institutional response has moved most visibly from planning documents toward active implementation over the period covered by this framework, even as several specific components of that response remain in early or incomplete stages. This chapter examines the Union Territory's climate vulnerability and risk profile, the second-generation reform of its State Action Plan on Climate Change, its disaster risk profile across hazard, exposure, and vulnerability dimensions, its disaster risk reduction institutional architecture, its post-disaster response and reconstruction framework, and the structural opportunities and challenges inherent in its green economy transition.

14.1 Union Territory Climate Vulnerability and Risk Profile

Chandigarh's climate vulnerability profile is shaped decisively by its specific geography, documented extensively in Chapter 1 and Chapter 13: a compact, densely built urban territory situated at the foothills of the geologically young and erosion-prone Shivalik range, drained by two seasonal watercourses, and centred on a rain-fed reservoir, Sukhna Lake, whose catchment has already demonstrated measurable vulnerability to siltation from upstream erosion. Detailed climate modelling and vulnerability assessment work undertaken as part of the Union Territory's second-generation State Action Plan on Climate Change projects a significant rise in temperatures alongside an increase in heavy rainfall events by 2050, a combination the Department of Environment's own assessment identifies as likely to intensify two specific urban challenges: heat stress and flooding (Tribune News Service, n.d.-m). This report considers this projected combination, rising heat stress alongside rising heavy rainfall intensity rather than a simple uniform warming trend, to be a particularly demanding vulnerability profile for urban planning purposes, since it requires the Union Territory to build resilience against two quite different categories of climate hazard simultaneously, rather than optimising its adaptation investment around a single dominant risk.

On heat stress specifically, this report's findings in Chapter 13, documenting a real-time air quality reading of 151 on the United States Air Quality Index scale alongside recorded summer temperatures reaching 44 degrees Celsius as established in Chapter 1, indicate that Chandigarh already experiences meaningful heat-related environmental stress under current climate conditions, independent of the further intensification projected by the Union Territory's own climate modelling toward 2050. This report notes that neighbouring jurisdictions within the same broader north Indian climate zone have moved to formalise dedicated Heat Action Plans in direct response to comparable projected risk, with Haryana's state government reporting in June 2024 that it had allocated ₹26.75 crore specifically for

heatwave-related resource requirements and treatment of heatwave-related diseases, following instructions issued to all Deputy Commissioners and Administrative Secretaries to appoint dedicated nodal officers for heatwave monitoring (News on Air, 2024). This report was unable to identify a comparably formalised, standalone Heat Action Plan specific to Chandigarh, as distinct from the broader climate resilience provisions embedded within the State Action Plan on Climate Change 2.0 examined in Section 14.2, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration consider developing a dedicated Heat Action Plan, on the model increasingly adopted by neighbouring states and by the National Capital Territory of Delhi, whose own Heat Action Plan 2025 was formally launched in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority and incorporated interventions including cool roof technology and disaster-ready schools (Tribune News Service, n.d.-n), given the direct relevance of both interventions to Chandigarh's own dense, sector-grid urban built form documented throughout this report.

On flood and urban drainage risk, this report's findings in Chapter 13 regarding the Sukhna Choe and Patiala-ki-Rao seasonal watercourses, together with the Chandigarh Master Plan 2031's own dedicated planning attention to these choes, indicate that Chandigarh's flood risk is concentrated specifically around these watercourses' seasonal flow variability and the broader Shivalik catchment's erosion-linked sediment load, rather than around large-river flooding of the kind documented for other jurisdictions in this national CDF series, such as the Yamuna-linked flood history documented for Delhi, which has experienced six major floods since 1900 (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2024). This report considers Chandigarh's flood risk profile to be comparatively more localised and manageable in absolute scale than that facing larger river-adjacent states and Union Territories, while cautioning that the projected increase in heavy rainfall event frequency documented above means this comparatively contained flood risk should not be treated as a static or diminishing planning concern, particularly given the seasonal watercourses' documented role in both erosion and, potentially, flash flooding during intense rainfall events concentrated within a short duration, a risk pattern this report considers distinct from, and in some respects less predictable than, the more gradual river-stage flooding documented for larger river systems elsewhere in this national series.

14.2 Union Territory Action Plan on Climate Change: Review and Second-Generation Reforms

Chandigarh's climate policy architecture is currently undergoing an active, formally documented second-generation reform process centred on its State Action Plan on Climate Change, referred to as SAPCC 2.0. This revised plan, developed by the Union Territory's Department of Environment, received formal approval from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through the National Steering Committee on Climate Change, and this report considers this approval, together with the active implementation planning documented below, to represent a genuinely substantive institutional commitment rather than a purely aspirational planning document (Tribune News Service, n.d.-m). SAPCC 2.0 is explicitly designed to align with India's Updated Nationally

Determined Contributions, the country's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, and the Mission LiFE, Lifestyle for Environment, initiative, situating Chandigarh's own climate action within the broader national and international climate commitment architecture rather than treating it as a standalone, Union Territory-specific exercise (Tribune News Service, n.d.-m). The plan's stated strategic objective is to build climate resilience, reduce emissions, and mainstream sustainability into governance by 2030, a target horizon this report notes aligns directly with the carbon-free city ambition documented in Chapter 9, Section 9.4, in the specific context of Chandigarh's solar energy expansion.

Institutional implementation of SAPCC 2.0 is being coordinated through a State Level Steering Committee, whose second meeting, convened under the chairmanship of Union Territory Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma, specifically addressed the roadmap for effective plan implementation following the Ministry's approval (Tribune News Service, n.d.-m). This report considers the Steering Committee's most significant institutional proposal to date to be its recommendation to establish a dedicated Climate Change Centre, an entity explicitly designed to coordinate interdepartmental climate action, manage the Union Territory's climate data systematically, and facilitate knowledge sharing across the various departments whose work bears on climate outcomes, including the Environment, Forest, Public Works, Renewable Energy, and Transport departments examined throughout this and preceding chapters of this report (Tribune News Service, n.d.-m). This report views the proposed Climate Change Centre as directly responsive to a coordination gap this report has identified implicitly throughout its infrastructure and environment chapters, namely that climate-relevant data and action currently sit dispersed across multiple separate departmental structures, including the Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society examined in Chapter 9, the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee examined in Chapter 13, and the Forest Department examined in Chapter 1 and Chapter 13, without, on the evidence available to this report, a single, dedicated coordinating institution tasked specifically with climate strategy integration across these separate departmental efforts.

Alongside the Climate Change Centre proposal, the Steering Committee has also planned a dedicated baseline study on Chandigarh's carbon emissions and carbon sequestration potential, intended explicitly to support evidence-based policy decisions going forward, with a formal public Expression of Interest notice inviting proposals for a comprehensive study on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration assessment for the Union Territory published through the Chandigarh Environmental Information System (ENVIS Hub, n.d.). This report considers this baseline emissions and sequestration study to represent an important and, in this report's assessment, somewhat overdue foundational step, since the specific, quantified carbon reduction achievements already documented in this report, including the 186,479 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions reduction attributed to Chandigarh's solar expansion programme in Chapter 9, would benefit from being situated against a comprehensive, Union Territory-wide emissions baseline rather than assessed in isolation as a single-sector achievement. Among the flagship measures identified within SAPCC 2.0's implementation roadmap, promoting 100 percent renewable energy through the

Model Solar City initiative is explicitly named, directly connecting this chapter's climate policy analysis to the detailed solar energy findings documented in Chapter 9, Section 9.4 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-m).

This report's overall assessment of Chandigarh's climate action planning architecture is that it demonstrates genuine institutional seriousness, evidenced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's formal approval of SAPCC 2.0, the Chief Secretary-level chairmanship of its implementation Steering Committee, and the concrete, resourced steps already taken toward establishing a dedicated coordinating Climate Change Centre and commissioning a baseline emissions study, while nonetheless remaining, as of the period covered by this report, substantially at the implementation-planning rather than fully operational stage. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish a dated implementation timeline for the Climate Change Centre's establishment and the completion of the carbon baseline study, to allow future editions of this framework to assess whether the genuine institutional momentum documented in this section has translated into the fully operational coordinating capacity SAPCC 2.0 envisions.

14.3 Disaster Risk Profile: Hazard, Exposure and Vulnerability Mapping

Chandigarh's disaster risk profile receives dedicated statutory attention within the Chandigarh Master Plan 2031, whose structure includes a specific chapter addressing disaster management, encompassing sections on the identification and prioritisation of hazards, detailed hazard analysis, critical facilities analysis, the role of the state disaster management authority, the Union Territory's overall disaster management strategy, and the specific functioning of the District Disaster Management Committee for Chandigarh (Chandigarh Administration, 2021). This report considers the integration of disaster risk hazard analysis and critical facilities mapping directly within the Union Territory's statutory Master Plan, rather than as a separate, standalone disaster management document disconnected from core land use and infrastructure planning, to represent good institutional practice, since it structurally ensures that hazard exposure considerations inform the same planning process governing where housing, hospitals, schools, and other critical infrastructure are sited and how they are designed, a linkage this report has found valuable in other contexts throughout this framework, including the ecology and environment planning integration documented in Chapter 13.

On specific hazard categories, this report's synthesis of evidence presented in Section 14.1 and throughout Chapter 13 indicates that Chandigarh's most material disaster risk exposures are heat-related stress, linked to the Union Territory's documented summer temperature extremes and periodic severe air quality episodes, and localised flash flooding or drainage overload risk, linked to the seasonal choes and the broader Shivalik catchment's erosion-prone geology, rather than the large-scale seismic, cyclonic, or major river flood risks that dominate disaster risk profiles in several other states and Union Territories examined elsewhere in this national CDF series. This report was unable to identify a formally published, quantified seismic risk zone classification specific to Chandigarh within the sources reviewed, though it notes that the Union Territory's location at the foothills of the

Shivalik range, itself part of the broader Himalayan tectonic system, warrants continued attention to structural seismic resilience standards in building codes and critical facility design, even in the likely absence of Chandigarh falling within the highest national seismic risk zones applicable to areas closer to the main Himalayan fault systems. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish the specific hazard analysis and critical facilities vulnerability mapping findings documented within the Master Plan's disaster management chapter in a more publicly accessible, standalone format, given the value such disaggregated hazard and vulnerability data would provide to this and future editions of this framework, as well as to residents and businesses making their own risk-informed location and investment decisions within the Union Territory.

14.4 Disaster Risk Reduction: Institutional Mechanisms and Preparedness

Chandigarh's disaster risk reduction institutional architecture operates through the District Disaster Management Committee structure documented in Section 14.3, embedded within the Master Plan's statutory disaster management framework, and this report understands this Committee, consistent with the national Disaster Management Act, 2005 framework applicable across India's states and Union Territories, to be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner in his capacity as head of Chandigarh's single-district administrative structure, documented in Chapter 1, Section 1.2, coordinating across the Police Department, Health Department, Fire Services, Public Works Department, and other line departments whose functions bear directly on emergency preparedness and response.

This report identifies the substantial new healthcare capacity documented in Chapter 6, Section 6.1, specifically the 150-bed Critical Care Block being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission at PGIMER, as directly relevant to Chandigarh's disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness capacity, since this facility was explicitly described by national officials as intended to strengthen emergency preparedness, intensive care capacity, and disaster response for the wider region (IANS, 2026; The Hawk, 2026). This report considers this direct linkage between the Union Territory's health infrastructure investment programme and its disaster preparedness capacity to represent a valuable, if not always explicitly framed, form of cross-sectoral resilience building, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration formally integrate this new Critical Care Block capacity into its District Disaster Management Plan's documented emergency response protocols, ensuring that the facility's disaster response role, as distinct from its everyday tertiary care function documented in Chapter 6, is clearly specified and exercised through periodic disaster response drills.

This report further identifies the proposed Climate Change Centre documented in Section 14.2 as carrying direct disaster risk reduction relevance beyond its primarily climate mitigation and adaptation planning mandate, given that the interdepartmental coordination and centralised climate data management functions the Centre is intended to provide would, in this report's assessment, also meaningfully strengthen the Union Territory's early warning and hazard monitoring capacity for the heat stress and flooding risks documented in Section 14.1 and Section 14.3. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration explicitly

design the Climate Change Centre's mandate to encompass this disaster early warning function, rather than treating climate policy coordination and disaster risk reduction as entirely separate institutional workstreams, given the substantial overlap this report has identified between the two domains throughout this chapter.

14.5 Post-Disaster Response, Relief and Reconstruction Framework

This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific documentation of post-disaster response, relief, or reconstruction framework details, including State Disaster Response Fund allocation and utilisation data specific to the Union Territory, within the sources reviewed for this report, and it flags this as a specific data gap consistent with several similar gaps identified in this Union Territory's fiscal and institutional reporting throughout this framework. This report notes a structural question, first raised in Chapter 2, Section 2.6, in the context of Finance Commission awards, that carries direct relevance here: the Sixteenth Finance Commission's recommended grants architecture for the 2026-27 through 2030-31 award period includes ₹2.04 lakh crore nationally for state disaster management, a category this report was unable to confirm applies to Chandigarh in the same form as it applies to full states, given Chandigarh's position outside the primary Finance Commission tax devolution mechanism documented extensively in Chapter 2 (Lukmaan IAS, 2026).

This report considers this an important, specific data gap for the Chandigarh Administration and the Ministry of Home Affairs to jointly clarify, given the direct bearing it has on the Union Territory's own post-disaster financial preparedness: if Chandigarh does not receive a comparable, formula-based disaster management grant allocation through the Finance Commission mechanism in the way full states do, its post-disaster relief and reconstruction financing would instead depend on the same annual Union Budget allocation and, where relevant, supplementary or contingency allocation mechanisms documented in Chapter 2 for the Union Territory's ordinary fiscal architecture, an arrangement this report has already identified as more exposed to annual central budgetary discretion than the formula-based devolution available to states. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish, or that the Ministry of Home Affairs clarify on the Union Territory's behalf, the specific post-disaster financing mechanism applicable to Chandigarh, including confirmation of whether and how the Sixteenth Finance Commission's disaster management grant provisions apply to Union Territories without legislatures, to close what this report considers a genuinely consequential gap in the otherwise reasonably well-documented disaster risk reduction architecture examined in Section 14.3 and Section 14.4.

14.6 Green Economy Transition: Opportunities and Structural Challenges

Chandigarh's green economy transition is most concretely evidenced through its Electric Vehicle Policy, 2022, approved by the Chandigarh Administration on September 20, 2022, with a validity period of five years running through September 19, 2027, and explicitly designed to build the Union Territory as a Model EV City achieving one of the highest zero-emission vehicle penetration rates among Indian cities by the end of the policy period (EVreporter, 2024; EV Sahi Hai, n.d.). The policy sets an explicit target of 70 percent of all

vehicle registrations in Chandigarh being electric by 2030, a target this report notes aligns directly with the same 2030 horizon established for the SAPCC 2.0 climate resilience mainstreaming target documented in Section 14.2 and the carbon-free city ambition documented in Chapter 9 (ChandigarhEV, n.d.). The policy's incentive architecture includes road tax and vehicle registration fee waivers for the full policy period, a demand generation subsidy of ₹5,000 per kilowatt-hour of battery capacity for personal four-wheeler electric vehicles, capped at ₹1.50 lakh per vehicle and available for the first 2,000 four-wheelers registered during the policy period with an ex-showroom price up to ₹20 lakh, and these incentives apply over and above the Government of India's national Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles scheme incentives (EV Sahi Hai, n.d.; EVreporter, 2024).

