ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

Constitutional Readiness Checklist for 2027 | Legal position reviewed 12 November 2026

Critical status note: The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Lok Sabha Bill No. 275 of 2024) and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 276 of 2024) are pending proposals, not enacted laws. They were referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses. On 29 July 2026, Lok Sabha extended the Committee's reporting deadline to the first day of the last week of the Winter Session, 2026. The official committee schedule lists a further interaction with eminent economists on 30 October 2026. No commencement date or 2027 implementation date has been notified.

1. Voters and citizens

[ ] Follow the existing election schedule announced by the Election Commission of India and the relevant State Election Commission.

[ ] Check your name, polling station and particulars in the current electoral roll through the official ECI / Chief Electoral Officer portal before each election.

[ ] Keep EPIC details and an accepted identity document available; an EPIC card is not a substitute for checking the electoral roll.

[ ] Do not assume Lok Sabha, State Assembly, municipal and panchayat elections will automatically be held together. The two Bills before the Joint Committee address Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and specified Union Territory Assemblies.

[ ] If an election date is deferred or a term is shortened under any future enacted framework, verify the Gazette notification and ECI schedule rather than relying on social-media claims.

[ ] Continue to use existing voter-registration, correction, objection and appeal procedures under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

2. Political parties, candidates and campaign teams

[ ] Maintain separate policy and manifesto research for Union and State subjects. Simultaneous timing, if enacted, would not merge the constitutional functions of Parliament and State Legislatures.

[ ] Preserve campaign expenditure accounts, candidate disclosures, party accounts, authorisations and election-agent records under existing election laws and ECI directions.

[ ] Build contingency plans for staggered or deferred polling. Proposed Article 82A(5) would allow the ECI to recommend that a particular State Assembly election be held later if it cannot be conducted with the Lok Sabha poll.

[ ] Review the proposed remainder-of-term rule: a House constituted after premature dissolution would ordinarily serve only the unexpired portion of the original cycle under the introduced Bill.

[ ] Do not treat a proposed simultaneous-election calendar as a substitute for existing nomination, scrutiny, withdrawal, campaign, expenditure or conduct requirements.

3. State governments and legislatures

[ ] Map the remaining term of the Assembly, likely dissolution scenarios, confidence procedures and election-related statutory timelines.

[ ] Examine the federalism implications of a framework that could align an Assembly's term with the Lok Sabha even where the Assembly was elected at a different time.

[ ] Record institutional views on the JPC process, including effects on State policy accountability, regional issues, local governance and administrative continuity.

[ ] Distinguish the constitutional-amendment Bill from the companion Union Territories Bill, which proposes consequential changes to the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

[ ] Do not assume the High-Level Committee's second-phase recommendation for local-body elections within 100 days is already contained in the two Bills. Municipal and panchayat elections have separate constitutional and statutory arrangements.