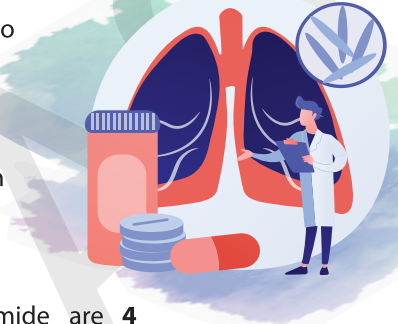


NEWS TODAY

HEALTH MINISTER REVIEWS PROGRESS IN FIGHT AGAINST TB IN COUNTRY

- Health Minister chaired a High Level Meet to review the **launch of Jan-Andolan against TB** involving **Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM)**.
 - All states and UTs working with TB programme plan to support the movement to **eliminate TB by 2025**, five years ahead of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets.
- TB is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis** that most often **affects the lungs**.
 - It is a **communicable disease** which **spreads from person to person through air**. It can also affect other body parts like kidney, spine, and brain.
 - In 2019, **87% of new TB cases occurred** in the 30 high TB burden countries. **Eight countries accounted for two thirds of the new TB cases** including India.
 - It is **curable and preventable**. Isoniazid, Rifampin, Ethambutol, and Pyrazinamide are **4 antimicrobial drugs** approved for treatment of TB.
- Initiatives taken by India:**
 - Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has been renamed to **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**.
 - Online Nikshay platform** to keep track of TB patients across the country.
 - Nikshay Poshan Yojana** to provide financial help to TB Patients for their treatment.
 - TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign.

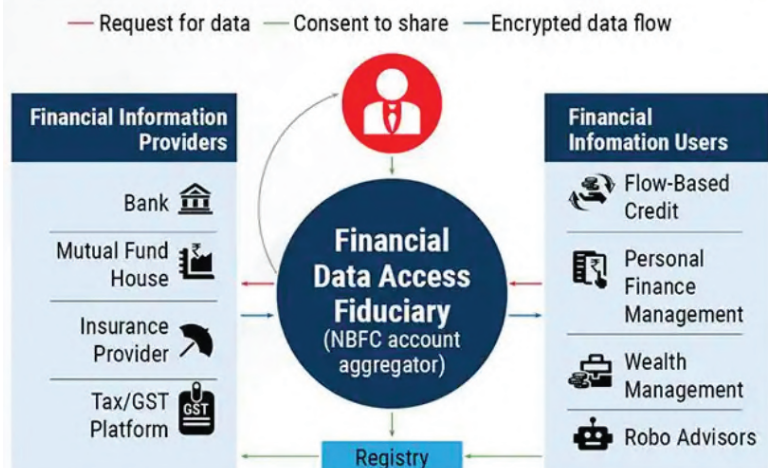


ACCOUNT AGGREGATOR SYSTEM LAUNCHED TO BOLSTER LENDING ECOSYSTEM

- India unveiled an **Account Aggregator (AA) system** - a **data-sharing system** that aims to **revolutionize investing and credit**.
- An account aggregator is a financial entity, **which obtains and consolidates all the financial data of an individual, and presents the same in a manner that allows the reader to easily understand and analyse** the different financial holdings of a person.
- In 2016, under the RBI Act, 1934, RBI released the "Non-Banking Financial Company - Account Aggregator (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016" with:
 - Account Aggregator as a special class of NBFC under **section 45-I of RBI Act, to**
 - Enable easy sharing of financial data,
 - Provide inbuilt consent framework for users etc.
- Significance:** Firms will be able access **timely quantitative and qualitative data which can help them to assess the creditworthiness** of small businesses, recommend wealth management product for an individual, or tailor an insurance policy for a family.
 - No other country in the world has developed such thorough data-sharing framework** that can be deployed to cover over 50 million businesses and over a billion people.

