

Current affairs 25 March 2023

1. 13th edition of QS World subject rankings 2023

In QS World University Rankings 2023 featured 44 Indian programmes in several disciplines in the top 100 list.

As per the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2023 by subject list, IIT Bombay's mathematics programme stands at 92nd place while JNU's sociology grabbed the 68th spot.

IIT Delhi's electrical engineering programme made its way into the top 50 and was placed 48th on the list.

While the same course offered by IIT Kanpur has been ranked 87th. Furthermore, there were 10 entries from BITS Pilani and two others from OP Jindal university that also made it to the top 100.

Five broader areas of University ranking were: 1. Engineering and Technology, 2. Arts and Humanities, 3. Life Sciences and Medicine, 4. Natural Science and 5. Social Sciences and Management

RANKING	UNIVERSITY	PROGRAMME
92	IIT Bombay	Mathematics
98	IIT Madras	Mathematics
49	IIT Delhi	Engineering-Electrical & Electronic
87	IIT Kanpur	Engineering-Electrical & Electronic
94	IIT Kharagpur	Computer Science & Information Systems
96	IIT Kanpur	Computer Science & Information Systems
68	JNU	Sociology

2. Representation of people act 1951 (RPA ACT,1951)

- The Representation of People Act, 1951 was passed by the Parliament in accordance with Article 327 of the Constitution of India.
- This Act makes provisions for the conduct of elections in India.
- It also talks about corruption and other illegal activities related to elections.
- The Act makes provisions for dispute redressal in matters connected to elections.

- It also talks about the qualification as well as grounds for the disqualification of MPs and MLAs.

Salient Features of RPA, 1951

The salient features of the Representation of People are:

- Only a qualified voter is eligible to contest for elections to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- For seats that are reserved for the Scheduled Caste and Tribe communities, only candidates belonging to those categories can contest the elections.
- A person found guilty of any of the following shall be disqualified for a period of 6 years to contest elections after release from jail:
 - Promoting hatred and enmity between classes
 - Influencing elections
 - Bribery
 - Rape or other grave crimes against women
 - Spreading religious disharmony
 - Practising untouchability
 - Importing or exporting prohibited goods
 - Selling or consuming illegal drugs as well as other chemicals
 - Engaging in terrorism in any form
 - Have been imprisoned for at least two years
- The candidate can also be disqualified if he/she has engaged in any corrupt practice or excluded for related government contracts.
- Disqualification can also result if the candidate fails to declare his/her assets. The candidate must declare his/her assets and liabilities within ninety days from his/her oath-taking day.
- The Act requires all political parties to be registered with the Election Commission. Any change in the name and/or address of the party should be intimated to the Commission.
- A party can take donations from any individual or company within India, but not government-owned ones. And, contributions from foreign entities are not allowed.
- Every political party must report a donation over ₹20,000 received from any person or company.
- A party that gets a minimum of 6 per cent of the valid votes for assembly elections in more than four states or wins at least 2 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha from at least three states is recognized as a **National Party**.
- A party that gets a minimum 6 per cent of the votes in the state assembly elections or wins at least 3 per cent of total seats in the state assembly will be a **state political party**.
- Candidates should deposit Rs.25000 as security for the Lok Sabha elections and Rs.12500 for all other elections. Candidates belonging to the SC/ST communities get a 50% reduction in the security deposit

3. Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill 2023 with 64 official amendments

What is a Finance Bill?

As per **Article 110 of the Constitution of India**, the **Finance Bill is a Money Bill**.

- The Finance Bill is **a part of the Union Budget**, stipulating all the legal amendments required for the changes in taxation proposed by the Finance Minister.
- This Bill **encompasses all amendments required in various laws pertaining to tax**, in accordance with the tax proposals made in the Union Budget.
- The **Finance Bill, as a Money Bill, needs to be passed by the Lok Sabha** — the lower house of the Parliament.
- Post the Lok Sabha's approval, the Finance Bill becomes **Finance Act**.

Difference between a Money Bill and the Finance Bill:

- A Money Bill has to be introduced in the Lok Sabha as per Section 110 of the Constitution. Then, it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations. The Rajya Sabha has to return the Bill with recommendations in 14 days. However, the Lok Sabha can reject all or some of the recommendations.
- In the case of a Finance Bill, Article 117 of the Constitution categorically lays down that a Bill pertaining to sub-clauses (a) to (f) of clause (1) shall not be introduced or moved except with the President's recommendation. Also, a Bill that makes such provisions shall not be introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Who decides the Bill is a Finance Bill?

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is authorised to decide whether the Bill is a Money Bill or not. Also, the Speaker's decision shall be deemed to be final.

Why Finance Bill is needed?

The Union Budget proposes many tax changes for the upcoming financial year, even if not all of those proposed changes find a mention in the Finance Minister's Budget speech. These proposed changes pertain to several existing laws dealing with various taxes in the country.

- The Finance Bill seeks to insert amendments into all those laws concerned, without having to bring out a separate amendment law for each of those Acts.
- For instance, a Union Budget's proposed tax changes may require amending the various sections of the Income Tax law, Stamp Act, Money Laundering law, etc. The Finance Bill overrides and makes changes in the existing laws wherever required.

4. Elimination of TB by 2025: PM Modi announces local body involvement, shorter course on preventive treatment (World TB Day – 24 March)



World TB Day – **24th March** every year

India targets to Eliminate TB by 2025

Theme 2023: **Yes we can #ENDTB!**

5. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

- UAPA was passed in **1967**. It aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in **India**.
 - **Unlawful activity** refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the **territorial integrity and sovereignty of India**.
 - The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the **Centre deems an activity as unlawful** then it may, **by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so**.
 - It has **death penalty and life imprisonment** as highest punishments.
 - Under UAPA, **both Indian and foreign nationals** can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
 - Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can **file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests** and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.
 - The **2004 amendment**, added “**terrorist act**” to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned.
 - Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
6. In August, Parliament cleared the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019** to **designate individuals as terrorists** on certain grounds provided in the Act.
7. The Act empowers the **Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to grant approval of **seizure or attachment of property** when the case is investigated by the said agency.

8. The Act empowers the **officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate** cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.