

SP chief reiterates focus on 2027 victory, alleges unfair compensation in Ayodhya

HT Correspondent

VARANASI : Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday reiterated that the party's focus for the 2027 UP assembly elections was on winning and that its strategy would be guided by the prospects of victory rather than the number of seats it contested. He claimed that the SP would defeat the BJP again after its performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Yadav visited Gosaulpur village in the Nawagarh block of Siddharthpur tehsil in Ballia to meet the family of former leader of the Opposition and minister Ram Govind Chaudhary, who passed away on September 25. He paid tribute to Chaudhary and said a statue would be installed in his memory in Ballia.

Addressing media persons at the helipad, Yadav renewed the



Akhilesh Yadav FILE PHOTO

SP's commitment to its PDA (Pichhadi, Dalit, Aapsankhyak) coalition, saying the party stood with people facing injustice.

He also accused the BJP government of discriminating against Ayodhya residents whose land, houses and shops were acquired for development projects. He alleged that they had not received compensation at market rates and had not benefited fairly from the development work.

Questioning the condition of the Purvanchal Expressway,

Yadav referred to reports of potholes and raised concerns over the quality and maintenance of infrastructure projects. His remarks came amid renewed questions over road safety following an accident on the expressway that left four young cricketers and others dead.

On the issue of blending ethanol with petrol, Yadav questioned the possible consequences of mixing an "incorrect substance" with ethanol. He said the government should address people's concerns instead of diverting attention from their problems.

Asked about meeting the President and accompanying Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Yadav said senior party leaders were attending the relevant events. He added that he had been attending party programmes regularly and had visited Ballia to meet Chaudhary's family.

MAN KILLED DURING LIQUOR PARTY IN LKO

LUCKNOW : A 28 year old painter was beaten to death allegedly by his friend during a liquor party in the Kanousa area of Lucknow, police said on Friday. The accused allegedly attacked the victim, identified as Sukhpal, with a brick, inflicting multiple blows to his head following an argument.

Sukhpal was found seriously injured outside his rented room on Friday morning. Police rushed him to Lok Bandhu Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The accused, Rajesh Rawat alias Kall, allegedly fled the spot after the incident. Four police teams have been formed to trace and arrest him.

DCP (South) MD Mushtaq said the police were investigating the circumstances leading to the death and had launched a search for the accused. According to the preliminary investigation, Sukhpal and Rajesh were drinking together when an argument broke out between them over an unspecified issue. The dispute allegedly escalated into physical assault, leaving Sukhpal with fatal head injuries.

TET mandatory for next LT Grade teacher recruitment

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PRAYAGRAJ : The Uttar Pradesh secondary education department has proposed making the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) mandatory for the next recruitment of assistant teachers (LT Grade) in government secondary schools across the state.

The department has sent a proposal to the state government to amend the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Education (Trained Graduate Category) Service Rules, 2014, to align the educational qualifications for the posts

with the norms prescribed by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). According to a senior official of the state secondary education department aware of the move.

In a letter dated September 14, 2026, secondary education director Pratap Singh Baghel requested the government to reconsider the existing service rules. The move follows directions issued at a meeting chaired by the additional chief secretary on September 7, after which the department prepared the proposed amendments, he added.

Under the NCTE norms dated November 12, 2014, teachers for

classes 6 to 10 are required to have a graduation degree with at least 50% marks or a postgraduate degree with at least 45% marks, along with a BEd degree from a recognised institution.

The department has proposed incorporating these requirements into the service rules. While the existing rules mention BEd as a qualification, they do not clearly specify the minimum marks required at the graduation and postgraduate levels. The proposed amendments also seek to clarify recruitment provisions for teachers appointed to teach classes 6 to 10.

The move comes amid petitions

filed before the Allahabad high court concerning TET and educational qualifications for LT Grade teacher recruitment. The court had directed the authorities to clarify the recruitment process and technical requirements for teachers of classes 9 and 10 and had also highlighted the need to amend the service rules to incorporate TET as an essential qualification.

The proposed changes are aimed at bringing the recruitment framework in line with NCTE norms. LT Grade assistant teachers in government secondary schools are recruited through the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC).

AMU accepts students' demands, announces union polls on November 5, replaces proctor

HT Correspondent

AGRA : Students' union polls at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) will be held next month after a gap of eight years when the university administration on Friday accepted all demands, including the removal of proctor Prof Mohd Naved Ali Khan, of students who have been protesting for the past 19 days, said a press release issued by AMU's public

relations office. The protest also included an indefinite hunger strike by a postgraduate student Yasir Fahad since September 21. Vice chancellors Prof Naama Khatoon visited the protest site on Friday, met the protesting students and offered justice to Yasir Fahad.

"Your protest has been deemed, peaceful and principled, and it has yielded results. In appreciation of that spirit, the university has accepted all

your demands. Throughout these days, my foremost concern was the health of Yasir Fahad. A dialogue has taken the way forward, and I appeal to all of you to carry this spirit of trust and calm into the life of the campus," Prof Khatoon said.

The university has appointed Prof Javed Talib of the law department as chief election officer to conduct the AMU students' union elections held in 2018 and Prof Nadia Hassan of

the department of English, Women's College, as chief election officer for the undergraduate students' union of Women's College for the 2026-2027 academic session.

According to the schedule released for the students' union polls by the office of chief election officer Prof Javed Talib, the voter list is to be displayed by respective desks on October 26 and the notification will be issued the next day after correction in the voter list.

UP GOVT SETS MAY 31 DEADLINE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL VACANCY REQUISITIONS

HT Correspondent

LUCKNOW : The Uttar Pradesh government has issued strict instructions to the secondary education department to streamline the recruitment process for teachers and non-teaching staff in government and government-aided secondary schools across the state.

Secretary Kinjal Singh directed the director of education (secondary) to adhere to a rigid timeline for reporting vacancies to the relevant recruitment boards every year. According to the fresh directives, all vacancies arising up to April 1 each year, primarily due to retirements at the end of the academic session, must be calculated and formally communicated to the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC), Prayagraj, and the UP Education Service Selection Commission by May 31 without fail.

The move comes after repeated delays by the department in sending requisitions (adhipchan) for direct recruitment positions, which led to mounting pending vacancies in state-run and aided secondary educational institutions as per order issued on September 24.

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