Beyond consumer-facing incentives, the policy incorporates supply-side and institutional measures directly relevant to green economy job creation, a theme this report considers particularly significant given the labour market findings documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.7. These include a mandate that all government departments and local bodies purchase only electric vehicles with effect from August 2023, barring specific exemptions requiring approval from the competent authority, a requirement for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to be installed at all petrol pumps, both government and privately owned, operating within Chandigarh within six months of the policy's issuance, and a tariff of ₹3.60 per kilowatt-hour for public charging stations as notified by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission examined in Chapter 9, Section 9.6 (EVreporter, 2024; EV Sahi Hai, n.d.). On skill development specifically, the policy provides for short-term courses on electric mobility, electric vehicle supply equipment, and battery repair, maintenance, and manufacturing to be developed by the Education Department in collaboration with the Transport Department, with polytechnic institutions, examined in Chapter 5, Section 5.4, in the context of Chandigarh's broader technical and vocational education ecosystem, offering dedicated two-week electric vehicle awareness courses for skill upgrading, alongside an infrastructure incentive of ₹3,000 per seat monthly for training providers and a patent fee reimbursement of up to 50 percent, capped at ₹2 lakh for national intellectual property filings and ₹5 lakh for international filings, for startups registering electric vehicle-related patents (EV Sahi Hai, n.d.).

This report identifies a specific, recent development in the policy's implementation trajectory that it considers important to document transparently rather than presenting the Electric Vehicle Policy solely in terms of its ambitious original targets. As of the most recent reporting reviewed, the Union Territory Administration had initiated a formal review of the Electric Vehicle Policy, directing the Registration and Licensing Authority, the Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society, and the Regional Transport Authority to jointly compile data on the registration trends of electric, non-electric, and hybrid vehicles within the city, explicitly to study resident vehicle purchase preferences before considering policy amendments, with the final decision on any changes resting with the Union Territory Administrator (Tribune News Service, n.d.-o). Notably, this same reporting documented that the Administration had already lifted a prior capping on the registration of non-electric two-wheelers, on a temporary basis, indicating that the original

policy had included at least some direct restriction on conventional vehicle registration as a demand-side lever to accelerate electric vehicle adoption, and that this specific restrictive measure was itself now under active reconsideration (Tribune News Service, n.d.-o). This report considers this development a useful, concrete illustration of the structural challenge inherent in green economy transition policy more broadly: ambitious adoption targets and genuinely substantial incentive structures, of the kind documented above, do not automatically translate into proportionate consumer uptake, and policy review and recalibration in response to observed adoption patterns, rather than rigid adherence to original targets regardless of evidence, represents a reasonable and arguably necessary governance response, though it also means the 70 percent 2030 electric vehicle registration target documented above should be read as an ambition under active policy reassessment rather than a course fixed with certainty as of the period covered by this report.

Considered alongside the solar energy transition documented extensively in Chapter 9, Section 9.4, this report's overall assessment is that Chandigarh's green economy transition rests on two mutually reinforcing pillars, renewable electricity generation and zero-emission transport, both explicitly targeting the same 2030 carbon-free or carbon-neutral horizon, and both supported by genuinely substantial, specific, and well-documented policy instruments rather than purely aspirational commitments. The structural challenge this report identifies, illustrated concretely by the electric vehicle policy review documented above, is translating strong policy design and incentive structure into the consumer and institutional behaviour change required to actually meet the ambitious targets both pillars have set, a translation this report considers only partially evidenced to date on the transport side, in contrast to the more consistently documented, multi-year uptake trajectory already achieved on the solar generation side examined in Chapter 9. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration apply the same kind of consistent, dated, multi-year public performance tracking already well established for its solar programme, documented extensively in Chapter 9, to its electric vehicle adoption trajectory as well, publishing regular, dated registration share data against the 70 percent 2030 target, so that this report and future editions of this framework can assess electric vehicle policy performance with the same evidentiary rigour already available for the Union Territory's solar energy transition.

Taken together, this chapter's findings position Chandigarh as a Union Territory with a genuinely serious, formally approved, and actively coordinated climate policy architecture, evidenced by SAPCC 2.0's ministerial approval and Chief Secretary-level implementation oversight, a disaster risk reduction framework meaningfully integrated within its statutory Master Plan though still carrying specific, identified data and financing clarity gaps, and a green economy transition strategy built on two ambitious, well-designed, but unevenly evidenced policy pillars. This report's central recommendation across this chapter is that the institutional coordination function envisioned for the proposed Climate Change Centre, documented in Section 14.2, be resourced and operationalised as a priority, since this report has found that Centre's proposed mandate, spanning climate data management, interdepartmental coordination, and knowledge sharing, to be precisely the kind of integrative institutional capacity that would allow Chandigarh to close the specific data, financing, and

evidentiary gaps this chapter has identified across its disaster risk reduction, post-disaster financing, and green economy transition tracking functions alike.

CHAPTER 15: ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE REFORM

Administrative governance in Chandigarh presents this report with some of its most structurally revealing findings, since the Union Territory's distinctive constitutional position, examined throughout this framework, produces governance arrangements that differ in kind, not merely in scale, from those of the full states this national CDF series otherwise examines. This chapter covers the structure of Union Territory administration and inter-departmental coordination, the anti-corruption framework governing Chandigarh's public service, legal and judicial administration, police modernisation and internal security, regulatory governance quality, the reduction of administrative red tape, and the civil service capacity constraints that recur as a theme across earlier chapters of this report.

15.1 Structure of Union Territory Administration and Inter-Departmental Coordination

Chandigarh's administrative structure, established in Chapter 1, Section 1.2, centres on an Administrator appointed by the President of India, an office held ex officio by the sitting Governor of Punjab since 1984, supported by a Chief Secretary and a cadre of civil servants drawn substantially from the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories Indian Administrative Service cadre. Day-to-day district administration is exercised by a Deputy Commissioner, with the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation functioning as a parallel, independently elected civic body rather than a subordinate tier, an arrangement this report has returned to repeatedly across preceding chapters, most notably in Chapter 11's analysis of the Municipal Corporation's own financial capacity constraints.

This report identifies a specific, well-documented illustration of the inter-departmental coordination challenge inherent in this structure, one directly relevant to the anti-corruption architecture examined in Section 15.2 below: the office of Chief Vigilance Officer for the Union Territory, which by long-standing convention across most Indian administrative structures is held by the Home Secretary, has instead been held by the Adviser to the Administrator, a separate senior post within Chandigarh's administrative hierarchy, an arrangement that a Tribune investigation characterised as a serious anomaly contributing directly to weak Vigilance Department functioning, given that the Vigilance Department is institutionally interlinked with both the Department of Law and Justice and the Police Department, whose charges were, at the time of that reporting, divided between the Adviser and the Home Secretary rather than consolidated under a single accountable authority (Tribune News Service, 2012). This report treats this specific finding, while drawn from reporting that is now more than a decade old, as illustrative of a structural risk inherent in Chandigarh's administrative model more broadly: because the Union Territory's senior civil service positions are comparatively few in number relative to a full state's administrative hierarchy, and because portfolio allocation among these few senior positions is determined administratively rather than through the kind of dedicated, single-purpose ministerial structure a state government would maintain, charge-sharing arrangements of the kind documented above can persist for extended periods without institutional correction, with

direct consequences for the effectiveness of whichever specific governance function, in this case anti-corruption vigilance, ends up structurally under-resourced as a result. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration conduct a current, dated review of senior portfolio allocation across its administrative hierarchy, specifically to confirm whether the Chief Vigilance Officer charge-sharing anomaly documented above has since been resolved, given the direct bearing this specific structural question has on the anti-corruption enforcement effectiveness examined in the following section.

15.2 Anti-Corruption Framework: Lokayukta, Vigilance and Enforcement

Chandigarh's anti-corruption institutional architecture differs structurally from that of its two neighbouring states in a way this report considers important to state directly: unlike Punjab and Haryana, both of which maintain dedicated state Lokayukta institutions, of the kind whose 2025-26 annual report from Haryana Lokayukta Justice Hari Pal Verma this report reviewed in the course of researching this chapter, Chandigarh, as a Union Territory without its own legislature, has no dedicated Lokayukta institution of its own. Instead, anti-corruption oversight of Chandigarh's public service operates through the Central Vigilance Commission's jurisdiction, exercised locally through the Office of the Chief Vigilance Officer, currently vested in the Adviser to the Administrator as documented in Section 15.1, and through a dedicated Vigilance Division comprising the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Vigilance, which coordinates directly with both the Central Vigilance Commission and the Central Bureau of Investigation on complaints, petitions, and source reports concerning corruption within the Union Territory's public services (Chandigarh Administration, n.d.-c). The Office of the Officer on Special Duty, Vigilance, has been formally declared a dedicated Police Station with jurisdiction across the whole of the Union Territory specifically for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, with the Officer on Special Duty, holding the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, empowered under Section 17 of that Act to investigate and arrest without a magistrate's order, powers similarly extended to Inspectors of Police posted within the Vigilance Cell (e-Vigilance Chandigarh, n.d.). The Union Territory additionally operates a dedicated e-Vigilance online portal enabling Chandigarh Administration employees to apply for vigilance clearance electronically, an administrative digitisation measure this report considers consistent with the broader e-governance findings examined in Chapter 16 (e-Vigilance Chandigarh, n.d.).

This report identifies specific, historically documented evidence of enforcement effectiveness concerns within this architecture that it considers important to present transparently rather than describe the institutional structure alone. Tribune reporting documented a period in which the Union Territory's own Vigilance Department, in the reporting's own characterisation, appeared to be in "deep slumber," having laid not a single trap and made only one arrest over a two-year period, in marked contrast to the Central Bureau of Investigation's own enforcement record over the same period, during which it arrested four Union Territory police personnel for graft, including a head constable and two sub-inspectors caught accepting bribes ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹2 lakh, alongside several other officers including a Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Tribune News Service, n.d.-p). This report considers

this specific finding, that the Union Territory's own dedicated Vigilance Department substantially underperformed the central investigative agency's enforcement activity within Chandigarh's own jurisdiction over the same time period, to be a genuinely significant governance concern, independent of the precise year in which this specific reporting was published, since it points to a structural enforcement capacity gap rather than a single anomalous period. This finding is further corroborated by an earlier, separately documented episode in which the Central Bureau of Investigation's own Anti-Corruption Bureau, rather than the Union Territory's Vigilance Department, indicted Chandigarh's Department of Food and Supplies for irregularities in the maintenance of Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line ration cards and in the monitoring of food grain procurement, allocation, and distribution, following a surprise raid that found several fair price shops operating without valid licences that had not been renewed since March 2008 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-q). This report also notes that the Punjab and Haryana High Court itself transferred a 2009 teachers' recruitment scam investigation away from the Union Territory's own Vigilance Department to the Delhi unit of the Central Bureau of Investigation, a transfer this report considers a further, judicially validated indication of limited institutional confidence in the Union Territory's own vigilance enforcement capacity at that time (Tribune News Service, 2012).

This report's overall assessment, synthesising the structural finding documented in Section 15.1 with the enforcement performance evidence documented in this section, is that Chandigarh's anti-corruption architecture, while formally comprehensive on paper through its integration with the Central Vigilance Commission and Central Bureau of Investigation, has historically depended more heavily on central agency intervention than on effective independent Union Territory-level enforcement, a pattern this report considers directly traceable to the Chief Vigilance Officer charge-sharing anomaly documented in Section 15.1. This report was unable to identify more recent, dated performance data confirming whether this enforcement capacity gap persists as of 2026, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish current, annual Vigilance Department performance data, including the number of traps laid, arrests made, and cases successfully prosecuted, on the model of the annual reporting Haryana's own Lokayukta institution publishes, to allow this specific, historically documented enforcement capacity concern to be assessed against current evidence rather than the somewhat dated reporting this report was able to identify within the sources available.

15.3 Legal and Judicial Administration: Pendency, Access and Reform

Chandigarh's judicial administration operates through the Punjab and Haryana High Court, documented in Chapter 1 as a shared institution common to Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory, housed within Le Corbusier's Capitol Complex and examined in Chapter 11 in the context of its UNESCO World Heritage status. The High Court has moved toward procedural modernisation in recent years, having mandated electronic filing with effect from November 6, 2024, and January 7, 2025, for specified categories of proceedings (High Court of Punjab

and Haryana, n.d.), a digitisation measure this report considers consistent with the broader technology-enabled service delivery themes examined in Chapter 16.

On case pendency specifically, this report has identified a multi-year data series from National Crime Records Bureau reporting that allows a genuine trend assessment of Chandigarh's police investigation pendency, a distinct though related concern to judicial case pendency proper. In 2020, Chandigarh recorded the eighth-highest pendency of Indian Penal Code cases among all jurisdictions nationally, with 54.4 percent of cases left pending for investigation at year-end, comprising 4,985 total cases under investigation of which only 2,274 were disposed of, a disposal rate of 45.6 percent, with police officials attributing the shortfall to pandemic-related lockdown disruption and the demands of frequent public protests within the city (Tribune News Service, n.d.-r). By 2021, Chandigarh's relative ranking had improved somewhat to the 11th-highest pendency nationally, though the underlying figures remained broadly comparable, with 5,146 total cases under investigation and 2,690 disposed of, a disposal rate of 52.3 percent, with police again citing staff shortages and the demands of processions, VIP duties, and religious functions as contributing factors to the persistent investigation backlog (Tribune News Service, n.d.-s). Cases registered under Special and Local Laws showed a somewhat more favourable, though still substantial, pendency rate of 40 to 42.5 percent across the same two years (Tribune News Service, n.d.-r, n.d.-s).

This report considers the consistency of the specific causal factors cited by police officials across both years examined, staff shortages and the operational burden of frequent public protests and VIP security duties specific to Chandigarh's function as a dual-state capital documented throughout this report, to lend credibility to these explanations as genuine, structural rather than one-off contributors to the Union Territory's persistent investigation pendency, rather than dismissing them as post-hoc excuses. This report notes the direct connection between this finding and the civil service vacancy data examined in Section 15.7 below, since the approximately 250 vacant posts documented within the Police Department in Chapter 3, Section 3.7, would, if filled, directly address the staff shortage factor cited as contributing to this chapter's documented investigation pendency trend, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration treat accelerated police recruitment specifically as a judicial and investigative pendency reduction measure, not merely as a general public service staffing target, given this direct, evidence-based linkage.

15.4 Police Modernisation and Internal Security Management

Building directly on the pendency findings documented in Section 15.3, this report identifies a further specific concern regarding investigative and prosecutorial outcome quality within Chandigarh's police administration, examined here through the National Crime Records Bureau's 2022 reporting on crime against women cases specifically. That reporting found 53 percent of Chandigarh's crime against women cases pending at year-end, comprising 789 total cases of which 418 remained under investigation, with the Union Territory's Senior Superintendent of Police at the time stating that cases were generally disposed of within 60 days and that the year-end pendency figure predominantly reflected cases registered in

November or December of that same year, a partial mitigating explanation this report notes but was unable to independently verify against disaggregated monthly case registration data (Tribune News Service, n.d.-t). Of the cases that were disposed of during 2022, Chandigarh police achieved a chargesheeting rate of 62.2 percent, with a total of 55 persons convicted, comprising 50 men and five women, against 125 persons acquitted, comprising 110 men and 15 women (Tribune News Service, n.d.-t), a conviction-to-acquittal ratio of approximately one conviction for every 2.3 acquittals that this report considers a significant, specifically documented outcome quality concern warranting direct attention from the Chandigarh Police Department, independent of the chargesheeting rate itself, since a chargesheet filed is not equivalent to a conviction secured, and this specific ratio suggests either evidentiary or prosecutorial quality issues meriting focused institutional review. A local senior citizens' association president, cited in the same reporting, specifically characterised the 53 percent pendency rate as alarming (Tribune News Service, n.d.-t), a characterisation this report considers a reasonable, evidence-consistent public assessment of the finding documented in this section.

Chandigarh's police administration is structured, as documented in Chapter 1, under an Inspector General of Police, assisted by a Deputy Inspector General, with separate Senior Superintendents of Police for crime and law and order on one hand and traffic and security on the other, and received the third-largest sectoral Budget allocation in the Union Territory's 2026-27 Budget, at ₹970.53 crore or 14.83 percent of the total, as documented in Chapter 2. This report considers the combination of substantial and growing Budget allocation, documented in Chapter 2, alongside the specific, persistent investigation pendency and conviction outcome concerns documented in this section and Section 15.3, to indicate that Chandigarh's police modernisation priority should be understood as one of investigative and prosecutorial process quality and staffing sufficiency, examined further in Section 15.7, rather than primarily one of resource scarcity, given the comparatively substantial fiscal allocation the department already receives relative to several other Budget heads documented in Chapter 2.

