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BJP on top as Maharashtra, Haryana vote today

SHEMIN JOY NEW DELHI, DHNS

aharashtra and Haryana will vote on Monday to choose a new government, with the ruling BJP widely expected to steamrolla demoralised Opposition in both the states.

The Assembly elections in the two states will be the first major polls after the Narendra Modi-led BJP stormed to power at the Centre. Monday will also see bypolls to 51 Assembly seats in 18 states, where seats fell vacant after MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha.

Bypolls will also be held to the Satara Lok Sabha seat (Maharashtra), where the NCP leader resigned and joined the BJP, and Samastipur (Bihar) due to the death of Lok Janshakti Party MP Ramchandra Paswan.

The BJP and its allies hold around 30 of these Assembly seats while the Congress holds 12 and the rest are with the regional parties.

The campaigning saw Prime Minister Narendra



Election officials leave for their respective polling stations from a distribution centre in Sangli on Sunday. PTI

GOING TO POLLS

Haryana

Modi and Home Minister and BJP chief Amit Shah raising the pitch on Article 370.

BJP in driver's seat

In Maharashtra, Modi and Polls, Page 3A Shah raked up the issue of Related reports

BYPOLLS

51 Assembly seats in 18 states

Lok Sabha Samastipur (Bihar) Satara (MH)

Veer Savarkar, with the BJP even floating the controversial Hindutva leader's name for the country's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna.