UP RS polls: Contest off as SP drops plan for another candidate, settles for 2 only

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LUCKNOW: The Samajwadi Party on Tuesday decided against fielding a third candidate for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh, leaving the BJP with eight candidates and the SP with two in the fray.

With the BJP having nominated eight candidates and the SP two, the 10 seats are now set to be filled without a contest, provided all 10 nominations clear scrutiny and no candidate withdraws before the October 9 deadline.

The SP had been considering fielding a third candidate and had completed preparations for the move. However, the party decided against it on Tuesday morning after assessing the numbers and the possibility of cross-voting.

A key factor was the open-ballot system used in Rajya Sabha elections. Under the system, authorised party representatives can see how their legislators have voted. With the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections due in 2027, some MLAs from the NDA camp were reluctant to openly vote for an Opposition candidate just months before the state polls.

The decision came a day after senior SP MLA Ravidas Mehrotra said the party had completed the formalities for a third candidate.

In a post on X on Tuesday, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said, "Now our eyes are not on three but on 403 seats," signalling the party's focus on the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. The SP has already nominated party general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav, who is seeking a sixth term in the Rajya Sabha, and Reliance Industries senior corporate executive Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani. Both have filed their nomination papers.


SP's candidates Ram Gopal Yadav and Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani have already filed nomination papers. HT FILE

The BJP, meanwhile, announced eight candidates on Monday, dropping all seven of its outgoing members from Uttar Pradesh, including Union ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and BL Verma. The party's nominees are Dharampal Singh, Radhakant Ojha, Prakash Pal, Vidyasagar Sonkar, Gopi Krishna Pandey, Priyanka Singh Rawat, Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan and Shruti Gangwar.

The BJP's eight candidates filed their nomination papers at the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav also reached the Vidhan Bhawan in Lucknow on Tuesday to submit a third set of his nomination papers. Speaking to the media, he said, "Each candidate can submit four sets of nomination papers. I have always submitted three sets in these elections. I submitted two sets on the first day and the third today. So, three is a good number for us."

Why SP did not field a third candidate

Under the single transferable vote system used for Rajya Sabha elections, a candidate requires 37 first-preference votes based on the current effective strength of the Uttar Pradesh assembly.

The BJP-led NDA has the numbers to secure eight seats, while the SP, with Congress support, has enough legislators to win two. A third SP candidate would have required votes from outside the SP-Congress camp.

That made cross-voting central to the calculations. While the possibility of NDA legislators supporting an SP candidate could not be ruled out, the open-ballot system meant that such a move would be visible to party representatives. With the 2027 assembly polls approaching, the SP ultimately chose not to risk a direct numbers battle in the Upper House.

An independent candidate, Kante Sayyana, has also filed nomination papers. However, the candidature is expected to be rejected during scrutiny because the nomination does not have the required 10 MLAs as proposers.

Tuesday was the last day for filing nominations. The papers will be scrutinised on Wednesday, while October 9 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature. Voting is scheduled for October 16.

Swiss Prez inspects Jewar airport facilities

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LUCKNOW: Swiss President Guy Bernard Parmelin on Tuesday arrived at Noida International (Jewar) Airport with a 65-member high-powered delegation—including his wife, Swiss Ambassador, members of National Council and 40 top industrialists—turning an airport inspection into a big investment signal for Uttar Pradesh.

IT and electronics minister Sunil Sharma welcomed the Swiss President. Additional chief secretary, civil aviation, and IIDC Deepak Kumar besides Invest UP CEO Vijay Kiran Anand welcomed the Swiss President with traditional "Angavastram" (stole).

For the state government, which has made connectivity, modern infrastructure and ease of doing business its core growth plank, this visit is a validation. Officials said Jewar airport will not only put western UP on global aviation map but also trigger industrial and logistics boom around Noida-Greater Noida.

The day began with a detailed presentation at Avni Board Room in NIA office where President Parmelin also addressed delegates. A lunch amid live Indian music and a group photo followed.


