

The Global Ballot Box Dec 2025–Mar 2026 (India Excluded), Along With Upcoming Elections, April 2026 - June 2026

Overview

Between 1 December 2025 and 31 March 2026, the international electoral calendar entered an unusually dense phase in which national ballots, early elections and referendums intersected with crises of legitimacy, institutional reform and realignment of party systems. The pattern is analytically important for three reasons. First, several contests were used not simply to renew representation but to restore or claim governing legitimacy after crisis or upheaval, most notably in Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and

Uganda. Second, referendums increasingly travelled alongside parliamentary contests, as seen in Thailand and Bangladesh, indicating that electoral competition and constitutional redesign are once again being fused in a single popular mandate. Third, electoral-system effects remained decisive: runoff rules in Portugal, threshold rules in Costa Rica and mixed systems in Nepal show how vote-to-seat translation continues to shape governability as much as campaign rhetoric does. The global election tracker covering national ballots, referendums and electoral events between December 2025 and March 2026 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Global election tracker (as of 31 March 2026)

Date(s)	Country / jurisdiction	Type of vote	Status on 31 Mar 2026	Official website	URLs
1 Dec 2025	Saint Lucia	House of Assembly	Held	Saint Lucia Electoral Department	https://www.sluelectoral.com/ https://infrastructure.govt.lc/news/saint-lucia-decides-2025
7 Dec 2025	Hong Kong	Legislative Council / territory-wide election activity in draft	Held in draft chronology	Registration and Electoral Office / Electoral Affairs Commission	https://www.reo.gov.hk/ https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/08/P2025120800286.htm
11 Dec 2025	Falkland Islands	Legislative Assembly	Held	Falkland Islands Government – Elections	https://www.gov.fk/registry/elections/ https://www.gov.fk/press/announcement-of-general-election-results/
14 Dec 2025	Chile	Presidential runoff	Held	Servicio Electoral de Chile (SERVEL)	https://www.servel.cl/ https://www.servel.cl/ecciones-2025/
28 Dec 2025	Central African Republic	General elections	Held	Autorité Nationale des Élections	https://www.ane-rca.org/
28 Dec 2025	Guinea	Presidential Election	Held in draft chronology	Direction Générale des Élections (DGE)	https://www.dge.gov.gn/elections/calendrier
28 Dec 2025	Kosovo	National election in working draft chronology	Held	Central Election Commission of Kosovo	https://www.kuvendikosoves.org
28 Dec 2025; 11 Jan; 25 Jan 2026	Myanmar	Multi-phase general election	Held in phases	Union Election Commission	https://myanmar.gov.mm/union-election-commission

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11 Jan 2026	Benin	Parliamentary election	Held	Commission Électorale Nationale Autonome (CENA)	http://www.cena.bj/ https://www.cena.bj/ressources/decisions-du-conseil
15 Jan 2026	Uganda	General election	Held	Electoral Commission of Uganda	https://www.ec.or.ug/
18 Jan & 8 Feb 2026	Portugal	Presidential election	Held	Comissão Nacional de Eleições / official results portal	https://www.cne.pt/ https://www.cne.pt/content/eleicao-para-o-presidente-da-republica-2026-1o-sufrago
1 Feb 2026	Costa Rica	General election	Held	Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones/ Legislative Assembly	https://www.asamblea.go.cr/SitePages/Inicio.aspx
8 Feb 2026	Japan	House of Representatives snap election	Held	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (elections)	https://www.soumu.go.jp/ https://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/51syusokuhou/index.html
8 Feb 2026	Thailand	General election + constitutional referendum	Held	Election Commission of Thailand	https://www.ect.go.th/en/ect_en http://www.parliament.go.th/
12 Feb 2026	Bangladesh	Parliamentary election + referendum	Held	Bangladesh Election Commission	https://ecs.gov.bd/en
22 Feb 2026	Laos	National Assembly election	Held	National Assembly / election information	https://na.gov.la/
5 Mar 2026	Nepal	House of Representatives election	Held	Election Commission, Nepal	https://election.gov.np/
8 Mar 2026	Colombia	Congressional election	Held	Registraduría Nacional / Elecciones Colombia	https://www.registraduria.gov.co/ https://www.registraduria.gov.co/Seabrieron-las-urnas-para-las-elecciones-de-Congreso-y-las-consultas.html
8 Mar 2026	Switzerland	Federal referendums	Held	Swiss Confederation voting portal	https://www.ch.ch/en/votes-and-elections/ https://www.ch.ch/en/votes-and-elections/popular-vote-on-8-march-2026/
15 Mar 2026	Kazakhstan	Constitutional referendum	Held	Central Election Commission / Referendum 2026	https://www.election.gov.kz/eng/
15 Mar 2026	Vietnam	National Assembly election	Held	National Election Council portal	http://hoidongbaucu.quochoi.vn/
22 Mar 2026	Slovenia	Parliamentary election	Held	State Election Commission	https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/other-institutions/state-election-commission/ https://www.dvk-rs.si/
22–23 Mar 2026	Italy	Constitutional referendum	Held	Ministry of Interior – Elections	https://dait.interno.gov.it/elezioni https://dait.interno.gov.it/elezioni/speciale-elezioni

