

Lokniti-ABP News Uttar Pradesh Post Poll Survey, 2017: Key findings

About the Survey

This analysis is based on a Post Poll (*and an Exit Poll for the last voting phase*) conducted in **Uttar Pradesh** by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, for ABP News. The survey was conducted from February 14 through March 8, 2017 among 6269 voters in 395 locations (polling stations) spread across 65 assembly constituencies. These are the same constituencies and polling stations where Lokniti had conducted the earlier rounds of the Tracker survey in July and December 2016, and January 2017. The sampling design adopted was Multi-stage random sampling. The assembly constituencies where the survey was conducted were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method. Thereafter, five polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were selected using the systematic random sampling method. Finally, the respondents were also randomly selected from the electoral rolls of the sampled polling stations.

Before going to the field for the survey, field investigators were imparted training about the survey method and interviewing techniques at day-long training workshops held in Aligarh, Kanpur, Azamgarh, and Delhi. The field investigators conducted face-to-face interviews of the respondents in Hindi asking them a set of standardized questions. The duration of an interview was about 35-40 minutes. At some locations the non-availability of sampled respondents or difficulty in finding households necessitated replacements or substitutions.

The achieved sample has been weighted by gender, locality, religion, and caste group, based on Census 2011. The poll has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 1.7 points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Profile of Achieved Sample in Uttar Pradesh

	Survey Sample (%)	Census 2011 (%)
Scheduled Caste (18+ years)	20.9	19.9
Muslim	17.0	19.3*
Women (18+ years)	47.6	48.1
Urban (18+ years)	16.1	24.2

*Includes all ages

The fieldwork of the study was co-ordinated by Prof. Anil Kumar Verma (Centre for the Study of Society and Politics, Kanpur), Prof. Mirza Asmer Beg (Aligarh Muslim

University, Aligarh), Prof. Sudhir Khare (D.A.V. Postgraduate College, Azamgarh), and by the Lokniti team in Delhi. The survey was designed and analysed by a team of researchers at Lokniti. The team included Asmita Aasaavari, Arushi Gupta, Dhananjay Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Jyoti Mishra, Souradeep Banerjee, Shashwat Dhar, Shreyas Sardesai, and Vibha Attri. The survey was directed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Suhas Palshikar and Prof. Sandeep Shastri of Lokniti.

Survey details in a nutshell

Conducted by	Lokniti-CSDS, for ABP News
Dates of fieldwork	Feb 14 to March 8, 2017
No. of Assembly Constituencies covered	65
No. of Polling Stations (Locations) covered	325
No. of interviews conducted (Sample size)	6269
Overall Margin of Error	+/- 1.7
Sampling method	Multi-stage random sampling
Fieldwork method	Standardized face to face interview in Hindi

A close election

The Uttar Pradesh assembly election looks all set to go down to the wire. According to the CSDS-ABP News Post Poll survey, both the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance and the Bharatiya Janata Party are locked in a very tight contest. Both the parties are likely to get around 32 percent of the total vote. Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party is expected to finish third with a likely vote share of 25 percent.

The seven phase election has seen the three political players engage in a bitter contest, with greater suspense building up with every successive phase about the potential outcome. Despite reports of widespread discontent against the BJP in Western UP, the party is expected to outclass its rivals in the region, which went to polls in the first phase. The SP-Congress alliance is comfortably ahead of its opponents in Ruhelkhand (second phase), but it is likely to face stiff competition from the BJP in its traditional bastion, Awadh (third phase), where the BJP seems to have made substantial gains. Interestingly, Bundelkhand (fourth phase) and North Eastern UP (fifth phase) are expected to witness a neck and neck battle between the alliance and the BJP. In what may be bad news for Mayawati, the BSP may well be relegated to the third position in Bundelkhand, a region where the party has traditionally done well. However, with the BSP supremo Mayawati making a comeback with her somewhat stinging campaign narrative, the party seems to have picked up in the last two phases. Surprisingly, the BJP too seems to have made substantial gains in the last two phases, so much so that it is likely to emerge as the frontrunner, particularly in the Poorvanchal region.

The survey indicates that Akhilesh Yadav continues to be the most favoured choice for chief minister with 28 percent voters wanting him back as Chief Minister. Mayawati trails him by 5 percentage points, with about 23 percent voters expressing a spontaneous preference for her. Modi, though extremely popular in the state, is the preference of only 11 percent voters.

The survey found the anti-incumbency sentiment against the incumbent Akhilesh Yadav government to be quite high. Almost half the voters (48 percent) were not in favour of giving it a second chance. Only 33 percent of the voters wished to see his government back at the helm.

Uttar Pradesh: overall estimated vote share based on post-poll survey

	%
SP-Congress	32
BJP+	32
BSP	25
Others	11

Uttar Pradesh: phase-wise estimated vote shares

	SP-Congress	BJP	BSP	RLD	Others
Phase 1	28%	32%	26%	8%	6%
Phase 2	38%	29%	24%	1%	8%
Phase 3	34%	33%	23%	-	10%
Phase 4	33%	36%	20%	-	11%
Phase 5	34%	31%	25%	-	10%
Phase 6	31%	32%	26%	-	11%
Phase 7	29%	33%	26%	-	12%

Voters' spontaneous preference for Chief Minister

	%
Akhilesh Yadav	28
Mayawati	23
Narendra Modi	11
Adityanath	8
Mulayam Singh	3
Rajnath Singh	2
Rahul Gandhi	1

Note: The rest of the respondents took other names or did not respond.

The question asked was: After this election, who would you prefer as the next Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh?

The question was asked in an open-ended way and no names were offered to the respondent.

Anti-incumbency sentiment is quite strong but it is getting divided

	%
In favour of giving another chance to the SP govt.	33
Against giving another chance to the SP govt.	48
Not Sure/did not answer	20

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to round

The question asked was: Should the current SP govt. in Uttar Pradesh get another chance?

How are castes and communities voting?

Brahmin and Rajputs	Massively behind BJP
Others Upper castes	BJP leads but no massive lead
Jats	RLD has edge over BJP
Yadavs	Massively behind SP
Kurmi, Koeri, Lodhs	BJP leads but down since Lok Sabha
Lower OBCs	BJP leads by significant margin but down since Lok Sabha
Jatavs	Massively behind BSP
Other Dalits	BSP leads, BJP second
Muslims	Mostly behind SP, but also voting for BSP in some parts