15.5 Regulatory Governance: Quality, Consistency and Independence

Chandigarh's regulatory governance architecture, examined substantively in Chapter 4 in the context of industrial policy and ease of doing business, centres on the single-window clearance system and deemed approval provisions introduced under the Industrial Policy of 2015, alongside sector-specific regulatory bodies including the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission examined in Chapter 9, which regulates Chandigarh jointly with other Union Territories lacking the population and market scale to justify a dedicated, standalone electricity regulatory commission. This report reiterates its Chapter 9 finding that this shared regulatory structure has directly and demonstrably slowed specific reform implementation, citing the Renewable Energy Service Company scheme's implementation delay, approved by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission in 2022 but held up pending central government guidelines, as concrete evidence of the practical cost this shared, centrally coordinated regulatory model can impose on Union Territory-specific policy implementation timelines.

This report considers the regulatory governance quality concerns documented across this chapter, spanning the anti-corruption enforcement capacity gap documented in Section 15.2, the specific charge-sharing structural anomaly documented in Section 15.1, and the shared electricity regulatory commission implementation delay documented in Chapter 9, to share a common underlying theme: Chandigarh's comparatively small administrative scale, while efficient in many respects documented favourably elsewhere in this report, including the Union Territory's consistently strong Performance Grading Index and SDG India Index standing documented in Chapter 1 and Chapter 5, also means that regulatory and oversight functions requiring dedicated, specialised institutional capacity, whether anti-corruption vigilance or electricity sector regulation, are more likely to be structurally shared, under-resourced, or dependent on central coordination than would be the case for a full state with the scale to justify dedicated, standalone institutions for each such function. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration conduct a systematic review of which specific regulatory and oversight functions currently operate through shared, multi-jurisdiction, or dual-charge arrangements of the kind documented throughout this chapter, and assess, function by function, whether dedicated Union Territory-specific institutional capacity would meaningfully improve regulatory quality and independence relative to the current shared arrangements, rather than assuming shared arrangements are necessarily the most efficient model simply because they conserve scarce senior administrative capacity.

15.6 Reduction of Red-Tapism: Simplification and Way Forward

Chandigarh's red-tape reduction efforts, examined in Chapter 4, Section 4.1 and Section 4.2, centre on the single-window clearance and deemed approval mechanisms introduced under the Industrial Policy of 2015, and on the Union Territory's broader e-District service delivery portal, documented in Chapter 7, Section 7.9, operational since May 28, 2017, and examined further in Chapter 16 in the context of the Union Territory's digital governance architecture more broadly. This report reiterates its Chapter 4 finding that these formal simplification measures have coexisted, somewhat uncomfortably, with a documented decline in Chandigarh's Ease of Living Index Economic Ability sub-index ranking, from first position nationally in the 2018 edition to 34th position in the 2020 edition, a decline this report considers directly relevant to assessing whether Chandigarh's formal red-tape reduction measures have translated into genuinely improved citizen and business-facing ease of doing business, or whether structural implementation gaps, of the kind documented throughout this chapter in the anti-corruption and regulatory governance domains, have limited these formal measures' practical effectiveness.

This report's overall assessment is that Chandigarh's red-tape reduction strategy is well designed on paper, drawing on genuinely modern instruments including single-window clearance, deemed approval, and comprehensive e-District digital service delivery, but that the Union Territory's own Ease of Living Index performance data provides direct, credible evidence that citizens and businesses have not, at least as of the most recent available assessment cycle, experienced these formal measures as delivering a correspondingly

improved practical experience of interacting with Union Territory administration. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration commission a dedicated, citizen and business-facing service delivery experience survey, distinct from and more granular than the national Ease of Living Index assessment, to identify specifically which administrative processes continue to generate the kind of Economic Ability and Citizen Perception dissatisfaction reflected in that index's declining sub-scores, so that the Union Territory's genuinely substantial investment in formal simplification measures can be targeted more precisely at the specific processes still generating the greatest citizen and business friction.

15.7 Civil Service Strength: Vacancy Rates and Training Institutions

Civil service staffing constraints recur as one of the most consistently documented findings across this entire report, and this section synthesises that evidence directly in the context of overall administrative governance capacity. As established in Chapter 3, Section 3.7, and Chapter 5, Section 5.5, the Chandigarh Administration carried approximately 4,300 total vacancies across its departments as of the most recent reporting reviewed, comprising nearly 1,500 teaching posts within the Education Department, over 350 clerical posts, more than 250 posts within the Police Department, directly relevant to the investigation pendency findings documented in Section 15.3 and Section 15.4 above, over 200 posts within the Health Department, and nearly 300 vacant assistant professor posts in government colleges, even as the Administration simultaneously employed approximately 17,000 outsourced staff and 5,000 contractual staff across its departments to partially offset this sanctioned-post vacancy backlog (Tribune News Service, 2026f).

This report considers this vacancy backlog, examined here specifically from an administrative governance capacity perspective rather than the sector-specific perspectives taken in Chapter 3 and Chapter 5, to represent the single most consistently evidenced, cross-cutting administrative capacity constraint identified anywhere in this framework, touching directly on the investigation and judicial pendency concerns documented in Section 15.3, the police outcome quality concerns documented in Section 15.4, and, by direct extension of the Chapter 5 findings, the Union Territory's broader public service delivery capacity across education and health alongside core administrative and law enforcement functions. This report does not attempt to identify data on the specific civil service training institutions serving Chandigarh's Union Territory cadre beyond the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories cadre training infrastructure documented at the national level for Indian Administrative Service officers, since this report was unable to identify a dedicated, Union Territory-specific civil service training institution operating within Chandigarh distinct from this shared national cadre training architecture, and it flags this as a further specific data gap, recommending that the Chandigarh Administration clarify what dedicated induction and in-service training infrastructure, if any, exists specifically for the Union Territory's own non-Indian Administrative Service civil service workforce, given the scale of the recruitment and capacity building challenge this section's vacancy data indicates lies ahead.

Taken together, this chapter's findings present a genuinely mixed picture of Chandigarh's administrative governance architecture: a Union Territory with strong formal institutional design across regulatory simplification, digital service delivery, and its integration with national anti-corruption oversight mechanisms, set against specific, well-documented, and in several cases historically persistent implementation and capacity gaps, from the Chief Vigilance Officer charge-sharing anomaly documented in Section 15.1, through the anti-corruption enforcement capacity concerns documented in Section 15.2, to the approximately 4,300-post civil service vacancy backlog documented in this section, that together constitute this report's core recommendation for Chandigarh's administrative governance reform agenda going forward: that sustained, accelerated recruitment against existing sanctioned vacancies, combined with a systematic review of shared or dual-charge institutional arrangements of the kind documented throughout this chapter, be treated as at minimum as high a governance reform priority as any further formal policy or process redesign, given how directly and consistently this chapter's evidence links Chandigarh's specific implementation gaps back to these two underlying structural constraints

CHAPTER 16: TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED SERVICE DELIVERY

Technology-enabled service delivery is an area where this report's research surfaced some of the most concrete, internationally recognised evidence of institutional achievement found anywhere in this framework, centred substantially on Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre. This chapter examines digital infrastructure and connectivity coverage, the Union Territory's e-governance architecture and digital public infrastructure, citizen service delivery channels, data governance and privacy frameworks, cybersecurity institutional mechanisms, and the emerging technologies now being deployed within Chandigarh's smart governance systems.

16.1 Digital Infrastructure: Broadband, Optical Fibre and Connectivity Coverage

Chandigarh's underlying digital connectivity infrastructure, documented in Chapter 1 and Chapter 3, recorded 1.74 million wireless telecom subscribers and 0.17 million wireline subscribers as of December 2025, according to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India data (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026), a subscriber base this report considers substantial relative to the Union Territory's total resident population of approximately 1.06 million as per the 2011 Census, indicating either multiple-device penetration per resident, a meaningful non-resident daily commuting population drawing on Chandigarh's telecom infrastructure, or both, consistent with the tri-city functional integration documented throughout this report. This report was unable to identify disaggregated fixed-line broadband or optical fibre network coverage data specific to Chandigarh, distinct from the wireline subscriber figure cited above, and it flags this as a specific data gap, though it notes that the digital education infrastructure findings documented in Chapter 5, Section 5.6, which identified Chandigarh alongside Delhi and Goa as having near-universal digital infrastructure in schools, together with the extensive Integrated Command and Control Centre connectivity architecture examined in Section 16.2 below, provide strong circumstantial evidence of comprehensive underlying broadband infrastructure across the Union Territory's public institutions, even in the absence of a directly published household or business broadband penetration figure.

16.2 e-Governance Architecture and Digital Public Infrastructure

The centrepiece of Chandigarh's e-governance architecture is its Integrated Command and Control Centre, established under the Smart Cities Mission examined extensively in Chapter 11, at a capital cost this report's sources place at either ₹295 crore, as documented in an Asian Development Bank publication, or ₹334 crore, as documented in Chandigarh Smart City Limited's own final accounting reviewed in Chapter 11, a modest discrepancy this report attributes to differing project phase or cost-component boundaries between the two sources rather than a substantive factual conflict (Asian Development Bank, 2026; Tribune News

Service, 2025c). The Integrated Command and Control Centre functions as the technical and operational hub integrating a wide range of municipal and citizen-facing digital services, including water supply mapping, Geographic Information System-based road mapping, solid waste management monitoring through Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition systems, fuel management and Global Positioning System tracking for a fleet of 450 municipal vehicles, and a unified citizen-facing mobile application named "I am Chandigarh," which consolidates multiple civic service channels into a single digital public interface (Rana, 2023, as cited in ResearchGate).

This report considers the most significant independent validation of this architecture's quality to be its formal recognition in the national ICCM Maturity Assessment Framework 2.0, in which Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre was declared the top performer nationally in June 2024, with particularly strong scores specifically in cybersecurity, data governance, and operational resilience, three dimensions this report examines further in Section 16.4 and Section 16.5 below (Asian Development Bank, 2026). This top-national-ranking finding, documented in a peer-reviewed-style Asian Development Bank publication rather than solely in domestic promotional material, lends this report considerably more confidence in presenting Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre as a genuine institutional achievement than would be the case had this finding rested on Chandigarh Administration self-reporting alone. The same Asian Development Bank account documents the Integrated Command and Control Centre's subsequent evolution to incorporate artificial intelligence and machine learning-based forecasting specifically for urban planning and predictive infrastructure maintenance functions, examined further in Section 16.6 below, and candidly documents the implementation's early challenges, including resistance from individual departments reluctant to share their own operational data into the centralised system, funding constraints that slowed initial progress, and genuine public hesitation linked to surveillance and privacy concerns, challenges the account states were gradually overcome through sustained inter-departmental dialogue, consistent political support across successive Union Territory leadership, and a deliberate institutional commitment to citizen-first solution design (Asian Development Bank, 2026). This report considers this candid documentation of early implementation friction, rather than a purely celebratory account, to strengthen rather than weaken the credibility of the Integrated Command and Control Centre's subsequent top-national-ranking achievement, since it demonstrates the achievement was the product of genuine institutional problem-solving rather than an unusually smooth implementation process.

16.3 Citizen Service Delivery: CSCs, Service Portals and Mobile Governance

Chandigarh's citizen-facing digital service delivery architecture operates across several complementary channels documented across this report. The e-District portal, examined in Chapter 7, Section 7.9, has been operational since May 28, 2017, providing residents with online access to social welfare pension services including tracking of monthly pension credit status and flagging of Aadhaar-inactive beneficiary accounts requiring bank seeding (Scheme Kosh, 2026). The e-Vigilance portal, examined in Chapter 15, Section 15.2, provides

Chandigarh Administration employees with online vigilance clearance application capability. The "I am Chandigarh" mobile application, documented in Section 16.2, functions as the Union Territory's unified citizen-facing mobile governance channel, integrating multiple municipal service categories within the broader Integrated Command and Control Centre architecture (Rana, 2023, as cited in ResearchGate).

Chandigarh's digital service delivery achievements have received direct national and international presentation, most notably when then Mayor Anup Gupta presented the Union Territory's major digital initiatives during the first session of the U20 Mayoral Summit, held under India's G20 presidency in Ahmedabad, showcasing systems including overspeeding detection, closed-circuit television surveillance, intelligent traffic management, adaptive traffic control, video analytics, and automatic number plate recognition, all integrated with the Integrated Command and Control Centre (Tribune News Service, n.d.-u). This report considers the selection of Chandigarh's Mayor to present these initiatives at an international G20-linked forum to represent a further, credible external validation of the Union Territory's digital governance achievement, consistent with the ICCC Maturity Assessment Framework top ranking documented in Section 16.2. This report was unable to identify data on Common Service Centre density or utilisation specifically within Chandigarh, a delivery channel more commonly emphasised in rural and semi-urban states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, and it considers this absence consistent with Chandigarh's near-total urbanisation, documented in Chapter 1, and its correspondingly heavier reliance on mobile application and web portal-based service delivery channels of the kind documented throughout this section, rather than representing a meaningful service delivery gap for the Union Territory's specific demographic and geographic profile.

16.4 Data Governance, Open Data Policy and Privacy Framework

Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre's top-ranked performance specifically on the data governance dimension of the national ICCC Maturity Assessment Framework 2.0, documented in Section 16.2, represents this report's strongest available evidence regarding the Union Territory's data governance capability (Asian Development Bank, 2026). This report was unable to identify a separately published, standalone open data policy or public data portal specific to Chandigarh, distinct from the operational data governance embedded within the Integrated Command and Control Centre's internal systems, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Administration consider publishing a dedicated open data policy and public-facing data portal, potentially built on the data infrastructure that has already earned the Union Territory's top national data governance ranking, to extend the benefits of this strong internal data governance capability toward external researcher, journalist, and citizen access, a step this report considers a natural next evolution given the underlying capability already demonstrated.

On privacy specifically, the Asian Development Bank's own account of the Integrated Command and Control Centre's implementation history documents that public hesitation linked to surveillance and privacy concerns was a genuine, acknowledged challenge during the system's early rollout, addressed through sustained dialogue rather than through a

formally published, standalone privacy policy or citizen data protection framework that this report was able to independently identify (Asian Development Bank, 2026). Given the scale of closed-circuit television surveillance documented in Section 16.5 below, encompassing well over 1,000 and, by more recent reporting, over 2,000 cameras integrated with artificial intelligence-based video analytics, this report considers the absence of a clearly published, standalone citizen privacy and data protection framework specific to this surveillance infrastructure to represent a meaningful governance gap, notwithstanding the system's otherwise strong data governance ranking, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration publish a dedicated privacy framework specifically addressing the terms of data retention, access, and use governing the Integrated Command and Control Centre's surveillance and citizen service data, consistent with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, now in force at the national level, to formally reassure the residents whose initial hesitation the Asian Development Bank's own account explicitly documents.

16.5 Cybersecurity: Union Territory-Level Institutional Mechanisms

Cybersecurity represents, alongside data governance, one of the specific dimensions on which Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre achieved its top national ranking in the ICCC Maturity Assessment Framework 2.0 in June 2024 (Asian Development Bank, 2026), a finding this report considers particularly significant given the scale of citizen-facing digital infrastructure now integrated through this single system, spanning water supply, solid waste management, transport, policing, and e-governance functions documented throughout this chapter. This report was unable to identify further disaggregated detail on the specific cybersecurity institutional mechanisms, incident response protocols, or dedicated cybersecurity personnel underpinning this top-ranked assessment result, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration publish additional detail on its cybersecurity governance architecture, both to allow this report and future editions of this framework to document the specific institutional practices underlying this strong assessment outcome, and to provide a documented model that other Union Territories and states within this broader national CDF series might draw upon, given Chandigarh's demonstrated top-national standing on this specific dimension.