Analytical observations

1. Electoral legitimation remained a central function of voting in crisis settings. In Bangladesh and Nepal, elections operated as transition-defining events after turbulence in 2024–25; in Myanmar, by contrast, the military-supervised multi-phase poll remained contested because territorial control, opposition participation and procedural inclusiveness were all sharply constrained.
2. Simultaneous referendum-plus-election formats are no longer exceptional. Thailand and Bangladesh both linked parliamentary renewal with constitution-shaping exercises, showing that electoral mandates are increasingly being used to settle not only who governs but also which institutional rules should govern.
3. The period also underscores the continued importance of electoral engineering. Portugal's two-round presidency rewarded broad second-round aggregation; Costa Rica's presidential threshold sought first-round decisiveness; Nepal's mixed-member model preserved both constituency competition and proportional correction.

Elections in India's neighbouring countries

Bangladesh

Bangladesh's parliamentary election of 12 February 2026 merits attention as a transition election rather than as a routine alternation of power. According to the Bangladesh Election Commission, the electoral roll contained more than 12.77 crore registered voters (about 127.7 million), polling was organised through 42,779 polling stations and 60 registered political parties stood on the national register during the electoral cycle. These figures alone underline the scale of election administration in Bangladesh, making the contest one of the largest national voting exercises in the region.

The result was politically decisive. Reuters reported that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) crossed the majority threshold during counting and eventually secured a two-thirds-type parliamentary mandate, with local tallies showing at least 212 of 299 declared constituency seats. Turnout was reported at nearly 60 per cent, indicating substantial mobilisation after a period of intense regime disruption and constitutional uncertainty. The election was held alongside a referendum on state reforms, making the ballot simultaneously representative and constituent in character.

From a research standpoint, three features stand out. First, this election was a test of whether post-2024 transitional politics could be routinised through the ballot box. Second, the size of the electorate and polling-station network highlights the administrative burden borne by the Election Commission and the importance of logistics, security and transmission of results in ensuring credibility. Third, the referendum format demonstrates an important shift in South Asian electoral pol-

itics: constitutional redesign is increasingly being bundled with parliamentary competition rather than sequenced after it. That design can produce a stronger aggregate mandate, but it also raises questions about whether constitutional consent receives sufficient autonomous deliberation when fused with party competition. For journal purposes, Bangladesh's 2026 election therefore illustrates how a mass electorate, a transitional setting and constitutional reform can converge in a single electoral episode. *Official election website: <https://ecs.gov.bd/en>*

Nepal

Nepal's House of Representatives election of 5 March 2026 was analytically significant because it combined early-election timing, institutional volatility and a measurable generational shift in party competition. The Election Commission's official portal confirmed that the contest was for the House of Representatives and its result system tracked both first-past-the-post and proportional-representation components. Under Nepal's mixed system, 275 seats are filled through two ballots: 165 from single-member constituencies and 110 through nationwide proportional representation.

