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## Ahead of Bihar polls, EC begins training booth-level agents

**The Hindu Bureau**  
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In a first, the Election Commission has begun training booth-level agents (BLAs) belonging to political parties from Bihar in view of the upcoming Assembly election in the State.

Nearly 280 BLAs from the State associated with 10 recognised parties are taking part in the two-day training, which began at the India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management here on Wednesday.

The initiative comes amid widespread allegations by Opposition parties about manipulation in voter lists.

### **First day**

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, addressed the BLAs at the

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first-of-its-kind training programme, an official statement by the EC said.

The training was conceptualised during the Chief Electoral Officers' conference held in March when the commission underscored the importance of BLAs in the election processes.

On the first day of the training on Wednesday, the BLAs were given an overview of their roles and responsibilities as per the legal framework. The programme familiarised them with various aspects of the election processes, including the preparation and revision of electoral rolls as well as the associated application forms.