The physical surveillance infrastructure integrated with this cybersecurity architecture has expanded substantially over time: at the Police Command and Control Centre's inauguration by then Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, officials documented more than 1,000 cameras installed for real-time surveillance across approximately 285 locations, including traffic junctions, water works, parks, government hospitals, community centres, parking locations, and schools, using artificial intelligence-based advanced video analytics capable of generating automatic event alerts (Tribune News Service, n.d.-v). By the time of a subsequent visit by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, this camera network had expanded to over 2,000 units, with the Integrated Command and Control Centre by that point integrated with major citizen services spanning water, electricity, sewage, solid waste management, transport, e-governance, parking, and public bike-sharing systems (Deccan Herald, n.d.). This report considers the sustained, multi-year expansion of this surveillance and service integration

architecture, evidenced by the growth from approximately 1,000 to over 2,000 cameras across the two inauguration events documented above, together with its top-ranked cybersecurity and data governance assessment result, to represent credible evidence of sustained institutional investment and capability building in this domain, reinforcing this report's overall assessment that Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre stands among the strongest specific institutional achievements documented anywhere in this framework.

16.6 Emerging Technologies: AI, Geospatial Systems and Smart Governance

Chandigarh's deployment of artificial intelligence and geospatial technologies is concentrated substantially, though not exclusively, within the Integrated Command and Control Centre architecture examined throughout this chapter. On artificial intelligence specifically, the system's video analytics capability, documented in Section 16.5, uses artificial intelligence to generate automatic event alerts from its camera network, while the Centre's more recent evolution has incorporated artificial intelligence and machine learning-based forecasting specifically for urban planning and predictive infrastructure maintenance, moving the system's function beyond real-time monitoring and response toward anticipatory, forecasting-based urban management (Asian Development Bank, 2026). On traffic management specifically, the Adaptive Traffic Control System deployed across Chandigarh's junctions has delivered measurable, quantified outcomes: Mayor Anup Gupta's presentation at the U20 Mayoral Summit documented a reduction of 60 tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the intelligent traffic management and adaptive traffic control systems, alongside financial savings of approximately ₹25 lakh per month at each junction where the Adaptive Traffic Control System operates, achieved through optimised fuel consumption resulting from reduced idling and improved traffic flow (Tribune News Service, n.d.-u). This report considers these two specific, quantified outcomes, the greenhouse gas emissions reduction and the substantial recurring monthly fuel cost saving per junction, to represent genuinely strong, independently verifiable evidence of the emerging technology deployment documented in this section delivering measurable public value, in contrast to several other technology deployment claims examined elsewhere in this national CDF series that this report was unable to verify against comparably specific, quantified outcome data.

On geospatial systems specifically, the Integrated Command and Control Centre's Geographic Information System-based road mapping and water supply mapping capabilities, documented in Section 16.2, provide the underlying spatial data infrastructure supporting the broader smart governance functions examined throughout this chapter, and this report notes the direct connection between this geospatial capability and the 24x7 water supply project's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system integration documented in Chapter 10, Section 10.1, indicating that Chandigarh's geospatial and real-time monitoring infrastructure investment spans multiple sectoral domains rather than being confined solely to the transport and surveillance applications most visibly showcased in the Union Territory's public communications. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration systematically document and publish the full range of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and

geospatial applications currently integrated across its various sectoral digital systems, from the Integrated Command and Control Centre's traffic and surveillance functions to the water supply and solid waste management systems examined in Chapter 9 and Chapter 10, in a single, consolidated smart governance technology inventory, both to provide a complete evidentiary record for future editions of this framework and to support the kind of cross-Union Territory and cross-state knowledge transfer this report considers Chandigarh's demonstrated capability in this domain well positioned to support.

Taken together, this chapter's findings represent, in this report's overall assessment, one of the more unambiguously positive institutional performance stories documented anywhere in this framework, anchored by the Integrated Command and Control Centre's independently validated, top-ranked national performance on the ICCC Maturity Assessment Framework 2.0 and by concrete, quantified operational outcomes including measurable greenhouse gas emissions reduction and substantial recurring fuel cost savings. The specific gaps this report has identified, particularly the absence of a standalone, publicly documented citizen privacy framework specifically addressing the Integrated Command and Control Centre's extensive surveillance data, examined in Section 16.4, and the absence of a public-facing open data portal extending the system's strong internal data governance capability to external users, examined in the same section, represent, in this report's assessment, refinements to an already strong foundation rather than fundamental institutional weaknesses of the kind documented in other chapters of this framework, including the anti-corruption enforcement capacity concerns documented in Chapter 15.

CHAPTER 17: INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Chandigarh's innovation and knowledge economy chapter benefits from some of the most current and detailed policy documentation identified anywhere in this framework, centred on the Chandigarh Startup Policy 2025, whose long and, in this report's assessment, instructive path from initial conception to formal notification illustrates both the Union Territory's genuine institutional ambition in this domain and the administrative friction that can accompany even well-designed policy initiatives. This chapter examines the Union Territory's innovation ecosystem and accelerator infrastructure, research and development linkages between academic institutions and industry, intellectual property support mechanisms, the role of Chandigarh's knowledge institutions as development engines, the specific architecture being built to cultivate youth innovation, and the skill development priorities required to align Chandigarh's workforce with this emerging knowledge economy.

17.1 Union Territory Innovation Ecosystem: Startups and Accelerators

The Chandigarh Startup Policy 2025 represents the centrepiece of the Union Territory's innovation ecosystem architecture, and its own implementation history offers this report a genuinely instructive case study in sustained policy development. The policy had been under deliberation since 2018, with the Chandigarh Administration first unveiling a draft version, including a dedicated fund for the local startup ecosystem, on September 3, 2022, before then Administrator Banwarilal Purohit approved the policy with suggested revisions the following October, specifically emphasising the need to simplify its administrative procedures (Tribune News Service, n.d.-w). The policy finally received its conclusive approval from Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria on April 7, 2025, seven years after initial deliberation began, with formal notification by the Department of Industries following on April 29, 2025, and detailed Operational Guidelines subsequently issued to govern its implementation (Elets eGov, 2025; Tribune News Service, n.d.-w). This report considers this extended, multi-administrator gestation period itself a meaningful finding, illustrating that even a policy ultimately assessed favourably, as this report assesses the finished Startup Policy 2025 below, can require years of iterative revision, and successive leadership approval, before formal notification, a pattern this report considers worth bearing in mind when assessing the implementation timelines of other, more recently announced Chandigarh policy initiatives documented elsewhere in this framework, including the new Industrial Policy examined in Chapter 4.

The finished policy commits ₹10 crore annually toward a total five-year corpus of ₹50 crore specifically to boost entrepreneurship and strengthen incubation infrastructure within the Union Territory (Tribune News Service, n.d.-w), a figure this report notes is consistent with the ₹10 crore annual allocation documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.9, in the context of the Start-in-Chandigarh nodal cell. Under the policy, three government higher education institutions and one private higher education institution have been designated as Union Territory-recognised incubators, with each government incubator eligible for up to ₹30 lakh in technology upgrade grant support and the private incubator eligible for up to ₹20 lakh, alongside an annual sustenance allowance of ₹7.5 lakh per incubator for operational expenses and a further ₹5 lakh annually to support dedicated mentorship and training programming (Tribune News Service, n.d.-w). The policy additionally earmarks ₹90 lakh annually for a dedicated grand startup competition, under which the year's top 20 startups each receive a ₹2 lakh grant alongside a full year of incubation support, with a further tier of 50 runner-up startups receiving additional, lesser support (Tribune News Service, n.d.-w).

Beyond this competition and incubator-support architecture, the policy's broader incentive structure includes patent filing support covering 80 percent of filing costs up to ₹10,000 per startup, examined further in Section 17.3, reimbursement of up to ₹2.5 lakh for national and international conference participation, up to ₹3 lakh in acceleration programme support, free access to incubation facilities for a startup's first year, relaxed public procurement norms specifically favouring startup participation, self-certification eligibility under six specified labour laws, and subsidised exhibition stalls at major trade fairs including the India International Trade Fair (Elets eGov, 2025; TICE News, 2025). Eligible startups must hold recognition from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, be located within Chandigarh, maintain annual turnover not exceeding ₹100 crore in any preceding fiscal year, and refrain from simultaneously availing benefits from similar schemes elsewhere for the same product or innovation, with policy benefits available to a qualifying startup for up to ten years or until its turnover exceeds the ₹100 crore threshold, whichever comes first (Tribune News Service, n.d.-x; Elets eGov, 2025). All applications route through the dedicated Start-in-Chandigarh digital portal, with initial scrutiny performed by a dedicated Startup Cell, quarterly evaluation and approval by a Project Monitoring and Implementation Committee assessing merit, feasibility, and comparative ranking against available funds, and any complaints of misrepresentation or fraud referred to a High-Powered Committee empowered to review and, where necessary, revise the governing Operational Guidelines (TeamLease RegTech, 2026).

Beyond this Startup Policy-specific architecture, Chandigarh's broader innovation ecosystem draws on the Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster, alongside institution-specific incubation infrastructure including Punjab Engineering College's own Entrepreneurship and Incubation Cell and Chandigarh University's Technology Business Incubator, with the tri-city region's overall startup sector strength concentrated specifically in information technology, medical technology, education technology, and Software-as-a-Service ventures, a sectoral concentration this report considers directly

consistent with the tertiary sector dominance and information technology corridor findings documented in Chapter 3 (Startup Grants India, 2026).

17.2 Research and Development: Academic-Industry Linkages

Chandigarh's research and development ecosystem benefits from an unusually dense concentration of academic and research institutions within and immediately adjacent to the Union Territory, a density this report has documented across preceding chapters and now examines specifically through the lens of academic-industry linkage. The launch of the Chandigarh Startup Policy 2025 itself served as a direct forum for demonstrating these linkages, with representation from Panjab University, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Punjab Engineering College, the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali, the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, the Indian School of Business Mohali, the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, and the Software Technology Parks of India, alongside industry associations including the Confederation of Indian Industry, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, The Indus Entrepreneurs network, and investor networks including the Chandigarh Angels Network, Punjab Angels Network, and Innovation Mission Punjab (Elets eGov, 2025; TICE News, 2025).

The single most significant new academic-industry-government linkage initiative identified in this chapter's research is the proposed development of Chandigarh into a hi-tech fintech city, explicitly modelled on Gujarat's GIFT City, announced by Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner and Industries Secretary Nishant Kumar Yadav, with a detailed proposal for formal Union government approval targeted for submission by November of the announcement year (Tribune News Service, n.d.-y). This report considers this proposal, if implemented, to represent a potentially significant evolution of Chandigarh's tertiary sector strategy documented in Chapter 3, extending the Union Territory's existing strength in financial and professional services, documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, into a dedicated, purpose-built financial technology hub of the kind that has driven substantial international financial services investment into Gujarat's own GIFT City model. This report was unable to confirm the current status of this fintech city proposal's submission or Union government review as of the period covered by this report, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration publish a dated status update, given the potentially significant implications this initiative carries for the Union Territory's broader economic growth corridor strategy documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.9.

On the specifically academic-industry research linkage dimension, then Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria, addressing the policy launch, explicitly urged innovators to strengthen India's agricultural backbone by driving innovation specifically in agriculture, fisheries, and dairy, sectors this report notes carry only marginal direct relevance to Chandigarh's own land-constrained economy documented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 18, but which the Administrator's framing suggests he considers within the addressable scope of Chandigarh-based innovators serving the wider agricultural economies of neighbouring Punjab and Haryana (Tribune News Service, n.d.-y). This report considers this framing a

useful illustration of how Chandigarh's own innovation policy explicitly positions the Union Territory's knowledge economy assets as serving the broader regional, rather than solely Chandigarh-specific, economic base, consistent with the tri-city functional integration theme this report has documented throughout preceding chapters.

17.3 Intellectual Property: Awareness, Registration and Commercialisation

Chandigarh's intellectual property support architecture operates principally through the patent filing support provision embedded within the Startup Policy 2025, documented in Section 17.1, covering 80 percent of a qualifying startup's patent filing costs up to a cap of ₹10,000 (Elets eGov, 2025). This report considers this specific support level, while a genuinely useful contribution to reducing the upfront cost barrier to patent filing for early-stage startups, to be relatively modest in absolute terms relative to the typical cost of securing full patent protection, particularly for international filings, and it notes this finding stands in some tension with the more substantial intellectual property support architecture documented in Chapter 9, Section 9.5, and Chapter 14, Section 14.6, in the context of the separate Electric Vehicle Policy's own patent fee reimbursement provision, which offers a considerably higher cap of ₹2 lakh for national filings and ₹5 lakh for international filings.

This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration consider harmonising the patent support levels available across its various sectoral innovation policies, given the meaningful disparity documented above between the general Startup Policy's ₹10,000 patent support cap and the Electric Vehicle Policy's substantially higher ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh caps, since this disparity could create an uneven incentive structure favouring electric vehicle-related patent filing specifically over patent filing in Chandigarh's other priority innovation sectors, including the information technology, medical technology, and education technology sectors identified as the tri-city region's core startup strengths in Section 17.1. On patent commercialisation specifically, this report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific data on patent-to-product commercialisation rates or technology transfer outcomes from the Union Territory's academic institutions, and it recommends this be tracked and published as a distinct metric from patent filing volume alone, given that filing volume, while a useful leading indicator, does not by itself confirm that Chandigarh's research output is translating into commercially viable products and services.

17.4 Knowledge Institutions as Engines of Development

This report's assessment of Chandigarh's knowledge institutions as development engines draws directly on findings established across Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of this framework, while maintaining the same jurisdictional precision this report has applied consistently throughout: Panjab University and the Government Medical College and Hospital, examined in Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 respectively, sit directly within Chandigarh's own Union Territory boundary, while several of the tri-city region's other prominent research institutions referenced throughout this chapter, including the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali, the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, and the Indian School of Business Mohali, are physically situated within neighbouring Punjab, functioning as part of

the broader, functionally integrated tri-city knowledge ecosystem this report has documented throughout this framework rather than as institutions falling within Chandigarh's own jurisdiction and Gross Union Territory Domestic Product accounting.

Notwithstanding this jurisdictional distinction, this report considers the practical development impact of this dense, tri-city research institution cluster to accrue substantially to Chandigarh regardless of each individual institution's precise municipal address, given Chandigarh's role, documented throughout this report, as the tri-city region's residential, administrative, and professional services core. The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, examined extensively in Chapter 6 as both a clinical and a research institution, together with Panjab University's own research output, documented in Chapter 5's National Institutional Ranking Framework analysis, including its recent entry into the Sustainable Development Goals ranking category and its continued strength in the Innovation category, represent Chandigarh's own directly attributable knowledge institution assets, and this report considers Panjab University's specific NIRF Innovation category standing, documented in Chapter 5, Section 5.3, to be the most direct, quantified evidence available of Chandigarh's own knowledge institutions functioning as genuine development engines rather than purely as educational service providers.

17.5 Building a Youth Innovation and Research Ecosystem

The Startup Policy 2025's provision for Entrepreneurship Cells to be established across schools, colleges, and Industrial Training Institutes represents this report's clearest evidence of a deliberate, structured effort to cultivate youth innovation capacity across Chandigarh's education system, extending entrepreneurship exposure well below the university level into the Union Territory's secondary and technical education institutions examined in Chapter 5 (TICE News, 2025). This report considers this specific provision, embedding entrepreneurship cells within the same school and Industrial Training Institute network already documented in Chapter 5 as achieving strong Performance Grading Index outcomes and near-universal digital infrastructure, to represent a genuinely promising structural foundation for youth innovation capacity building, since it leverages an already comparatively strong underlying education system rather than attempting to build youth entrepreneurship infrastructure from a weaker base.

The Startup Policy's grand startup competition, documented in Section 17.1, with its ₹90 lakh annual allocation supporting the top 20 startups with ₹2 lakh grants and a year of incubation support each, alongside further support for 50 runner-up ventures, provides a concrete, resourced pathway for young innovators to progress from entrepreneurship cell exposure toward funded venture development. Then Administrator Kataria's own public framing of the policy explicitly emphasised its intent to empower young people not merely to earn but to create employment for others, addressing job generation challenges directly, while drawing an explicit historical parallel between the current startup policy movement and India's 1991 economic liberalisation as a comparably significant growth catalyst (Tribune News Service, n.d.-y). This report considers this framing, situating a Union Territory-level startup policy within the same historical register as India's national liberalisation reforms, to be ambitious

rhetoric that the policy's actual, concrete resourcing, documented throughout Section 17.1, only partially matches in absolute fiscal scale, though this report notes that the policy's structural design, spanning school-level entrepreneurship cells through university-level incubation to a resourced competition pathway, does represent a genuinely coherent, multi-stage youth innovation pipeline rather than an isolated, single-point intervention.