The electorate was exceptionally large in relation to Nepal's administrative capacity. Reuters reported that nearly 19 million voters were eligible to vote, including roughly one million newly registered, mostly younger voters after the 2025 upheaval. Initial Election Commission figures placed turnout at 58.07 per cent, later revised to around 60 per cent, the lowest national turnout since the restoration of democracy in the early 1990s according to Kathmandu reporting based on EC updates.

In outcome terms, the election marked a major restructuring of the party system. AP reported that the Rastriya Swatantra Party had already secured 117 of the 165 directly elected seats and was leading in additional constituencies, while also topping the proportional vote with roughly 51 per cent of the allocation at that stage of counting. Even allowing for final certification to complete, the pattern was unmistakable: traditional parties were displaced by a youth-backed anti-establishment formation.

For research purposes, Nepal offers three insights. First, early elections triggered by protest can still produce orderly and nationally competitive voting if the electoral authority retains operational capacity. Second, mixed-member systems can convert protest sentiment into an emphatic but institutionally legible parliamentary outcome. Third, turnout decline and party-system change may occur together: lower aggregate participation did not prevent a sharp restructuring of representation. Nepal's 2026 election is therefore best read as a case of post-protest electoral incorporation—where extra-parliamentary mobilisation was channelled into formal representation rather than prolonged outside the constitutional arena. *Official election website: <https://election.gov.np/>*

Upcoming elections

The schedule of selected national elections and referendums to be held between April and June 2026 is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Selected national ballots or referendums scheduled between April 2026 – June 2026

Date	Country	Scheduled vote	Official website	URLs
4 Apr 2026	Maldives	Referendum	Elections Commission of Maldives	https://www.elections.gov.mv/ https://www.elections.gov.mv/en/announcements/422
10 Apr 2026	Djibouti	Presidential election	Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)/ Ministry of the Interior	https://interieur.gouv.dj/elections-Presiden-2/
12 Apr 2026	Benin	Presidential election	Commission Électorale Nationale Autonome (CENA)	https://www.cena.bj/
12 Apr 2026	Peru	General election (president + Congress)	Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales (ONPE)	https://www.gob.pe/onpe https://eg2026.onpe.gob.pe/
12 Apr 2026	Hungary	National Assembly election	National Election Office	https://www.valasztas.hu/web/national-election-office https://www.valasztas.hu/en/sajtokozlemeny?id=69985d-9756b18600027c1343%230002
19 Apr 2026	Bulgaria	National Assembly election	Central Election Commission	https://www.cik.bg/ https://www.cik.bg/bg/messages
02 May 2026	Niue	Assembly election	Government of Niue	https://www.gov.nu/ https://www.gov.nu/gazette
17 May 2026	Cabo Verde	National Assembly election	Comissão Nacional de Eleições	https://cne.cv/ https://cne.cv/sala_de_imprensa_/13673-2/
24 May 2026	Cyprus	House of Representatives election	Ministry of Interior – Electoral Service	https://elections.gov.cy/moi/elections/elections.nsf/home_en/home_en?openform=
24 May 2026	Guinea	Legislative election	Direction Générale des Élections (DGE)	https://www.dge.gov.gn/
31 May 2026	Colombia	Presidential election	Registraduría Nacional / Elecciones Colombia	https://www.registraduria.gov.co/ https://www.registraduria.gov.co/14-candidatos-se-inscribieron-para-las-elecciones-presidenciales-de-2026.html
1 Jun 2026	Ethiopia	House of People's Representatives election	National Election Board of Ethiopia	https://nebe.org.et/
7 Jun 2026	Armenia	National Assembly election	Central Electoral Commission	https://www.elections.am/ https://www.elections.am/Elections/Parliamentary
14 Jun 2026	Switzerland	Federal referendum	Swiss Confederation voting portal	https://www.ch.ch/en/votes-and-elections/ https://www.bk.admin.ch/ch/i/pore/va/vab_1_3_3_1.html
Expected in Jun 2026	Algeria	National People's Assembly election (expected by June)	Independent National Election Authority	https://www.apn.dz/