INDIA DECIDES



- HEMANT SOREN

principal to form a pre-

poll alliance for the seven

Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. Both the parties will fight on three seats each,

while one seat will be con-

tested jointly by fielding a

common independent can-

didate. Sources privy to

developments said that

the final approval to the

decision will be given by

Congress' core group and

a formal announcement is

likely on Sunday.
Polling for city's seven
Lok Sabha seats, all cur-

rently held by the BJP, will

have kept the New Delhi,

Chandni Chowk and North West Delhi seats

The Congress is learnt to

take place on May 12.

DC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Pradhan Mantri

Launching a scathing attack on the NDA govern-ment's much hyped Ayushman Bharat or

Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY),

which promises health

insurance cover to poor of

upto ₹5 lakh, Congress

alleged on Saturday that it

is not for the common

man but actually a "life-

saver" for private insur-

ance companies and hos-

Asserting that the government's claims about

the success of the scheme

are "fake and false," senior Congress leader

ior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said bene-

ficiaries can avail treat-

ment costing only up to

₹50,000 under this scheme

on the premium of Rs

1,100 paid by the government. "It is not ₹5 lakh as

promised by Modi; he has

exaggerated it 10 times,"

claim

'Modicare' has provided

each nousehold insurance

cover of ₹5 lakh is a huge

crore people across the country are already cov-

ered under respective

ARUNAV SINHA and SUBHASHIS MITTRA | DC

Asserting that Priyanka

Gandhi's entry into politics will make "no difference" to the BJP's prospects in the Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh, chief minister Yogi Adityanath Saturday dubbed it an "internal metter" of the porty.

matter" of that party.

He also dismissed

"false alarm" the SP-BSP

alliance and claimed that

it was already embroiled

in dispute. "The Congress has

made her (Priyanka) the

party general secretary

(in-charge of eastern UP)

this time. It is an internal

matter of that party as to

how it will utilise her

services. Earlier too, she

had campaigned for the

Congress. And this time

too she is the party's campaigner and it will make

no difference (to the BJP)," he told PTI in his

first interview after announcement of the Lok

Sabha poll schedule on

Sunday.

LUCKNOW, MARCH 16

fraud," he claimed

Congress

pitals.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY | 17 MARCH 2019 | HYDERABAD



If Oppn makes any mistake, nobody knows whether there will be polls in future — Tejashwi Yadav, **RJD** leader

SHORT TAKES

PM only makes tall promises: Gehlot

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Saturday Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made false promises and had 'zero

achievements' to highlight. Addressing public meetings in Jamwa Ramgarh and Bhandrej, Gehlot alleged that Modi had failed to fulfil the promises he had made in the 2014 Lok Sabha election and took wrong

decisions. The senior Congress leader claimed that demonetisation and the hastily-implemented goods and services tax were among the decisions that did not benefit the people. The chief minister said the farmers and traders were disappointed with the Modi government.

National security key issue in HP

Shimla: National security can become a major issue in the upcoming general election in Himachal Pradesh, where a good number of voters are either ex-servicemen or currently serving in the security forces. Most of these personnel can hold sway in at least three out of the state's four Lok Sabha seats — Kangra, Hamirpur and Mandi. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is raising the issue of the surgical and airstrikes carried out by the Modi government in

SP fields BJP's Allahabad MP

Lucknow: The Samajwadi Party on Saturday decided to field sitting BJP MP from Allahabad Shyama Charan Gupta as its nominee from Banda Lok Sabha seat. Gupta, a leading businessman-turned-politician, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Banda parliamentary constituency in 2004 on a ticket of Samajwadi Party. He fought from Phulpur in the 2009 general election, losing to his Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

TN CONG URGES RAHUL TO FIGHT FROM STATE

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Congress unit Saturday urged its national president Rahul Gandhi to contest from the southern state for the April 18 Lok Sabha elections, saying he was first proposed as the next Prime Minister from here by the DMK. TNCC president K.S. Alagiri said besides contesting from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, Mr Gandhi should also select a seat from Tamil Nadu as he cannot be perceived as belonging to just the northern state, but "is seen as an asset of the people of India." Referring to DMK president M.K. Stalin first proposing Mr Gandhi's name as the next Prime Minister in the event of the Opposition winning the Lok Sabha polls, Alagiri said the secular alliance cobbled up by the DMK leader had the full support of the people. "In this backdrop, on behalf of the state Congress unit

Asked as to what extent the SP-BSP alliance could and the people, I request Mr Rahul Gandhi to contest dent the BJP's prospects in the hustings, Adityanath said, "The fledgling SP-BSP alliance from any one of the Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu. I am sure the (DMK-led) is already embroiled in Secular Progressive Alliance will extend grand support to this plea," Alagiri said in a ring to reports of hard statement. He said Mr bargaining between the Gandhi was "acceptable" by two parties over certain the people as a leader beyond religion and caste and therefore, cannot be considered as "belonging only to UP."