This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish annual tracking data on Entrepreneurship Cell establishment progress across its schools, colleges, and Industrial Training Institutes, alongside participation and outcome data for the grand startup competition, to allow this specific youth innovation pipeline's actual implementation progress to be assessed against the ambitious framing under which it was launched, consistent with this report's approach elsewhere in this framework of testing policy rhetoric against subsequently published implementation evidence.

17.6 Skill Development, Employability and Workforce Alignment

This report's assessment of workforce alignment for Chandigarh's knowledge economy draws directly on the labour market findings established in Chapter 3, Section 3.7, and the vocational education findings established in Chapter 5, Section 5.4. As documented in Chapter 3, the tri-city region's technology workforce base, drawing on more than 30,000 information technology graduates, has underpinned the substantial growth in Software Technology Parks of India-tracked information technology exports from the STPI-Mohali unit specifically, and this report considers the Startup Policy 2025's self-certification provision under six specified labour laws, documented in Section 17.1, to represent a further, complementary workforce-facing regulatory ease measure specifically designed to reduce compliance burden for growing startups as they scale their own hiring, consistent with the broader ease of doing business themes examined in Chapter 4 and Chapter 15.

This report considers the proposed fintech city initiative documented in Section 17.2 to carry particularly significant workforce alignment implications, given that a Gujarat GIFT City-modelled financial technology hub would require a specialised workforce combining financial services expertise with information technology and regulatory technology skills, a combination this report considers only partially addressed by Chandigarh's current technical and vocational education ecosystem, documented in Chapter 5, Section 5.4, as facing its own, separately identified national-level scaling challenge relative to the National Education Policy 2020's 50 percent vocational access target. This report recommends that, should the fintech city proposal advance toward formal Union government approval as documented in Section 17.2, the Chandigarh Administration commission a dedicated financial technology workforce needs assessment in advance of the initiative's implementation, drawing on Panjab University's and the tri-city region's broader higher education capacity documented in Chapter 5, to ensure the specialised workforce such an initiative would require is being actively cultivated in parallel with the initiative's own infrastructure and regulatory development, rather than assuming this workforce will emerge organically once the initiative itself is operational.

Taken together, this chapter's findings position Chandigarh as a Union Territory whose innovation and knowledge economy policy architecture, evidenced most concretely through the Startup Policy 2025's detailed, well-resourced, and structurally coherent design, has matured substantially following its own extended, seven-year development process, while also revealing specific areas, including the modest intellectual property support cap documented in Section 17.3 relative to the Union Territory's own more generous Electric Vehicle Policy precedent, and the still-unconfirmed implementation status of the ambitious fintech city proposal documented in Section 17.2, where this report considers continued, close monitoring against the same kind of dated, quantified implementation evidence this report has sought throughout this framework to be essential for assessing whether Chandigarh's genuinely strong innovation policy design translates into the substantive knowledge economy transformation its own leadership has publicly and ambitiously framed it as delivering.

CHAPTER 18: AGRICULTURE, ALLIED SECTORS AND FOOD SECURITY

Agriculture presents this report with perhaps the starkest illustration anywhere in this framework of how directly a Union Territory's land constraints, established from Chapter 1 onward, reshape which conventional development sectors carry genuine policy weight and which instead require honest acknowledgement of their limited applicability. This chapter examines cropping pattern and input use, irrigation and water-use efficiency in agriculture, agricultural marketing and farmer income, food processing and value chain development, animal husbandry and dairy, fisheries, horticulture and floriculture, and agricultural credit and risk management, treating each with the depth its actual relevance to Chandigarh warrants rather than applying uniform emphasis regardless of applicability.

18.1 Cropping Pattern, Agricultural Productivity and Input Use

As established repeatedly throughout this report, most directly in Chapter 3, Section 3.3, agriculture and allied activities contributed approximately 0.56 percent of Chandigarh's Gross Value Added in 2023-24, among the smallest primary sector contributions recorded for any state or Union Territory examined across this national CDF series, a consequence directly traceable to the Union Territory's 114 square kilometre land area, of which the overwhelming majority is built-up urban territory, and its correspondingly small rural population, just 2.75 percent of the total as per the 2011 Census (StatisticsTimes.com, 2025; Census2011.co.in, 2026). This report was unable to identify a dedicated, published cropping pattern assessment, input use survey, or agricultural productivity data series specific to Chandigarh's remaining cultivable land, and it considers this absence consistent with, rather than contradictory to, the negligible scale of the sector this section addresses, since the Union Territory's Department of Agriculture, to the extent one operates independently of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat examined in Chapter 12, would rationally direct its limited institutional capacity toward livelihood transition support for the Union Territory's shrinking agricultural population, documented extensively in Chapter 12, rather than toward the kind of detailed productivity and input-use monitoring that would be operationally justified in a state with a substantial agrarian economy.

This report considers it useful, for context, to situate Chandigarh's negligible agricultural footprint against the vastly different agricultural profile of its immediate neighbours. Punjab and Haryana, the two states whose joint capital Chandigarh serves, together constitute two of India's most agriculturally significant states, historically central to the Green Revolution and continuing to contribute disproportionately to India's central wheat and rice procurement pool. This report considers this juxtaposition, a Union Territory with a functionally negligible agricultural sector serving as the administrative capital of two of India's most agriculturally consequential states, to be a distinctive and, in this report's assessment, underappreciated feature of Chandigarh's development position, one that shapes the Union Territory's own institutional priorities, examined in Section 18.3 and Section 18.4 below, toward agricultural policy coordination and marketing infrastructure serving its neighbouring states' produce, rather than toward direct agricultural production of its own.

18.2 Irrigation and Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture

This report's Chapter 10, Section 10.2, has already established that irrigation infrastructure carries limited independent significance within Chandigarh's own water resource management priorities, given the negligible agricultural sector contribution documented in Section 18.1 above and the Union Territory's correspondingly minimal cultivable land base. This report reiterates that assessment here specifically in the agricultural policy context of this chapter, noting that Chandigarh's water resource allocation strategy, examined extensively in Chapter 10, Section 10.1, in the context of the Kajauli waterworks and the ongoing 24x7 water supply project, is overwhelmingly oriented toward urban drinking water and municipal supply, with the Union Territory's own Economic and Statistical Organisation data confirming, as documented in Chapter 10, that surface water supply is assessed as sufficient specifically to meet the fresh water needs of the Union Territory's population rather than allocated with any meaningful reference to agricultural command area requirements.

This report was unable to identify irrigation efficiency or water-use productivity data specific to whatever residual cultivated land remains within Chandigarh's shrinking rural footprint, documented in Chapter 12, and it does not consider this a significant standalone data gap warranting dedicated future data collection, consistent with the assessment reached in Chapter 10, given the genuinely marginal scale of the underlying agricultural activity this indicator would measure. This report notes, for completeness, that any future editions of this framework seeking a fuller irrigation and water-use efficiency picture relevant to the tri-city region's broader agricultural economy would find considerably more substantive material in the neighbouring Punjab and Haryana state-level CDF reports within this same national series, both of which govern territory where irrigation-dependent agriculture remains economically central in a way it simply does not within Chandigarh's own jurisdiction.

18.3 Agricultural Marketing, Price Realisation and Farmer Income

Chandigarh's own direct relevance to agricultural marketing and farmer income considerations is similarly constrained by the negligible scale of its own agricultural production base documented in Section 18.1. This report was unable to identify a dedicated

Agricultural Produce Market Committee mandi or comparable formal agricultural marketing infrastructure operating specifically within Chandigarh's own territorial jurisdiction, distinct from the Union Territory's broader retail and wholesale trade infrastructure examined in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, as part of its dominant tertiary sector.

Where this report considers Chandigarh's role in agricultural marketing to carry genuine, if indirect, significance is through its function as an administrative, financial, and professional services hub serving the wider agricultural economies of Punjab and Haryana, documented in Section 18.1. Financial institutions headquartered or maintaining substantial regional operations within Chandigarh, examined in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, in the context of the Union Territory's financial services sub-sector, plausibly provide agricultural credit, examined further in Section 18.8 below, and agricultural trade finance services extending well beyond Chandigarh's own negligible agricultural production base into the substantially larger agricultural economies of its two neighbouring states. This report was unable to quantify this specific indirect agricultural marketing and finance function with precision, given the absence of disaggregated data separating Chandigarh-based financial institutions' agricultural-sector lending from their broader loan portfolios, and it flags this as a specific, if inherently difficult to resolve, data gap, recommending that any future assessment of Chandigarh's true economic relationship with regional agriculture look beyond the Union Territory's own negligible primary sector Gross Value Added figure toward this less visible, services-sector-mediated agricultural linkage instead.

18.4 Food Processing Industry and Value Chain Development

Consistent with the broader industrial profile documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.4, and Chapter 4, Section 4.3, food products constitute one of the specific manufacturing categories present within Chandigarh's compact Industrial Area, Phase I and Phase II, alongside electrical and electronic items, machine tools, pharmaceuticals, plastic goods, sanitary fittings, and furniture, as documented in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Union Territory industrial profile (Development Institute, n.d.). This report was unable to identify disaggregated output, employment, or value-addition data specifically for this food processing sub-segment of Chandigarh's small secondary sector, distinct from the aggregate industrial output figures already presented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4, and it flags this as a further specific data gap.

On food security specifically, as distinct from food processing industrial capacity, this report identifies a directly relevant institutional finding already documented in Chapter 15, Section 15.2, in the context of Chandigarh's anti-corruption enforcement architecture: the Central Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Corruption Bureau historically indicted the Union Territory's own Department of Food and Supplies for irregularities in the maintenance of Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line ration cards and in the monitoring of food grain procurement, allocation, and distribution, following a raid that found several fair price shops operating without valid licences renewed since March 2008, with the department's own Secretary found to have failed in his monitoring obligations under the Public Distribution System Control Order, 2001 (Tribune News Service, n.d.-q). This report considers this finding, while drawn

from historically dated reporting reviewed in the course of researching Chapter 15, to carry direct relevance to this chapter's food security analysis, since it illustrates that Chandigarh's food security architecture, given the Union Territory's near-total dependence on the central Public Distribution System and open market food supply rather than on any meaningful local production base documented throughout this chapter, depends entirely on the administrative integrity of exactly the kind of ration card and fair price shop monitoring function this historical case found to have been inadequately discharged. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration publish current, dated Public Distribution System monitoring compliance data, including fair price shop licensing status and utilisation certificate submission timeliness, to confirm whether the specific administrative weaknesses this historical case documented have since been remedied, given how directly Chandigarh's food security, unlike that of agriculturally self-sufficient states, depends on this administrative function operating effectively rather than on any meaningful buffer of local agricultural production.

18.5 Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Poultry: Economic Contribution

Animal husbandry within Chandigarh's own jurisdiction is best understood not as a productive economic sector in its own right, given the negligible primary sector contribution documented throughout this chapter, but as a municipal welfare and public safety management function, centred specifically on stray cattle care. The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has invested in what was described at its inauguration as the city's biggest cow shelter, a gaushala facility incorporating a dedicated hospital within its compound, with the presiding minister at the facility's opening specifically commending Chandigarh for leading other cities in accommodating stray cattle in a well-managed and clean environment (Tribune News Service, 2023c). This report considers the specific institutional framing of this facility, emphasising modern, clean shelter conditions and integrated veterinary care rather than simply cattle removal from public roads, to represent a comparatively considered approach to stray cattle management, a challenge this report understands, from broader regional reporting reviewed in the course of this research, to be a persistent and often more contentious municipal governance issue across several neighbouring Punjab and Haryana municipalities.

This report was unable to identify disaggregated data on the scale of Chandigarh's stray cattle population, the gaushala's specific holding capacity, or any commercial dairy production occurring within the Union Territory's own jurisdiction, distinct from the welfare-oriented cattle shelter function documented above, and it flags this as a data gap, while noting that given Chandigarh's near-total urbanisation and negligible agricultural land base documented throughout this chapter, any commercial dairy or poultry production of economic significance almost certainly occurs within the peri-urban areas of neighbouring Punjab and Haryana supplying Chandigarh's retail and food service market, rather than within the Union Territory's own jurisdiction, consistent with this chapter's broader finding that Chandigarh functions as an agricultural consumption and administrative hub for its region rather than as a producing jurisdiction in its own right.

18.6 Fisheries: Inland, Marine and Aquaculture

Consistent with Chandigarh's landlocked geography, documented in Chapter 1 and reiterated in Chapter 8, Section 8.4, in the context of ports and inland waterways, marine fisheries carry no application whatsoever to the Union Territory. On inland fisheries and aquaculture specifically, Sukhna Lake, examined extensively in Chapter 1 and Chapter 13, represents Chandigarh's only water body of any meaningful scale, and this report was unable to identify any commercial inland fisheries or aquaculture activity conducted on the lake, which functions, as documented in those earlier chapters, primarily as a protected National Wetland, recreational amenity, and wildlife sanctuary catchment rather than as a productive fisheries resource. This report considers any commercial fishing activity on Sukhna Lake to be, if it exists at all, incompatible with the lake's formal conservation status and its 2020 recognition by the Punjab and Haryana High Court as a legal living entity, documented in Chapter 13, and it accordingly treats fisheries as carrying negligible independent policy significance for Chandigarh, in the same manner this report has treated mining in Chapter 13, Section 13.4, and coastal resource management in Chapter 13, Section 13.6.

18.7 Horticulture, Floriculture and Medicinal Plants

Horticulture and floriculture represent, by a considerable margin, the most substantively developed and most genuinely significant component of this chapter's subject matter for Chandigarh, and this report accordingly examines this section in considerably greater depth than the preceding sections, consistent with this report's practice throughout this framework of scaling analytical depth to genuine relevance rather than applying uniform treatment regardless of a topic's actual weight within the Union Territory's development profile. Chandigarh's horticultural identity is anchored by the Zakir Hussain Rose Garden, established in 1967 under the direct guidance of Dr. Mohinder Singh Randhawa, Chandigarh's first Chief Commissioner and a horticulturist whose personal interest in floriculture shaped the garden's founding, and now recognised as Asia's largest rose garden, spanning approximately 30 acres, with some more recent tourism authority sources citing an expanded area of approximately 40.23 acres, and hosting a collection of 50,000 rose bushes representing 1,600 distinct species (Incredible India, n.d.; Wikipedia, 2026g; Chandigarh Tourism, n.d.). Beyond roses specifically, the garden hosts a range of medicinally significant trees, including bel, bahera, harar, camphor, and yellow gulmohar, and has expanded over time to include a dedicated bonsai garden and cactus house added in 2003 (Incredible India, n.d.; Wikipedia, 2026g).

The garden functions as more than a passive horticultural collection: it serves as the venue for Chandigarh's annual Rose Festival, held each February or March during the garden's peak bloom period and constituting a major cultural event for the Union Territory, incorporating musical performances, cultural exhibitions, and, in past editions, community awareness stalls addressing social themes including transgender awareness, alongside more conventional festival programming such as helicopter rides and conformation dog shows (Wikipedia, 2026h). The garden's continued civic and infrastructural investment is evidenced by a ₹9 crore underpass connectivity project linking the garden to neighbouring Sector 17,

inaugurated by then Administrator V. P. Singh Badnore, incorporating a 100-seat amphitheatre, cycle and golf cart access ramps, and dedicated wall space for public artwork, paintings, and sculpture display, explicitly intended to enrich the Union Territory's cultural heritage infrastructure (Wikipedia, 2026h).

This report considers the Rose Garden to function as one component within a considerably broader municipal horticultural infrastructure, evidenced by the 1,900 parks and gardens documented in Chapter 10, Section 10.4, as served by the Municipal Corporation's dedicated 30 tonnes-per-day horticulture waste processing facility, indicating a horticultural maintenance operation of genuinely substantial citywide scale extending well beyond the Rose Garden alone. This report considers this dense, citywide park and garden infrastructure, consistent with Chandigarh's long-standing informal identity as a "City of Gardens," to represent a genuine, quantifiable civic asset distinct from, though complementary to, the pure biodiversity and ecological conservation findings documented in Chapter 13, and one that this report considers deserving of continued, dedicated municipal horticultural investment given its evident contribution to the Union Territory's tourism appeal, examined further in Chapter 19, and to the broader urban quality of life themes this report has returned to throughout its urban development and environment chapters.

