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Daily news summary**Constitutional Assessment of One Nation One Election**

UPSC Civil Services · 25 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Legal policy groups submitted risk assessments to the **Joint Parliamentary Committee** examining simultaneous elections across Parliament and State Assemblies.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

- A structural reform seeking to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies across India.
- Recommends amending constitutional provisions governing the tenure of legislative assemblies to establish a synchronized cycle.

KEY CONSTITUTIONAL RISKS IDENTIFIED

- Truncating or extending elected State Assembly terms requires amending **Article 83** and **Article 172**, impacting the democratic mandate.
- Delegating Parliament's constitutional amending authority to secondary legislation risks violating the **Basic Structure doctrine**.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Simultaneous elections require widespread constitutional amendments and ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures under **Article 368(2)**.
- Balances national electoral cost reduction against regional political representation and federal governance principles.

KEY TERMS

- **Basic Structure Doctrine:** A judicial principle establishing that Parliament cannot alter foundational features of the Constitution through amendments.
- **Article 368(2):** Constitutional clause requiring ratification by state legislatures for amendments affecting federal structures.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Constitutional amendments affecting federal representation under **Article 368** require ratification by not less than half of the State Legislatures.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Analyze the impact of premature Assembly dissolution mechanisms on the feasibility of simultaneous elections in a federal democracy.

KEY DATA

- **Key Article:** **Article 172** - Defines the five-year duration of State Legislative Assemblies, central to any tenure synchronization plan.
- **High-Level Committee:** **Ram Nath Kovind Committee** - The panel tasked with examining legal and structural frameworks for simultaneous elections in India.

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