"It (alliance) is nothing but a 'hauaa' (false alarm)," the chief minister said in his exclusive



■ **DESPITE OBJECTION** by Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit, the Congress agreed to enter into an arrangement with the AAP with a pre-condition that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party will not insist on an alliance in other states.

■ Both parties to fight on 3 seats each, 1 seat jointly

of North East Delhi, South Delhi and East Delhi have been allotted to the AAP.

The remaining West Delhi seat is likely to be allotted to an independent candidate who would be jointly selected by both the parties, sources informed. Sources said that despite objection by Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit, the Congress agreed to enter into an arrangement with the AAP with a pre-condition that the Arvind Kejriwalled party will not insist on

Ayushman Bharat will

benefit pvt firms: Cong

Dehradun on Saturday.

health insurance schemes

of various states and the

Centre's Rashtriya Swast-

hya Bima Yojana (RSBY). RSBY was started by the

Congress-led UPA govern-

'10 crore people to be

under the

ment, Mr Ramesh added.

Ayushman Bharat are not

over and above the 11 crore beneficiaries who

are already availing bene-

fits," the senior Congress leader said, adding, "Modi

is trying to take credit for

various health schemes

Emphasising that the

described

Yogi Adityanath

UP CM also

dismissed as

"false alarm" the

SP-BSP alliance

and claimed that

politician said in general

elections state-level local

that person and party in

whose hands the country

is safe, secure and pros-

perous," he said, adding

the voters know this very

well. "An effort is being

made to whip up an

unnecessary confusion and 'hauaa'," the BJP

hardliner said, adding the

"People will vote for

issues hardly matter.

it was already

embroiled in

dispute.

Ram temple.

'Modicare,' is conceptual-

benefited

ırougr

He further said that 11 Ayushman Bharat Yojana crore people across the (ABY) or PMJAY, which is

make no difference'

'PriGa entry will

also

Congress supporters during a Parivartan Rally in

an alliance in other states. The Congress and the AAP are pitted against each other in Punjab.

The two parties' alliance in Delhi comes as a surprise, especially after party chief Rahul Gandhi had last week asked booth level workers to ensure victory of party candidates on all seven seats.

Sources said that Congress' Delhi in-charge P.C. Chacko is learnt to have played a major role in the change in the

when asked about their opinion on the alliance proposal through the party's Shakti app — are said to have given their approval to the a tie-up with the AAP.

It is learnt that the party high command reconsidered its stand on alliance with the AAP after receiving a positive feedback

from party workers. Mr Chacko had publicly said that the alliance should happen, though he had added that the final call would be that of Mr

Interestingly, the change in party's stand is likely to leave Ms Dikshi, who recently took over as the city Congress chief, on a sticky wicket. She was the CM in Delhi when the AAP was formed in 2013 amid allegations of corruption in the city govern-

BIHAR

'Grand alliance to announce **seat sharing** tomorrow'

Patna, March 16: Seat sharing among constituents of the stituents of the O p p o s i t i o n "Mahagathbandhan" (grand alliance) in Bihar for Lok Sabha polls will announced on Monday, Hindustani Morcha Awami (Secular) president Jitan Ram Manjhi said

Saturday.

The announcement will come following another round of talks among the partners on Sunday, the former chief minister said.

On Thursday, Bihar Congress Campaign Committee chairman Akhilesh Prasad Singh had said the seat sharing would be declared on Sunday. "We (grand alliance) will announce our seat sharing for Lok Sabha polls in the state on March 18 at any cost, Mr Majhi told reporters here after a meeting of his party's parliamentary board.

The 'Mahagathban-dhan', as the grand alliance is called in local parlance, comprises old allies like the Congress and the RJD, besides new entrants such as Upendra Kushwaha's RLSP, the HAM(S), Sharad Yadav's Loktantrik Janata Dal and the Vikashsheel Insaan Party, a fledgling outfit floated by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni.

"Two rounds of talks mong the grand among the grand alliance partners have been held in Delhi and another round will be held in Patna tomorrow (Sunday)," Mr Manjhi said. An agreement has been virtually reached on the number of seats the HAM(S) would contest, Mr Manjhi said without divulging the details. He said his party wanted to contest in five Lok Sabha seats in Rihar. — PTI



GUWAHATI, MARCH 16

The Indian National Congress (INC) on Friday night released

The sitting MP Mr Gaurav Gogoi, Ms Sushmita Dev in Assam and Mr Vincent Pala in Meghalaya have been re-nominated

from Nagaland.