18.8 Agricultural Credit, Insurance and Risk Management

This report was unable to identify agricultural credit disbursement, crop insurance coverage, or agricultural risk management scheme utilisation data specific to Chandigarh's own negligible cultivator population, consistent with the very small scale of the underlying agricultural activity documented throughout this chapter. National agricultural credit and insurance architecture, including the Kisan Credit Card scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana crop insurance scheme, formally extends to all Indian states and Union Territories, and this report does not doubt that Chandigarh's small remaining cultivator population, documented in Chapter 1 and Chapter 12 as concentrated within the Union Territory's shrinking rural footprint, retains formal eligibility for these national schemes. However, this report considers the practical policy significance of agricultural credit and insurance architecture for Chandigarh specifically to be genuinely marginal relative to its significance in the substantially larger agrarian economies of the states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, and it does not consider the absence of Chandigarh-specific agricultural credit data to represent a priority data gap warranting dedicated future collection, in contrast to several of the more consequential data gaps this report has identified in preceding chapters, including the Union Territory's own solid waste segregation reporting discrepancy documented in Chapter 10 or its civil service vacancy backlog documented in Chapter 15.

Taken together, this chapter's findings confirm what this report has established across multiple preceding chapters from a range of different analytical angles: Chandigarh's fundamental economic and territorial character, an intensely compact, almost entirely urban Union Territory embedded within, and administratively serving, two of India's most agriculturally significant states, renders conventional agricultural sector policy analysis of

only marginal direct relevance to the Union Territory's own jurisdiction, while its horticultural and floricultural heritage, examined in genuine depth in Section 18.7, and its food security administrative architecture, examined critically in Section 18.4, represent the two specific dimensions of this broad chapter theme that this report considers to carry substantive, continuing policy significance for Chandigarh's own development trajectory. This report's overall recommendation for this chapter is that the Chandigarh Administration continue directing its comparatively limited agricultural sector institutional capacity toward these two specific priorities, horticultural infrastructure investment and food security administrative integrity, rather than toward the broader agricultural productivity, marketing, and risk management agenda that remains genuinely central to the development frameworks of Chandigarh's agriculturally substantial neighbouring states.

CHAPTER 19: TOURISM, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

Tourism in Chandigarh sits at a distinctive intersection this report has documented from several angles across preceding chapters: a Union Territory whose defining tourism assets, a UNESCO World Heritage architectural complex, an internationally celebrated outsider-art environment, a planned lake, and Asia's largest rose garden, are themselves direct products of the same mid-twentieth century planned-city vision that shapes nearly every other dimension of Chandigarh's development story. This chapter examines the Union Territory's tourism asset inventory, its tourism infrastructure, its domestic and international visitor flow trends, its cultural heritage preservation framework, its creative industries, and the comparatively underdeveloped film and media content sector as a potential future economic driver.

19.1 Tourism Asset Inventory: Natural, Heritage, Religious and Adventure

Chandigarh's tourism asset base, documented in fragments across preceding chapters of this report, is most usefully understood as falling into three principal categories. The first is architectural and heritage tourism, anchored by the Capitol Complex, comprising the Palace of Assembly, the Secretariat, and the High Court, all designed by Le Corbusier and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2016 as part of the transnational serial nomination recognising his global architectural contribution, documented in Chapter 1, Section 1.4, and Chapter 11, Section 11.5. The second is created natural and artistic landscape tourism, anchored by Sukhna Lake, the 3 square kilometre rain-fed reservoir documented extensively in Chapter 1 and Chapter 13, and by the Rock Garden, the internationally recognised outsider-art environment created from industrial and urban waste materials by the self-taught artist Nek Chand beginning in the 1950s. The third is horticultural tourism, anchored by the Zakir Hussain Rose Garden, examined in substantial depth in Chapter 18, Section 18.7, as Asia's largest rose garden, hosting 50,000 rose bushes across 1,600 species and drawing significant annual visitation during its February to March Rose Festival.

This report considers the specific combination of these three asset categories, formal UNESCO-recognised high modernist architecture, an unconventional, internationally celebrated folk-art environment, and a large-scale, purpose-built horticultural attraction, to give Chandigarh a genuinely distinctive tourism positioning relative to India's more conventional heritage circuit destinations, which tend to concentrate around Mughal-era or colonial-era architecture rather than around twentieth-century modernist planning and art. This report notes that Chandigarh's tourism promotional messaging has increasingly emphasised precisely this distinctive positioning, with recent industry coverage specifically crediting greater promotion of the UNESCO-listed Capitol Complex, alongside new visitor attractions and cultural events, for supporting the Union Territory's tourism recovery documented in Section 19.3 below (Travel And Tour World, 2026).

19.2 Tourism Infrastructure: Hotels, Connectivity and Facilitation

Chandigarh's accommodation infrastructure includes a cluster of internationally branded five-star properties, including the JW Marriott Hotel Chandigarh in Sector 35B along Dakshin Marg, the Hyatt Regency Chandigarh within the Industrial and Business Park in Phase I, and the Hyatt Centric Sector 17 Chandigarh, each recording strong guest satisfaction ratings in recent review aggregation, with the Hyatt Centric specifically noted for its proximity to the Rose Garden documented in Chapter 18 and Section 19.1 above (Expedia, 2026). This report considers the presence of three distinct international five-star hotel brands within a Union Territory of Chandigarh's compact scale to represent a meaningfully strong hospitality infrastructure base relative to the Union Territory's small territorial footprint, consistent with the broader connectivity and economic findings documented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 8 regarding Chandigarh's function as a regional hub extending well beyond its own resident population.

On connectivity specifically, this report reiterates its Chapter 8 finding that Chandigarh Airport's strong and growing passenger traffic, having handled 4,149,840 passengers in financial year 2024-25, an increase of 11.5 percent over the preceding year, positions the airport as the primary gateway not only for Chandigarh's own tourism sector but for the substantially larger Himachal Pradesh hill station catchment, including Shimla, Manali, Kasauli, and Dharamshala, a dynamic this report considers directly relevant to Chandigarh's own tourism infrastructure planning, since a meaningful share of the Union Territory's hotel demand, examined above, likely derives from transit visitors extending their journey toward these onward hill destinations rather than solely from visitors whose primary destination is Chandigarh itself. This report was unable to identify Chandigarh-specific data quantifying this transit-versus-destination visitor split, and it recommends the Chandigarh Tourism Department commission dedicated visitor origin and intent survey research to clarify this distinction, given its potential relevance to hotel and attraction investment planning decisions going forward.

19.3 Domestic and International Tourist Flows: Trends and Targets

This report has identified genuinely current, authoritative, and usefully granular data on Chandigarh's tourist flow trajectory, presented by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the Rajya Sabha during the 2026 Monsoon Session of Parliament, allowing this section to trace a detailed, year-by-year recovery pattern from the Covid-19 pandemic's low point through to the most recent available data. Chandigarh recorded its lowest tourist inflow during the depth of the pandemic in 2021, with just 228,809 domestic visitors and 5,451 foreign visitors (Tribune News Service, 2026h). Recovery began sharply in 2022, with domestic tourist footfall surging to 3,027,165 as pent-up post-pandemic travel demand was released, while foreign arrivals rose more modestly to 28,439 (Tribune News Service, 2026h). Domestic tourism then experienced a sharp, and this report notes not fully explained within the sources reviewed, decline in 2023, falling to just 365,591 visitors even as foreign tourist arrivals continued their steadier upward trajectory to 31,498 (Tribune News Service,

2026h). Domestic tourism rebounded substantially in 2024, reaching 998,605 visitors, while foreign arrivals climbed to 39,058, the highest recorded since the pandemic at that point, with both trends continuing into 2025, when domestic arrivals reached 1,183,503 and foreign arrivals reached 39,502 (Tribune News Service, 2026h). Across the full five-year period from 2021 to 2025, this trajectory represents growth of 417 percent in domestic tourist arrivals and 625 percent in foreign tourist arrivals (Tribune News Service, 2026h).

This report considers it essential, consistent with its approach throughout this framework of testing headline growth percentages against underlying absolute levels, to present a specific, important qualification to these otherwise striking growth figures: independent analysis of the same underlying data specifically notes that Chandigarh's 2025 tourist arrival totals remained below the levels recorded in 2019, the last full pre-pandemic year, indicating that the Union Territory's tourism recovery, while genuinely substantial and consistently positive in direction since 2021, remains incomplete relative to its pre-pandemic peak rather than representing a return to, let alone an exceeding of, historical tourism sector scale (Travel And Tour World, 2026). This report considers this specific finding, that impressive percentage growth calculated from an unusually depressed pandemic-era base can coexist with an absolute recovery that remains incomplete against the relevant pre-pandemic benchmark, to be an important interpretive caution for any reader encountering only the headline 417 percent and 625 percent growth figures without this additional context, and it recommends that the Chandigarh Tourism Department's own public communications consistently present both the percentage growth trajectory and the comparison against 2019 pre-pandemic baseline levels together, to avoid the kind of potentially misleading impression that presenting pandemic-recovery percentage growth in isolation can create.

This report was unable to identify formally published, dated visitor arrival targets set by the Chandigarh Tourism Department for future years, and it recommends the Department publish such targets, explicitly benchmarked against the 2019 pre-pandemic baseline documented above rather than solely against the pandemic-era low point, to provide a more meaningful basis for assessing the Union Territory's tourism sector recovery and growth performance in future editions of this framework.

19.4 Cultural Heritage Preservation and Institutional Framework

Chandigarh's cultural heritage preservation framework operates at two distinct levels this report considers important to distinguish. The first is the formal, internationally binding preservation obligation attached to the Capitol Complex's UNESCO World Heritage status, documented in Chapter 1 and Chapter 11, which this report has noted directly constrains urban development and infrastructure planning decisions within and adjacent to the Complex, including the specific routing of the Tricity Metro network documented in Chapter 4 and Chapter 8 to exclude Chandigarh's heritage sectors from Sector 1 through Sector 30. This report considers this formal, legally consequential heritage preservation obligation to represent the more institutionally robust of the two preservation levels examined in this section, given its grounding in binding international heritage convention obligations rather than in domestic policy discretion alone.

The second, less formally institutionalised level concerns Chandigarh's living cultural heritage and performing arts infrastructure, exemplified by the Punjab Kala Bhawan in Sector 16, a multi-functional cultural venue incorporating an indoor auditorium with capacity for 200 to 250 guests, an open-air theatre, an exhibition gallery, and an on-site bookstore, hosting a diverse programme spanning stage plays, cultural shows, group dance performances, photo exhibitions, and workshops on traditional folk music and dance, alongside dedicated programming for cultural observances including Baisakhi (Tripadvisor, 2026; Wanderlog, 2026). This report considers the Kala Bhawan's stated function as providing a free platform specifically for new and upcoming artists to showcase their work to the public to represent a genuinely valuable, accessible cultural infrastructure asset, complementing the more internationally oriented, heritage-tourism-focused Capitol Complex preservation framework documented above with a venue explicitly oriented toward living, contemporary Punjabi cultural production and grassroots artistic development.

This report was unable to identify a dedicated, published Chandigarh Administration cultural heritage policy document consolidating the Union Territory's approach across both the formal UNESCO-linked preservation framework and the living cultural infrastructure exemplified by the Kala Bhawan, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration develop and publish such a consolidated cultural heritage and living arts strategy, given the genuinely complementary but currently institutionally separate character of these two preservation and promotion streams documented in this section.

19.5 Creative Industries: Handicrafts, Performing Arts and Cultural Economy

Chandigarh's creative industries, examined here as an economic rather than purely cultural category, draw substantially on the performing arts infrastructure documented in Section 19.4, alongside the broader tertiary sector strength in professional and creative services documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.5. This report was unable to identify disaggregated economic contribution data specifically quantifying Chandigarh's creative industries sector, whether measured through employment, value addition, or export earnings from handicrafts, performing arts, or design services, and it flags this as a specific data gap consistent with several similar sectoral disaggregation gaps identified elsewhere in this report, including the informal economy data gap documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.6.

This report considers Chandigarh's creative economy potential to be closely linked to the Union Territory's distinctive architectural and design heritage documented in Section 19.1, given that a city whose entire urban form was conceived as a singular work of modernist design carries an inherent, and in this report's assessment currently under-leveraged, potential to cultivate a design, architecture, and creative services economic cluster building directly on this heritage, complementing the information technology and knowledge services growth corridor identified in Chapter 3, Section 3.9. This report recommends the Chandigarh Administration explore dedicated creative and design industry promotion measures, potentially integrated within the Startup Policy 2025 framework examined in Chapter 17, given that policy's existing sector-agnostic incubation and grant architecture, which could be readily extended to explicitly recognise and support design, architecture, and creative

services ventures alongside the information technology, medical technology, and education technology sectors currently identified as the Union Territory's core startup strengths.

19.6 Film, Media and Content Industries as Economic Drivers

Film, media, and content industries represent the section of this chapter for which this report was able to identify the least Chandigarh-specific data, and it states this limitation directly rather than substituting inference or estimation. This report was unable to identify a dedicated Chandigarh film policy, film facilitation office, or published data on film and television production activity, whether measured by production volume, direct employment, or associated tourism generated by the Union Territory's distinctive modernist architecture serving as a filming location, notwithstanding this report's own observation that Chandigarh's singular, internationally recognised planned urban form and heritage architecture, documented throughout this chapter, would appear to constitute a genuinely distinctive visual asset for film and media production of the kind several Indian states have successfully leveraged into dedicated film tourism and production economic strategies.

This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration, in coordination with the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation examined in Chapter 4, Section 4.6, and Chapter 11, assess the feasibility of a dedicated film facilitation policy, potentially modelled on the more developed film-friendly state policies operating elsewhere in India, specifically to capture economic value from the Union Territory's distinctive architectural heritage as a production location, an opportunity this report considers plausible but was unable to quantify or confirm was already being actively pursued within the sources available for this research. Given the genuinely limited evidence base available for this specific section, this report treats film, media, and content industries as an identified opportunity area for future Chandigarh Administration policy development, rather than as a sector whose current performance this report is able to assess with the same evidentiary confidence applied to the tourist arrival trend data documented in Section 19.3 or the Startup Policy architecture documented in Chapter 17.

Taken together, this chapter's findings present a Union Territory whose tourism sector combines a genuinely distinctive, three-part asset base, UNESCO-recognised modernist architecture, internationally celebrated outsider art, and large-scale horticultural attraction, with a tourist arrival recovery trajectory that, properly qualified against its 2019 pre-pandemic baseline, remains a genuine but still incomplete recovery story, and with a creative and film industries potential that this report considers meaningfully under-documented and, on the evidence available, likely under-leveraged relative to the Union Territory's distinctive underlying architectural and cultural assets. This report's central recommendation across this chapter is that the Chandigarh Tourism Department and Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation jointly develop the kind of consolidated, dated strategy and target-setting framework this report has found lacking across Section 19.3, Section 19.4, and Section 19.6 specifically, to convert the Union Territory's genuinely distinctive asset base into the kind of clearly measured, target-driven sectoral

development already evident in several of the other policy domains examined earlier in this framework, including the Startup Policy 2025 examined in Chapter 17.

CHAPTER 20: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND INTEGRATED POLICY IMPERATIVES

This chapter departs deliberately from the sectoral structure followed throughout the preceding nineteen chapters of this report, drawing together threads that recur across multiple sectors into seven integrated policy themes: Chandigarh's Sustainable Development Goals performance, gender mainstreaming across sectors, youth policy and the demographic dividend, migration in its internal and regional dimensions, science, technology, and innovation for development, statistical system strengthening, and public participation and behavioural change. Each theme draws explicitly on evidence already established in earlier chapters, synthesised here into a genuinely cross-cutting rather than sector-specific analytical frame.

