

Booth Level Officers (BLOs)

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Why in News?

Concerns have been raised that several BLO deaths have been reported from the states undergoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

- **Definition** - A BLO is a **government or semi-government official** appointed by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to act as the custodian of the electoral roll at the polling booth level.
- **Primary Role** - They serve as the link between voters and the election machinery, ensuring that the electoral roll is accurate and updated.
- **Appointment** - BLOs are usually drawn from local institutions such as schools, government offices, or other public sector organizations.
- Teachers, Anganwadi workers, Panchayat Secretary, Village Level Workers, Electricity Bill Readers, etc, are mainly appointed as BLOs.
- BLOs are **not full-time electoral officials**.
- Section 13B of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 paved the way for the introduction of appointing a BLO for the 1st time in August 2006.
- **Coordination** - Works under
 - Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)
 - Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO)
 - Coordinates with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of political parties
- **Roles and duties of BLOs**
- **Electoral Roll Management** - They verify voter details at the booth level and distribute and collect forms for voter registration, corrections, and deletions.
 - Conduct door-to-door verification to prevent duplication or bogus entries.
- **Voter Facilitation** - They help citizens understand the registration process, provide information about polling stations, and voting procedures.

- Assist vulnerable groups (elderly, differently-abled) in accessing electoral services.
- **Informing eligible voters for Postal Ballot** - Senior citizens above 85 years & PwDs with benchmark certificate - about availing Home Voting Facility and Postal Ballot Facility.
- **Election Duties** - They ensure smooth conduct of elections at the booth and act as the point of contact for voters regarding electoral queries and report irregularities or issues to higher election authorities.
- **Promote use of EC's IT applications** - Responsible for promoting the applications launched by ECI to facilitate voting and ensure an accurate electoral roll.
 - Popular voter-oriented apps like Voter Helpline App, eVIGIL app, Know Your Candidate app, and Saksham-ECI.

Reference

[Indian Express | Booth Level Officers \(BLO\)](#)