UNDERSTANDING THE ACCOUNT AGGREGATOR FRAMEWORK

The Account Aggregator by RBI/SEBI/PFRDA/IRDA will facilitate consented sharing of financial information in real-time

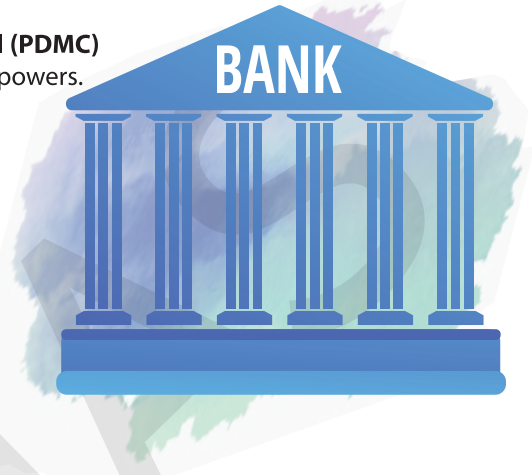


Source: Sahamati

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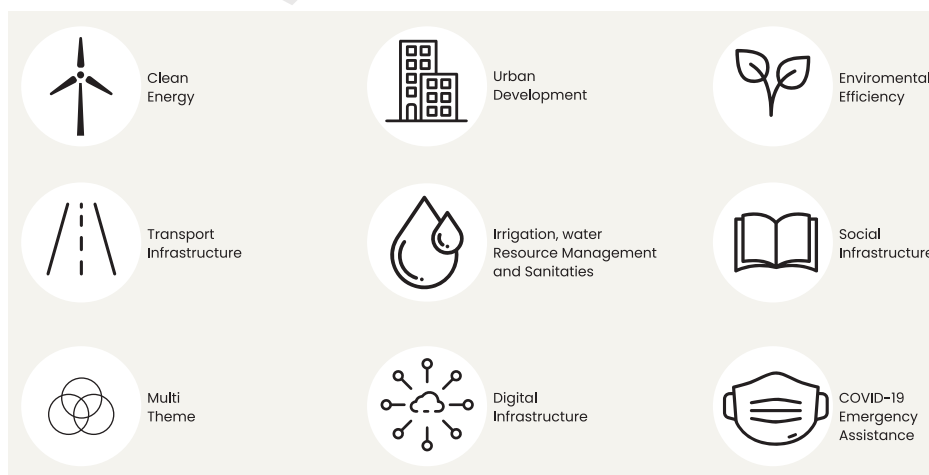
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO DISCUSS SEPARATION OF THE DEBT MANAGEMENT FUNCTION FROM THE RBI

- The idea of **separating debt management from RBI** was proposed earlier in **Financial Bill 2015** (and also by RBI in its annual report 2000-01) as Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA), which required amendments to the RBI Act.
 - **PDMA manages the internal and external liabilities** of the Central Government in a holistic manner and advises on such matters in return for a fee.
 - As an interim arrangement, **Government set up a Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC)** for debt management under RBI itself but as an independent agency with advisory powers.
- **Need to Separate Functions of RBI from PDMA:**
 - To **bring together all government borrowings** under one roof.
 - To **encourage wider institutional reform** that will strengthen bond market, and **bring in transparency** about public debt that makes an efficient system.
 - To tap funds from a larger pool of resources.
 - Globally accepted practice..
- **Issues with PDMA:**
 - **Fears of market volatility** caused by the shifting of responsibility to a new agency.
 - **Conflicts of interest** between government as owner of banks and issuer of debt.
 - Doubts over Capability of PDMA vis a vis RBI.



NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK (NDB) INITIATES MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION, EXTENDS GLOBAL OUTREACH







- The NDB has approved the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay and Bangladesh** as its first **new member countries**.
 - NDB Board of Governors initiated the negotiation to expand its membership in 2020.
 - NDB's membership expansion is in line with the Bank's strategy **to be positioned as the premier development institution for emerging economies**.
- NDB, headquartered in **Shanghai**, is **multilateral development bank** established during **6th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit** in Fortaleza (2014), aimed at **funding sustainable development projects** in the BRICS nations. (refer infographic).
 - NDB has an **authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion**, which is open for subscription by members of the United Nations.
 - In 2018, it received **observer status in the UN General Assembly**.
 - **India is the chair of the BRICS grouping for 2021**.
- **NDB is different from AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank)**. AIIB, with **China being its largest shareholder**, is located at Beijing.
 - AIIB's membership has grown to **103 countries**.







SUPREME COURT RAISES WORRY OVER FAKE NEWS, COMMUNAL SLANT IN SOCIAL MEDIA

- Supreme court in the **backdrop of hearing plea in the Tablighi Jamaat meeting in Delhi case**, lamented the **lack of a regulatory mechanism to enforce accountability over web portals and entities such as YouTube** which spread "fake news" and communally slanted information.
 - Earlier, Supreme Court in **the Tehseen S. Poonawalla v/s Union of India case in 2018**, directed government to **curb messages on social media platforms that incite mob violence** and lynching of any kind.
- The Centre has recently brought out **Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021** to strike a balance between **the media's right to free speech and the citizens' right to correct information**.
 - **Key highlights of rules**
 - Identification of the **"first originator of the information"** would be required in case of an offence related to sovereignty and integrity of India.
 - A three-level grievance redressal mechanism has been mandated.
- The Centre claims that the **establishment of a grievance redressal mechanism for digital news publishers does not intrude into the freedom of speech and expression of the digital news publishers**, but only provides a mechanism of accountability.