20.1 Sustainable Development Goals of the Union Territory

Chandigarh's Sustainable Development Goals performance, documented in detail in Chapter 1, Section 1.8, positions the Union Territory as the top-ranked Union Territory nationally on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, with a composite score of 77 out of 100, placing it within the Front-Runner category and ahead of Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Delhi, though still behind the top-scoring states of Uttarakhand and Kerala, both recording 79 (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, as cited in AffairsCloud, 2024; Vision IAS, 2024). This report considers Chandigarh's SDG performance most usefully read against India's own improving global standing: the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 2026 Sustainable Development Report recorded India's highest-ever position in the global SDG Index, climbing to 94th among 167 countries with an overall score of 68.3 out of 100, an improvement from 99th place in 2025 and 109th in 2024, marking India among the world's largest movers in the rankings since the Goals' 2015 adoption, having risen 18 places from 112th position (Down To Earth, 2026). This report notes, in the interest of the evenhanded reporting this framework has maintained throughout, that the same 2026 assessment identified specific, persistent national weaknesses under Sustainable Development Goal 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, including a marked decline on the Press Freedom Index specifically, which fell from a score of 59.51 in 2015 to 31.96 in 2026, the steepest deterioration recorded on any indicator tracked since the baseline year (Down To Earth, 2026).

This report's own synthesis across the eighteen preceding sectoral chapters of this framework maps directly onto specific Sustainable Development Goals in ways this section makes explicit for the first time. On Goal 1, No Poverty, and Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities, this report's Chapter 1 findings on Chandigarh's comparatively elevated 5.97 percent

multidimensional poverty headcount ratio relative to other Union Territories, and its unquantified but plausible internal income inequality documented in the same chapter, indicate genuine, specific gaps beneath the Union Territory's strong aggregate SDG standing. On Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being, this report's Chapter 6 findings on Chandigarh's genuinely strong maternal and child health indicators, set against the specifically documented child wasting deterioration from 8.4 to 19.5 percent, illustrate the same pattern of strong aggregate performance masking a specific, serious sub-indicator concern. On Goal 5, Gender Equality, examined fully in Section 20.2 below, and Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, this report's Chapter 10 findings on the solid waste segregation data integrity discrepancy represent a further specific area where headline SDG-relevant progress claims require the kind of granular verification this report has applied throughout. This report's overall assessment is that Chandigarh's strong composite SDG India Index ranking is broadly well-earned on the evidence assembled across this framework, while the goal-by-goal synthesis presented in this section confirms that composite index scores, by their aggregating nature, can obscure exactly the kind of specific, serious sub-indicator concerns this report has worked throughout to surface individually.

20.2 Gender Mainstreaming Across Sectors

This report's gender-related findings, scattered across nearly every preceding chapter, present a genuinely consistent cross-cutting pattern that this section makes explicit for the first time: Chandigarh performs strongly on gender-related access indicators while showing persistent, specific gaps in gender-related outcome and safety indicators. On access, Chapter 5 documented Chandigarh's overall 86.43 percent literacy rate and its top national Performance Grading Index ranking, Chapter 6 documented the Union Territory's lowest-in-India Total Fertility Rate of 1.4, closely associated with strong female educational attainment, and Chapter 17 documented the Startup Policy 2025's explicit inclusion of women, transgender, and other underrepresented founders within its incentive architecture. On outcomes and safety, however, Chapter 5 documented a persistent 9.16 percentage point literacy gender gap, Chapter 3 documented a rural female unemployment rate of 10.7 percent, Chapter 1 documented the unresolved sex ratio discrepancy between the 2011 Census figure of 818 and more recent, internally inconsistent administrative estimates, and Chapter 15 documented a specifically concerning 53 percent crime against women case pendency rate alongside a conviction-to-acquittal ratio of roughly one conviction for every 2.3 acquittals in 2022.

This report considers this access-versus-outcomes pattern to represent Chandigarh's central gender mainstreaming challenge: the Union Territory has evidently succeeded in removing many of the structural barriers to women's education and demographic autonomy that continue to constrain outcomes in less developed states examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, while comparatively less progress is evident on the safety, justice system responsiveness, and labour market outcome dimensions examined in Chapter 3, Chapter 7, and Chapter 15. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration adopt a formal gender mainstreaming framework explicitly tracking this access-versus-outcomes distinction across its Budget allocation process, examined in Chapter 2, building on the national Gender

Budgeting framework already applied at the Union Budget level, to ensure that the Union Territory's undoubted strength on gender-related access indicators is not allowed to obscure the specific, serious outcome and safety gaps this report's cross-chapter synthesis has identified.

20.3 Youth Policy and Demographic Dividend Realisation

Chandigarh's youth policy architecture, examined most directly in Chapter 17 in the context of the Startup Policy 2025's Entrepreneurship Cell mandate across schools, colleges, and Industrial Training Institutes, sits alongside a genuinely puzzling labour market finding first documented in Chapter 3, Section 3.7: Chandigarh recorded the lowest graduate unemployment rate anywhere in India, at 5.6 percent as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23, even as its overall unemployment rate of 7.1 percent ranked among the highest nationally. This report's cross-cutting synthesis of this finding, combined with the approximately 4,300 civil service vacancies documented in Chapter 15, Section 15.7, and the teacher recruitment backlog documented in Chapter 5, Section 5.5, suggests that Chandigarh's demographic dividend, its working-age population documented throughout this report as comparatively well-educated, is being only partially realised, with the Union Territory's graduate population capturing strong employment outcomes disproportionately concentrated within government, administrative, and professional services employment, while its broader working-age population, including non-graduates, faces meaningfully constrained opportunities.

This report considers the Startup Policy 2025's youth-oriented architecture, examined in Chapter 17, to represent a genuinely promising complementary strategy to the more traditional government employment pathway documented above, since a successful youth entrepreneurship pipeline, converting Entrepreneurship Cell exposure into funded venture development through the policy's grand startup competition, offers young Chandigarh residents an alternative to competing solely for the comparatively scarce, though currently under-filled, formal government and graduate-track private sector positions this report has documented as disproportionately capturing the Union Territory's strong employment outcomes. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration explicitly frame and monitor its Startup Policy 2025 implementation, examined in Chapter 17, as a demographic dividend realisation strategy in its own right, tracking youth entrepreneurship outcomes specifically against the overall-versus-graduate unemployment divergence documented in this section, rather than treating startup policy and broader youth employment policy as separate, unconnected workstreams.

20.4 Migration: Internal, Inter-Union Territory and International Dimensions

Migration functions as perhaps the single most pervasive cross-cutting theme identified across this entire framework, touching directly on findings in Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7. As established in Chapter 1, Chandigarh's population growth has been driven overwhelmingly by in-migration rather than natural increase, drawing residents from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar for employment in the Union

Territory's administrative, professional services, and construction sectors. This report's Chapter 3 findings on the informal economy, Chapter 6, Section 6.5a findings on the largely unexamined psychosocial dimensions of migration-driven family structure change, and Chapter 7, Section 7.9 findings on the Chandigarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board's dedicated migrant worker welfare architecture together constitute this report's most direct evidence base on Chandigarh's internal migrant population specifically.

This report considers inter-Union Territory and international migration dimensions to carry comparatively less direct significance for Chandigarh than internal, inter-state migration from within the broader north Indian region documented above, given the absence of any evidence identified elsewhere in this framework of significant migration flows between Chandigarh and India's other Union Territories, or of significant international immigration into the Union Territory, distinct from the international tourism flows documented in Chapter 19. On emigration specifically, this report notes, without having identified dedicated Chandigarh-specific data, that the Union Territory's strong higher education infrastructure, documented in Chapter 5, plausibly generates meaningful outward international migration among its graduate population pursuing further study or employment abroad, a pattern common among India's more educationally advantaged urban centres, though this report was unable to quantify this specific outward migration dimension and flags it as a further data gap. This report's overall recommendation for this section is that the Chandigarh Administration's approach to migration policy, currently addressed piecemeal across the welfare, health, and labour market findings documented separately throughout this framework, be consolidated into an explicit, dedicated migrant welfare and integration strategy, recognising migration's status as a defining, rather than incidental, feature of the Union Territory's demographic and economic base.

20.5 Science, Technology and Innovation for Development

Science, technology, and innovation considerations recur across an unusually wide range of this framework's preceding chapters, and this section synthesises three specific findings this report considers most significant. First, Chandigarh's Integrated Command and Control Centre, examined extensively in Chapter 16, achieved independently validated top-national performance on the ICCC Maturity Assessment Framework 2.0, with specific strength in artificial intelligence-enabled traffic management delivering quantified greenhouse gas emissions reductions and substantial fuel cost savings. Second, Chandigarh's solar energy transition, examined in Chapter 9, represents a genuinely strong, multi-year, consistently documented technology deployment achievement, reaching 100 percent rooftop solar saturation across eligible government buildings. Third, the Startup Policy 2025's innovation ecosystem architecture, examined in Chapter 17, alongside the proposed fintech city initiative modelled on Gujarat's GIFT City, represents Chandigarh's forward-looking science and technology-enabled economic development strategy.

This report considers the common thread linking these three findings to be Chandigarh's demonstrated institutional capacity to translate technology investment into measured, quantified outcomes, a capacity evidenced by the specific greenhouse gas and fuel savings

data documented in Chapter 16, the multi-year solar capacity growth trajectory documented in Chapter 9, and the detailed, quantified incentive architecture documented in Chapter 17. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration explicitly position this demonstrated measurement and evaluation capacity, evident across these three technology domains, as a transferable institutional strength applicable to the broader statistical system strengthening agenda examined in Section 20.6 below, since the same rigorous, outcome-tracking discipline evident in the Union Territory's technology deployment reporting could usefully be extended to the several data gaps this report has identified across its more traditional sectoral chapters.

20.6 Statistical System Strengthening and Evidence-Based Policymaking

This section draws together, for the first time in a single consolidated location, the full range of specific data gaps this report has identified across its preceding nineteen chapters, since this report considers the sheer number and consistency of these gaps to itself constitute a significant, cross-cutting finding about Chandigarh's statistical system rather than a series of unrelated, chapter-specific omissions. These gaps include, without repeating the full detail already presented in each respective chapter, a Chandigarh-specific Gini coefficient and updated multidimensional poverty estimate, disaggregated non-communicable disease surveillance and a standalone Maternal Mortality Ratio figure, higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio and inclusive education data for children with disabilities, Chandigarh-specific Foreign Direct Investment inflow data, informal economy size and composition data, post-privatisation electricity tariff and service performance data, updated Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana enrolment figures, a reconciled Smart Cities Mission project accounting, a resolved solid waste segregation rate discrepancy, current Vigilance Department enforcement performance data, and Chandigarh-specific film and creative industries economic contribution data.

This report's assessment is that this pattern, spanning fiscal, economic, social, environmental, and governance domains alike, reflects a genuine, structural statistical system capacity constraint rather than a series of isolated departmental oversights, and it considers this constraint directly linked to the broader civil service capacity findings documented in Chapter 15, Section 15.7, since the same approximately 4,300-post vacancy backlog documented there plausibly extends to the specialised statistical and monitoring personnel required to close the data gaps catalogued in this section. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration's Economic and Statistical Organisation, referenced at several points throughout this framework, be specifically and substantially resourced as a dedicated statistical system strengthening priority, potentially drawing on the demonstrated data governance capability already evident within the Integrated Command and Control Centre's top-ranked performance documented in Chapter 16 and Section 20.5 above, extending that same rigorous, real-time data management discipline from Chandigarh's technology and infrastructure domains into the sectoral statistical domains where this report has found it currently lacking.

20.7 Public Participation: Behavioural Change and Citizen Engagement

Citizen engagement and public participation findings recur throughout this framework in both positive and cautionary form. On the positive side, this report's Chapter 12 findings on the village merger consultation process, in which local sarpanch representatives publicly welcomed the transition to municipal governance specifically because it would better serve their own constituents' development needs, and this report's Chapter 16 findings on the "I am Chandigarh" citizen mobile application, integrating multiple civic service channels into a single, accessible interface, together represent genuine, evidenced examples of participatory and citizen-responsive governance design. On the more cautionary side, this report's Chapter 11 findings on the Ease of Living Index's Citizen Perception sub-index, which fell to 35th position nationally in the 2020 assessment, and this report's Chapter 16 findings acknowledging genuine public hesitation linked to surveillance and privacy concerns during the Integrated Command and Control Centre's early implementation, indicate that citizen trust and perceived responsiveness have not uniformly kept pace with the Union Territory's substantial formal governance and technology investment documented throughout this framework.

This report considers the specific combination of strong formal citizen engagement infrastructure, evidenced by the mobile application and consultation processes documented above, alongside a documented citizen perception gap, evidenced by the Ease of Living Index finding, to represent this section's central cross-cutting insight: infrastructure and process design alone, however well executed, do not automatically translate into strong citizen trust and perceived governance responsiveness, a gap this report considers likely linked to the same underlying implementation and enforcement capacity constraints documented throughout Chapter 15 in the anti-corruption and civil service domains specifically. This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration commission a dedicated, recurring citizen trust and satisfaction tracking survey, distinct from and complementary to the national Ease of Living Index assessment cycle, to monitor whether the specific statistical system strengthening, civil service capacity building, and enforcement effectiveness improvements recommended throughout this framework, once implemented, translate into measurable improvement in the citizen perception gap this section has identified.

Taken together, this chapter's seven cross-cutting themes converge on a consistent underlying finding that this report considers the single most important insight to carry forward into the Vision 2047 chapter that follows: Chandigarh's substantial strengths, documented extensively across this framework in income, human development, digital governance, and specific technology domains, coexist with a recurring pattern of strong aggregate or headline performance masking specific, serious, and often precisely quantifiable sub-indicator gaps, whether in child nutrition, gender safety outcomes, statistical data availability, or citizen trust. This report's central cross-cutting recommendation is that Chandigarh's development strategy going forward be explicitly organised around closing these specific, identified gaps, rather than around further improving already-strong aggregate indicators, since this report's evidence suggests the Union Territory's aggregate development ceiling is already

comparatively high relative to most other constituent units examined across this national CDF series, while its remaining development challenge lies specifically in the granular, sub-indicator gaps this chapter has worked to consolidate and make visible.

CHAPTER 21: VISION 2047, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

This final chapter translates the sectoral evidence assembled across the preceding twenty chapters of this report into a forward-looking strategic framework extending to 2047, the centenary year of India's independence. It sets out Chandigarh's long-term vision and flagship missions, a concrete medium-term priority action plan for 2025 through 2030, a financing strategy grounded in the fiscal evidence developed throughout this report, the Centre-Union Territory partnership architecture required to sustain that financing, the inter-Union Territory and regional cooperation mechanisms this report has found essential to Chandigarh's development trajectory, the international collaboration channels already supporting the Union Territory's development, a proposed monitoring and evaluation results framework, and the accountability architecture required to sustain all of the above.

21.1 Long-Term Vision and Flagship Missions

This report proposes that Chandigarh's Vision 2047 be organised around five flagship missions, each grounded directly in commitments and trajectories already documented across this framework rather than in newly invented aspirations. The first is the carbon-free city mission, building on the genuinely strong, multi-year solar energy trajectory documented in Chapter 9, which has already delivered 100 percent rooftop solar saturation across eligible government buildings and 103 megawatts of installed capacity, and on the State Action Plan on Climate Change 2.0 architecture documented in Chapter 14, targeting full climate resilience mainstreaming by 2030. The second is the Model EV City mission, building on the Electric Vehicle Policy 2022's target of 70 percent electric vehicle registrations by 2030 documented in Chapter 14, tempered by this report's finding that the policy is currently under active review given uneven consumer uptake, a review this report considers should be understood as course correction toward, rather than abandonment of, this flagship ambition. The third is the slum-free, tenure-secure city mission, building on the substantial rehabilitation achievement documented in Chapter 11, having already constructed some 25,000 rehabilitation flats, while directly addressing the equity concern this report identified regarding the extended, license-based tenure structure governing those same flats. The fourth is the tri-city knowledge and financial services hub mission, building on the Startup Policy 2025 architecture documented in Chapter 17 and the proposed fintech city initiative modelled on Gujarat's GIFT City, extending Chandigarh's already-dominant tertiary sector, documented in Chapter 3, into higher-value financial technology and knowledge services activity. The fifth is the digitally governed, data-transparent Union Territory mission, building on the Integrated Command and Control Centre's independently validated top-national performance documented in Chapter 16, extended specifically to close the citizen privacy framework and public data portal gaps this report identified in that same chapter.

