PRESS RELEASE

SCORE opinion poll finds Uttar Pradesh in dead heat

NDA and SP neck and neck; 42 seats too close to call

BANGALORE, 25 November 2026: Uttar Pradesh is heading into one of its closest contests in years, with neither the BJP-led NDA nor the Samajwadi Party assured of a majority if elections were held today, found SCORE Uttar Pradesh Opinion Poll Round 1.

The poll was released today on www.scoreintelligence.in.

SCORE finds the BJP winning 177-215 seats on its own, and the Samajwadi Party winning 160-202 seats. The ranges are not estimates based on vote-share. They are based on seat-by-seat estimates. Seats that were too close to call have been included in the range.

The opinion poll asked respondents which party they would vote for, rather than which alliance, as it is not yet known which seats would be contested by which party in the SP+Congress alliance. However, adding the votes of the SP and the Congress on seats, the INDIA Alliance tally becomes 174-219 against the NDA tally of 181-226 seats.

> **"More than the seat numbers it is the vote-shares that are interesting," said Naresh Arora, founder of SCORE. "Both the BJP and the SP on their own are getting around 37% vote share. And when looking at alliances, the NDA is ahead by only 2.35 percentage points. UP is a cliffhanger as of now," said Arora.**

While the big picture number looks like a close contest, the heat map on the SCORE website shows a fascinating divide. West and East UP look like two different states: the BJP in the West and the SP in the East are consolidating their positions.

The NDA leads outright in 196 seats, six short of a majority, and the SP in 160. A further 42 seats are too close to be given to any party and have been declared a tie for now.

The full results for every constituency are on the SCORE website www.scoreintelligence.in.

SCORE Uttar Pradesh Round 1 surveyed 91,429 voters across all 403 Assembly constituencies between 16 September and 20 November 2026. SCORE has published the results in granular detail: vote shares and seat projections for every constituency, district, and region; breakdowns

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by religion, gender, age and urban/rural, plus non-Yadav OBC voting in every seat; ratings of the leading Chief Ministerial candidates; voters' biggest concerns; and the full list of the 42 tied seats. The findings describe the current political landscape rather than predicting the final result.

Women could change the election

Among women, 46.2% backed the NDA and 31.5% the SP. Among men, the order is reversed: 41.9% back the SP and 35.1% the NDA.

> **"Apart from CM Yogi Adityanath's popularity and the SP's poor image on law and order, the BJP's third biggest advantage is among women voters. The BJP is already way ahead of SP among women voters, and it could get another boost if and when the reported women's cash transfer scheme comes through," said Naresh Arora.**

Forty-two seats could decide the outcome

The poll found 42 constituencies where the gap between the two leading parties is too narrow to call. Thirty-eight of them are straight contests between the BJP and the SP, and 15 are in Awadh. The full list of tied seats is on the SCORE website.

The big shifts since 2022

The SP's vote share has risen 4.9 percentage points since the 2022 Assembly election, from 32.1% to 37.0%, while the BJP's has fallen 4.6 points, from 41.3% to 36.7%. The BJP on its own is projected at 177-215 seats, down from the 255 it won in 2022. The SP's 160-202 is up from 111.

The BSP is at 11.4% and is projected to win one seat. The Congress is at 7.7%, with two seats, and the Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) is projected at two seats.

A different contest in every region

In West UP (136 seats), the BJP's vote share has fallen most steeply, from 45.4% to 38.1%, but the NDA still leads with 84-90 seats.

Purvanchal (141 seats) is where the SP leads the BJP by seven points, 38.6% against the BJP's 31.6%.

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Awadh (107 seats) is neck and neck, at 40.3% for the BJP and 39.4% for the SP.

Bundelkhand (19 seats) is the only region where the BJP's vote share has risen since 2022, to 41.1%.

Shifts underway in caste politics

Yadavs remain firmly with the SP (70.4%) and Jatavs with the BSP (43.3%), while the NDA leads among most other Hindu castes. But the same caste often votes differently from one division to the next, tracking which of its own leaders is on which side locally. The opinion poll has released the preferences of non-Yadav OBCs, a key swing demographic, on every seat on its website.

Yogi Adityanath is the preferred Chief Minister

Asked whom they want as the next Chief Minister, 35.3% named Yogi Adityanath, 26.5% Akhilesh Yadav and 8.6% Mayawati, while 22.7% are undecided. On personal ratings, the two leaders are close: Yogi Adityanath 69.6 out of 100 and Akhilesh Yadav 68.3.

> **"While Akhilesh Yadav has approval ratings almost as good as Yogi Adityanath, this does not convert into the CM choice ratings. This probably indicates a divergence in how people see Akhilesh Yadav and his party. His party still suffers from poor perception on law and order, something that our ground teams heard across the state," said Naresh Arora.**

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