Swiss President Guy Bernard poses for a group picture at the Jewar airport. SOURCED

Later, the delegation split. Parmelin, his wife and key officials took airside tour and climbed ATC tower for a bird's eye view, while rest fanned out to check terminal, security hold area, boarding gates, apron and baggage reclaim. Delegation left by 2 pm. While aviation was focus, officials said real takeaway is beyond runway.

With IT, electronics, precision engineering and technology firms in delegation, Uttar Pradesh is eyeing Swiss investment in semiconductors, electronics manufacturing and tech collaboration — sectors where the state has rolled out aggressive incentive policies.

{ 2026-27 FISCAL }

'UP COLLECTS Rs 1.19 LAKH CR TAX REVENUE IN FIRST 6 MONTHS'

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday claimed it collected a tax revenue of Rs 1,19,769.53 crore in the first six months of 2026-2027 from April 1 to September 30, 2026.

Finance minister Suresh Khanna, who released the state government's revenue collection data, said the revenue collected was 74.4% of the target of Rs 1,60,876.56 crore for the period. He said the collections of Rs 6,771.01 crore from the transport were 102% of the target.

He said the increasing revenue collection is a reflection on the people's faith in the state government's policies. Khanna said the state government collected a non-tax revenue of Rs 7137.62 crore, which was 58% of the target. The minister said the state government's revenue (tax and non-tax) collection increased by Rs 3,332 crore in September 2026. He said the state government collected a revenue of Rs 18,570 crore in September 2026 against a sum of Rs 15,238 crore collected in the same month in 2025. HTC


Aradhana Mishra FILE

UP CONG CHIEF WRITES TO CM, DEMANDS RELIEF FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

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LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Aradhana Mishra on Tuesday wrote to chief minister Yogi Adityanath demanding relief for farmers and others who suffered due to recent rain and floods.

"Due to the heavy rain recently, several districts of the state are in a dire situation. The affected districts include Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Hardoi, Barabanki, Kushinagar, Ayodhya, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj. Farmers' crops have suffered a lot of damage and there has been a huge loss of life and property. There has also been a problem of fodder for the cattle," she wrote.

"Due to waterlogging in Faizullaganj, Mama Colony, Daud Nagar, Lohramau, Dhaila and many other nearby areas of Lucknow, people are facing many problems and there is also a possibility of disease spread. More than 35,000 houses have been affected by the flood due to which people are facing difficulty in living and also in commuting," Mishra said.

"The state government should give necessary and effective instructions to solve the problem keeping in mind the public interest, and also to give instructions to provide adequate compensation to the affected people. Health camps should be set up to prevent infections caused by floods," the letter said.

After his father-in-law's 'sanyas', no need to separate Akash from BSP: Mayawati

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LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday dismissed claims that her nephew, Akash Anand, faced multiple expulsions from the party, saying that he was never expelled prior to his marriage and that any subsequent disciplinary actions were specifically intended to help him improve his conduct rather than a recurring pattern of removal.

She said there would be no need to separate Anand from the party anymore, as his father-in-law Ashok Siddharth had retired.

The remarks came a day after she reinstated Akash and appointed him BSP national coordinator, reversing his expulsion on September 10. The move followed his father-in-law and senior BSP leader Ashok Siddharth's retirement from active politics.

In a post on X, Mayawati said media reports had "exaggerated" the developments by portraying Akash as having been expelled four times and subsequently brought back and reappointed national coordinator. She maintained that Akash had actively worked for the BSP before his marriage and had never been expelled during that period.

According to Mayawati, the situation changed after Akash's association with Siddharth, whom she accused of trying to damage her nephew's image for his own interests. She said repeated organisational action against Akash was taken with the "special objective" of improving his conduct and that he was reinstated after realising his mistakes.

Mayawati said Siddharth's retirement should remove the circumstances that had contributed to the discord and expressed confidence that there would now be no need to separate Akash from the BSP again.



BSP chief Mayawati with Akash Anand. FILE

Akash's latest reinstatement follows a series of reversals since Mayawati began grooming him for a larger role in the party. Appointed national coordinator in 2019, he was declared her political successor in December 2023.

His first major setback came during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign, when Mayawati removed him as national coordinator and withdrew his status as successor over his conduct. Later, she restored both positions.