This report considers the coherence of these five flagship missions, each grounded in a specific, already-underway institutional commitment rather than a speculative new initiative, to represent Chandigarh's most credible pathway toward a genuinely transformative Vision

2047, precisely because each mission's baseline trajectory, rather than its distant 2047 endpoint, is already independently verifiable through the evidence this report has assembled across its preceding chapters.

21.2 Medium-Term Priority Action Plan (2025-2030)

This report identifies ten specific, time-bound priorities for the 2025-2030 period, each drawn directly from findings and recommendations already established across this framework. First, resolve the approximately 4,300-post civil service vacancy backlog documented in Chapter 15, Section 15.7, prioritising the 1,500 teaching posts and 250 police posts given their direct, evidenced links to the education quality and investigation pendency findings documented in Chapter 5 and Chapter 15 respectively. Second, complete the pan-city 24x7 water supply project documented in Chapter 10, Section 10.1, on its stated March 2029 timeline, reducing non-revenue water from approximately 38 percent to the project's own 15 percent target. Third, operationalise the proposed Climate Change Centre documented in Chapter 14, Section 14.2, with a published, dated establishment timeline. Fourth, reverse the capital expenditure contraction documented in Chapter 2, Section 2.3, restoring and then sustaining growth in the Union Territory's asset-creating Budget allocation beyond the ₹606 crore recorded for 2026-27. Fifth, resolve the specific data integrity discrepancy in solid waste segregation reporting documented in Chapter 10, Section 10.4, between the parliamentary claim of 100 percent segregation and the Swachh Survekshan portal's own recorded 14 percent figure. Sixth, address the child wasting deterioration documented in Chapter 6, Section 6.3, from 8.4 to 19.5 percent, through intensified AMRUT campaign coverage with published, dated outcome tracking. Seventh, complete the first phase of the Tricity Metro network documented in Chapter 4 and Chapter 8, on its stated 2027-2037 implementation window, prioritising the airport connectivity gap identified in Chapter 8, Section 8.6. Eighth, finalise and notify the new, Gujarat-modelled Industrial Policy documented in Chapter 4, Section 4.2, with published implementation performance indicators from its first year of operation. Ninth, reconcile the Smart Cities Mission project accounting discrepancy documented in Chapter 11, Section 11.4, between the national 97-project tally and Chandigarh Smart City Limited's own 36-project accounting. Tenth, publish the consolidated, dated Vigilance Department performance reporting documented in Chapter 15, Section 15.2, confirming whether the historically documented enforcement capacity gap in that department has been resolved.

This report considers this ten-point action plan deliberately achievable within the specific 2025-2030 window given that each item builds on infrastructure, policy, or institutional commitments already in place, documented throughout this framework, rather than requiring entirely new programme design, and it recommends the Chandigarh Administration adopt this list, or a Administration-refined equivalent drawing on the same underlying evidence base, as a formal, publicly tracked medium-term priority framework, with annual public progress reporting against each of the ten items.

21.3 Financing Strategy: Resource Mobilisation, Revenue Enhancement and Expenditure Rationalisation

Chandigarh's financing strategy for the period ahead, this report finds, should build directly on the genuinely successful own-revenue reform trajectory documented in Chapter 2, rather than depending primarily on increased Union Budget allocation, given the structural fiscal vulnerability to annual central budgetary discretion this report has documented extensively in that chapter. The Municipal Corporation's property tax reform, projected to double annual collection from approximately ₹45 crore to approximately ₹90 crore, and the Union Territory's sustained GST and excise revenue growth, reaching ₹2,454 crore and approximately ₹1,000 crore respectively in 2025-26, together demonstrate that Chandigarh's own-revenue base is capable of meaningful, sustained growth when actively managed, and this report recommends this same reform energy be extended systematically across the Union Territory's remaining under-monetised revenue streams, including the currently under-documented Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation, and Chandigarh Transport Undertaking financial performance flagged as a data gap in Chapter 4, Section 4.6.

On expenditure rationalisation, this report's central recommendation is that the capital expenditure contraction documented in Chapter 2, Section 2.3, be treated as the Union Territory's single highest financing strategy priority to reverse, given this report's finding that capital expenditure cuts compound over time by deferring asset creation in ways that recurring revenue expenditure cuts do not. This report additionally identifies the innovative financing models documented in Chapter 9, specifically the Municipal Corporation's rent-a-roof solar leasing model and the Renewable Energy Service Company zero-upfront-cost residential solar model, as templates this report recommends the Chandigarh Administration actively adapt to other capital-intensive sectors examined throughout this framework, including the water supply infrastructure financing already partially achieved through the Agence Française de Développement loan documented in Chapter 10, since these models demonstrate Chandigarh's genuine institutional capacity to mobilise capital investment through mechanisms other than direct Budget allocation alone.

21.4 Centre-Union Territory Partnership: Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Special Grants

Chandigarh's development trajectory, documented throughout this report, depends substantially on continued, effectively coordinated Centre-Union Territory partnership, evidenced most recently by the ₹4,700 crore development package documented in Chapter 6, Section 6.1, inaugurated by the Prime Minister in July 2026, spanning the Advanced Mother and Child Centre, the Advanced Neurosciences Centre, and the forthcoming Critical Care Block under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission. This report considers this pattern, substantial, centrally announced capital investment packages delivered through direct Prime Ministerial or ministerial engagement, to represent an important and recurring feature of Chandigarh's development financing model, distinct from and

complementary to the routine annual Union Budget allocation process examined in Chapter 2.

This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration approach its Centre-Union Territory partnership strategy with the same rigour it recommends elsewhere in this framework for other institutional relationships, specifically by clarifying the currently uncertain applicability of Sixteenth Finance Commission disaster management grant provisions documented in Chapter 2, Section 2.6, and Chapter 14, Section 14.5, and by ensuring that the Smart Cities Mission's successful completion, documented in Chapter 11, is followed by an equivalently ambitious and clearly scoped successor centrally sponsored scheme partnership, rather than allowing the Union Territory's strong implementation track record under that now-concluded Mission to go unmatched by a comparable forward pipeline of centrally supported capital investment.

21.5 Inter-Union Territory Cooperation: Regional Development Councils and River Boards

This report finds that the specific institutional category of river boards, while relevant to several other states and Union Territories examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, carries limited direct application to Chandigarh, given the Union Territory's absence of any major river system, documented in Chapter 1, though this report notes that the Bhakra-Beas Management Board's concessional power supply arrangement with Chandigarh, examined in Chapter 4 and Chapter 9, functions as an analogous inter-jurisdictional resource-sharing institution predating the river board model more commonly examined in this series. This report's more substantive finding for this section concerns the Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, documented extensively in Chapter 4, Section 4.8, and Chapter 8, which this report identifies as Chandigarh's single most consequential regional cooperation institution, coordinating the Tricity Metro project across the Union Territory Administration and the governments of Punjab and Haryana.

This report reiterates its Chapter 4 recommendation that the structured, time-bound, comparator-benchmarked institutional process the Chandigarh Administration applied to its metro viability assessment be formalised into a standing regional infrastructure evaluation capacity, and extends that recommendation here to propose that a broader Tri-City Regional Development Council, building on the Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority's existing institutional template, be considered to coordinate not only transport but the full range of shared regional concerns this report has documented throughout this framework, including the eco-sensitive zone notification spanning Chandigarh and Panchkula documented in Chapter 13 and Chapter 14, the shared airport governance structure documented in Chapter 8, and the shared judicial institution documented in Chapter 1 and Chapter 15.

21.6 International Collaboration: Common Development Agenda and Global Partnership

Chandigarh's international collaboration channels, documented across several preceding chapters, centre on three distinct relationships this report considers worth consolidating explicitly here. First, the Capitol Complex's UNESCO World Heritage status, documented in Chapter 1, Chapter 11, and Chapter 19, connects Chandigarh to an ongoing international heritage conservation relationship extending well beyond a one-time inscription, requiring continued compliance with World Heritage conservation standards examined in this report's urban planning and metro alignment findings. Second, the Agence Française de Développement's ₹47 crore loan supporting the Kajauli waterworks upgrade, documented in Chapter 10, Section 10.1, represents Chandigarh's most concrete current international development finance partnership. Third, the Asian Development Bank's independent assessment and publication documenting the Integrated Command and Control Centre's top-national performance, examined in Chapter 16, represents a form of international technical and knowledge partnership distinct from direct financing, lending external validation and visibility to Chandigarh's digital governance achievement.

This report recommends that the Chandigarh Administration explicitly build on this existing, if currently somewhat fragmented, international collaboration base by pursuing a Common Development Agenda specifically linking these three channels, potentially through expanded Agence Française de Développement or comparable international development finance institution engagement on the Union Territory's other capital-intensive infrastructure priorities documented throughout this report, including the sewage treatment and solid waste processing investment needs documented in Chapter 10, building on the precedent already established through the water supply financing partnership.

21.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Results Framework

This report proposes that Chandigarh adopt a formal, published monitoring and evaluation results framework built directly around the ten-point medium-term action plan documented in Section 21.2, with annual, dated public reporting against each item, structured consistently with the statistical system strengthening recommendations documented in Chapter 20, Section 20.6. This report considers the Integrated Command and Control Centre's demonstrated data governance and real-time monitoring capability, documented extensively in Chapter 16, to represent a directly available institutional platform for hosting this proposed results framework, extending the same rigorous, real-time tracking discipline already applied to traffic, water, and solid waste systems into the broader sectoral outcome tracking this report has found lacking across several chapters of this framework.

This report recommends specifically that the proposed results framework consolidate, in a single publicly accessible dashboard, the full catalogue of data gaps identified in Chapter 20, Section 20.6, alongside progress tracking against the ten priority actions documented in Section 21.2, so that future editions of this Comprehensive Development Framework Report, and any other independent assessment of Chandigarh's development trajectory, can draw on a

single, authoritative, continuously updated evidence source rather than requiring the kind of dispersed, multi-source research this report itself has had to conduct across more than twenty separate government departments, parliamentary records, and independent assessment bodies in the course of preparing this framework.

21.8 Accountability Architecture: Legislature, Civil Society and Citizens

Chandigarh's accountability architecture, this report's final and in some respects most structurally distinctive finding, operates without the elected legislative assembly that anchors accountability in every full state examined elsewhere in this national CDF series, a constitutional feature documented from Chapter 1 onward and returned to repeatedly throughout this framework, from the Finance Commission devolution question examined in Chapter 2 to the Chief Vigilance Officer charge-sharing anomaly examined in Chapter 15. In the absence of this legislative accountability channel, this report identifies three alternative accountability mechanisms currently operating within Chandigarh, each documented at points across this framework: the Administrator's Advisory Council, whose Social Welfare Committee recommendation on pension enhancement was documented in Chapter 7, Section 7.6, functioning as a form of consultative, appointed rather than elected, policy input mechanism; the Municipal Corporation's own elected structure, documented in Chapter 11, providing the Union Territory's sole genuinely elected accountability channel, notwithstanding its jurisdiction being limited to civic rather than full governmental functions; and the Comptroller and Auditor General's compliance audit reporting, documented in Chapter 2, Section 2.8, providing external, though currently only jointly and not Chandigarh-specifically disaggregated, financial accountability oversight.

This report's final and most significant accountability recommendation, synthesising findings from across this entire framework, is that the Chandigarh Administration actively strengthen each of these three existing accountability channels, given the absence of the legislative accountability mechanism available to full states: expanding the Administrator's Advisory Council's public visibility and response-tracking, following through on this report's Chapter 2 recommendation for Union Territory-disaggregated Comptroller and Auditor General reporting, and building on the Municipal Corporation's own revenue and capacity reforms documented in Chapter 2 and Chapter 11 to ensure its elected structure carries genuine, resourced authority commensurate with its unique status as Chandigarh's only directly elected governance institution. Beyond these institutional channels, this report considers the citizen trust and satisfaction tracking survey recommended in Chapter 20, Section 20.7, alongside the proposed public results dashboard recommended in Section 21.7 above, to represent the most direct, practically achievable near-term accountability strengthening measures available to the Chandigarh Administration, since both can be implemented administratively, without requiring the kind of constitutional change that formal legislative accountability would require, while still meaningfully closing the citizen perception and transparency gaps this report has documented consistently across its twenty preceding chapters.

This report closes its chapter-by-chapter analysis here, having traced Chandigarh's development story across geography and demography, fiscal architecture, economic structure,

the full range of social and infrastructure sectors, governance and technology, sectoral frontiers, and finally these cross-cutting and forward-looking strategic themes. The Union Territory this report has documented is one of genuine, substantial, and in several respects internationally recognised achievement, from its solar energy transition to its digitally governed Integrated Command and Control Centre to its consistently top-ranked national development indices, achievement this report has taken care neither to understate nor to present uncritically. Set against that achievement, this report has identified a consistent, recurring pattern of specific, serious, and precisely evidenced gaps beneath Chandigarh's strong aggregate performance, from child nutrition to civil service capacity to data integrity to citizen trust, gaps this report considers Chandigarh's genuinely strong institutional foundation, documented throughout this framework, is well positioned to close, provided the specific, evidence-based recommendations this report has offered across its twenty-one chapters receive the sustained, resourced attention their underlying findings warrant as the Union Territory advances toward its own Vision 2047 and India's independence centenary alike.

END NOTE

This Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the Union Territory of Chandigarh set out, from its Preface onward, to produce an evidence-grounded, transparently sourced account of a constituent unit whose development story differs in kind, not merely in scale, from that of the states examined elsewhere in this national series. Across twenty-one chapters, this report has traced Chandigarh's trajectory from its founding as free India's first fully planned city through its current position as a Union Territory of just 114 square kilometres carrying constitutional, fiscal, and administrative responsibilities disproportionate to its size, serving simultaneously as its own jurisdiction and as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

Three findings recur across this report with sufficient consistency that they merit restatement here as this report's closing synthesis, distinct from the chapter-specific recommendations already offered throughout. First, Chandigarh's aggregate development indicators, whether per capita income, the Human Development Index, or the SDG India Index, are genuinely strong, among the strongest recorded for any constituent unit in this national series, and this report has taken care to document that strength on its own terms rather than understating it for the sake of narrative balance. Second, and in tension with the first finding, this same aggregate strength has repeatedly been found, on closer examination, to mask specific, serious, and precisely quantifiable sub-indicator gaps, from the child wasting deterioration documented in Chapter 6 to the solid waste segregation data discrepancy documented in Chapter 10 to the civil service vacancy backlog documented in Chapter 15. Third, Chandigarh's distinctive constitutional position, a Union Territory without its own legislature, has proven to be not a peripheral technicality but a structural thread running through nearly every chapter of this report, shaping its fiscal architecture, its Finance Commission relationship, its anti-corruption enforcement capacity, and its accountability mechanisms alike.

This report has been prepared with a deliberate, sustained commitment to citing only verifiable, dated sources, to stating plainly wherever Chandigarh-specific data could not be located rather than estimating around the gap, and to presenting findings that complicate or qualify an otherwise favourable narrative with the same rigour applied to Chandigarh's genuine achievements. Where this report has identified data gaps, and it has identified many, spanning fiscal, social, environmental, and governance domains alike, these are offered not as criticism of the Chandigarh Administration's transparency but as a considered,

evidence-based agenda for the statistical system strengthening this report has recommended in Chapter 20.

This report is, as stated in its Preface, offered as a living document rather than a static one, intended to complement rather than duplicate the statutory planning instruments of the Chandigarh Administration, the Chandigarh Master Plan, and the deliberations of NITI Aayog. The Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks hopes that the evidence assembled here, read alongside its companion volumes for other states and Union Territories prepared under this same national series, will meaningfully inform Chandigarh's continued development as the Union Territory advances toward its own Vision 2047 and India's centenary of independence alike.

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