The first phase of Lok Sabha elections will take place on April 11. Sources in party said Congress that candidates for remaining nine seats in Assam, two in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur is expected to announced

Informing that party was looking into prospect of existing candidates in the panel, said sources Congress party was looking to nominate



Committee (CEC) on Saturdav met Lok Sabha election canfor Bihar, Odisha, Kashmir, Nitin Gadkari, Jual

till late night. Among the states, whose candidates the CEC discussed, all seats of AP and Telangana and Uttarakhand will go to polls in the first phase on April 11.

scheduled to meet on

AMONG THE states, whose can-

Monday. Mr Shah is expected to meet party core group leaders from Uttar Pradesh on Sunday to discuss candidates. Ahead of the core group meeting, Union minister and Jhansi MP Uma Bharti wrote a letter to Mr Shah informing that she does not want to contest the forthcom-

Also, party's Prayagraj(Allahabad

Cong names 5 in 1st list for N-E

BJP leader Mukul Roy with party leaders leave

elections in Kolkata on Saturday.

after a meeting with deputy election commission-

er Sudeep Jain ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha

MANOJ ANAND | DC

the first list of five candidates in Assam, two in Meghalaya, one each in Sikkim and Nagaland for the ensu-ing Lok Sabha elec-

Kaliabor, Silchar and Shillong Lok Sabha seats respectively.

The party has also decided to field former Meghalaya chief minister Mukul Sangma from Tura, the stronghold of former Lok Sabha Speaker late P.A. Sangma and his family. Late P.A. Sangma's daughter Agatha Sangma is the NPP candidate in the Tura seat. Sikkim Congress presi-

will be in the fray from the lone seat in the hill state, while K.L. Chishi will be the nominee

In Assam, Congress has fielded Swarup Das Karimganj, Sushanta Borgohain from Jorhat and former Union minister Paban Singh Ghatowar from Dibrugarh.

Saturday.

some new entrants as well.

Modi, Shah discuss LS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

BJPCentral Election to discuss the names of didates Assam. Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jammu Telangana and Andhra
Pradesh. The meeting,
headed by party president Amit Shah, was
also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior leaders and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley, Nitin Cadlowi Leal Oram, Thawarchand Gehlot among others. The meeting continued

The next CEC is

didates the CEC discussed, all seats of AP and TS and Uttarakhand will go to polls in the first phase on April 11.

ing general polls.

Shyamcharan Gupta switched over to SP amid speculation that the BJP had decided not to field him. Mr Gupta had joined

the BJP from SP ahead of the last Lok Sabha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP national president Amit Shah, home minister Rajnath Singh and finance minister Arun Jaitley during the BJP CEC meeting in New Delhi on Saturday.

> leader of Jan Sangh, defended the government on every forum. However, the finance minister said, some of the Opposition members accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of politicising the Pulwama and

India's national interest and gave handle to Pakistan to discredit the country, he added. "Raising question on the action of armed forces with the view to creating doubts in the mind of countrymen was selfgoal or shot themselves this," Mr Jaitley noted.





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interview during which he touched upon various key issues including the said in a statement. IAF airstrikes on terror camps in Pakistan and The 46-year-old saffron Shah in the film. monk-turned-

hah in the Maharashtra chie hatar Devendra minister the film in January. The film also features

Darshan Kumaar, Boman Irani, Prashant Sengupta, Shrivastav, as producers on the film.

Shah set to launch poster of **Modi film**

ly wrong, Mr Ramesh

said: "It doesn't cover dia-

betes and high blood pres-

sure, the two common ail-

access to adequate health-

care under PMJAY because it excludes outpa-

tient treatment, which 87

per cent of ailing persons

undergo. Outpatient treat-

ment is a serious financial

burden that accounted for

63 per cent of ₹4.955 spent

by households out of their

pockets on health in 2014,'

The country does not

need health insurance

that benefits private players but health assurance

which helps common

ne said.

man, he added.

"Patients will not have

ments in India.'

New Delhi, March 16: BJP president Amit Shah will release the second poster of upcoming film PM Narendra *Modi* on Monday here.

Directed by Omung Kumar and featuring actor Vivek Oberoi in the lead, the biographical drama on Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release countrywide on April 12. "This film is very close to my heart. The first poster received immense love and only one person could have taken this excited a notch higher and that is Mr Amit Shah. I am looking forward to the second poster launch, producer Sandip Singh

Critically-acclaimed actor Manoj Joshi is essaying the role of

Fadnavis along with Oberoi had unveiled the first look and poster of

Narayanan, Zarina Wahab, Barkha Bisht Rajendra Gupta and Akshat R Saluja in key roles. Suresh Oberoi, Anand Pandit and Acharya Manish are also serving

Jaitley says oppn scored self-goal over Balakot

The Opposition has scored a self-goal by asking for proof of damage following airstrike on Balakot terror camp, finance minister Arun Jaitley said Saturday. The airstrike and surgical strike carried out

by the armed forces should not be part of Lok Sabha election campaign, he said at an event here.

"I fully agree with the Election Commission that images of martyrs should not be used on political posters," he Citing example of 1971

war, he said, the entire Opposition stood by the ruling dispensation, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee,

Balakot incidents.

Statements made by 21 Opposition parties hurt