The relationship deteriorated again in March 2025, when Akash was stripped of his organisational responsibilities and expelled from the BSP. He apologised and was taken back into the party in April, though his earlier positions were not immediately restored. He subsequently returned to a senior organisational role and was appointed chief national coordinator.

The latest confrontation began on September 3, 2026, when Mayawati removed Akash as chief national coordinator, saying he needed greater political maturity before being entrusted with major responsibilities. On September 10, she expelled him from the party and declared him "completely free" from the BSP.

The action came amid a fresh rupture involving Siddharth, who had faced disciplinary action of his own. He was expelled in February 2025 and reinstated in September that year after an apology, before being expelled again in August 2026. He subsequently announced his retirement from active politics.

After Akash's September expulsion, Mayawati appointed his younger brother Ishan Anand as a national coordinator. She has now reversed that arrangement by restoring Akash to the post.

Mayawati on Tuesday also appealed to the media to present what she described as the "truth" about Akash's disciplinary history rather than reducing it to a count of expulsions.

DyCM Maurya: Time will come for grand temples in Mathura and Kashi

PRAYAGRAJ: Deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday said those who were "upset" by the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya had resorted to "unwarranted utterances" to vent their frustration, while asserting that the time would come for grand temples in Mathura and Kashi.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the birth centenary year celebrations of VHP leader Ashok Singhal at the AMA auditorium, Maurya said Singhal had played a historic role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and worked extensively to unite the Hindu community.

"Those who could not tolerate the construction of the Ram temple and had opposed the movement are now trying to vent their frustration through unwarranted statements. The victory was not merely about an incident but about the removal of the Babri structure and construction of the Ram temple," Maurya said.


KP Maurya paying tribute to Ashok Singhal. HT

Referring to Singhal's three major religious-cultural goals of Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi, Maurya said the Ayodhya temple had been built and "the time is now coming for the fulfilment of the resolve concerning Mathura and Kashi".

"Both matters are before the courts. We have faith that truth and justice will prevail. It may be taking time, but the day will come when the Hindu community will see grand temples in Mathura and Kashi too," he said. HTC

Those who fight for country do not fear arrest, says Akhilesh

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LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, who along with other SP MPs and Opposition leaders from the INDIA bloc was taken into custody on Tuesday after police intercepted their march towards the Election Commission headquarters in Delhi, said they did not fear arrest. He also accused the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of colluding with the BJP and demanded his resignation.

The protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar, began from the Makar Dwar of Parliament as leaders and MPs of the INDIA bloc set out to highlight alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list and the broader election process.


Akhilesh Yadav during the protest march in Delhi. SOURCED

"Those who fight for the country do not fear arrest," Yadav said, alleging that the BJP and the CEC were one and the same. "There is a national consensus that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar should resign," he added.

Targeting the ruling party's push for "One Nation, One Election," Yadav alleged that its real intent was a "Chandigarh-style manoeuvre" designed to wrap everything up in a single round of elections so that "fraud would not need to be committed repeatedly."

He suggested that instead of "One Nation, One Election," BJP leaders should call it "One Corruption, One Election", terming it a ploy to hold elections just one more time.

After the sit-in, police briefly took Akhilesh Yadav and the other leaders into custody before releasing them.

{ PM SURYA GHAR SCHEME }

UP country's top-performing state: Sharma

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LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the country's top-performing state under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, energy minister AK Sharma said on Tuesday.

Addressing a programme at the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) office to mark the achievement, Sharma said it was the result of collective efforts by departmental officials, UPNEDA personnel, solar-sector stakeholders and people of the state.

He attributed the achievement to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and chief minister Yogi Adityanath's guidance, and congratulated Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency for its performance. Sharma said the state must maintain the momentum and further expand rooftop solar installations.


AK Sharma FILE

He recalled that installations were low when rooftop solar began in Uttar Pradesh, but expressed confidence that UPNEDA would eventually become the country's leading agency in the sector. He also stressed the environmental benefits of rooftop solar, saying clean energy helps reduce pollution and protect nature. "Adopting solar energy is also a service to nature," he said.

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