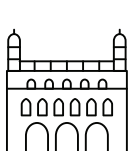
ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Deputy Speaker for Lok Sabha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post of Deputy-speaker in Lok Sabha (LS) has been vacant for 830 days which is a violation of Article 93 of the Indian constitution. About Deputy Speaker- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 93 of the Constitution provides for their election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually, they are elected in the first meeting of Lok Sabha after General elections from amongst members of Lok Sabha. By convention the position is offered to opposition party in India. They act as the presiding officer in case of leave or absence caused by death or illness of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
 <p>Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a Committee to review the existing guidelines of JWS. JWS provide one time ex-gratia relief on urgent basis to journalists and their families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance upto Rs.5 lakh provided to the family under extreme hardship on account of death of the journalist. The committee will examine the need for revision of the quantum of ex-gratia payment in death as well as other cases under the JWS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will also look into the aspect of differentiation or parity between accredited and non-accredited journalists for availing benefits.
 <p>Credit Bank and Glue Grant Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of National Education Policy (2020) implementation, 40 central universities will start using Credit Bank as well as the recently announced Glue Grant Scheme. Credit Bank, or academic bank of credit, is a digital bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course, helping students to select best courses or courses as per his/her needs or aptitude. Glue Grant Scheme will be implemented in 9 cities to develop education hubs; through sharing of resources and equipment among same city institutions (including mobility for students) through an umbrella structure.
 <p>Ramon Magsaysay Award (RMA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bangladeshi vaccine scientist (Dr. Firdausi Qadri) and a microfinance pioneer from Pakistan (Muhammad Amjad Saqib) were among the five recipients of Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2021. Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president (1953-57) of Philippines. Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) honours individuals or organizations in Asia who have engaged in social contribution activities every year.
 <p>Blue straggler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian researchers have carried out the first-ever comprehensive analysis of blue stragglers. Blue stragglers are bigger and bluer star formed when one star eats up another. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These stars are primarily present in the older and massive star clusters. More than 54% of blue stragglers are formed through mass transfer from a close binary companion star, 30% are likely formed through collisions of 2 stars, and 10-16% are formed through interactions of more than 2 stars.
 <p>Climate Finance Leadership Initiative (CFLI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an industry-led initiative to unlock private capital to help finance India's low-carbon transition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched during the 11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue Aim is to drive capital into India through public, private, and multilateral initiatives to help the country meet its 2015 Paris Agreement commitments, which include a pledge to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35 per cent by 2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFLI chair is held by UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions.

 <p>Promoting cultivation of medicinal plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign has been launched by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. • Cultivation of medicinal plants will be done on 75,000 hectares of land in the next one year across the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Mainly 5 species of plants have been focussed upon – Night-flowering Jasmine (Parijat), Golden Apple (Bel), Margosa Tree (Neem), Indian Ginseng (Ashwagandha) and Indian Blackberry (Jamun). > The program has been started from Saharanpur in UP and Pune in Maharashtra. • This will help in increasing the income of farmers and realize the dream of Green India.
 <p>Eat Right Station</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) awarded the Chandigarh Railway Station with 'Eat Right Station' Certification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Chandigarh is the fifth station to receive this certification • Part of 'Eat Right India' movement of FSSAI, the Eat Right Station initiative aims at promotion of food safety and hygiene at the static catering units at railway stations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > FSSAI has embarked on a large-scale effort to transform the country's food system in order to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians through the 'Eat Right India' movement.
 <p>Places in News</p>	<p>Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First built by Soviet, Bagram Air Base was the largest air base of USA in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years due to its proximity to Kabul. • Nikki Haley, former US envoy to United Nations, claimed that China is making moves to occupy Bagram Air Base, once occupied by USA. • In case of aerial warfare, China can use it against India to overcome the strategic disadvantages it suffers due to the great heights of Tibet on India-China border. 



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



HYDERABAD



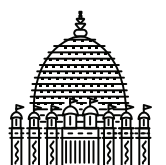
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI