

CENTRE LOOKS INTO OPTIONS TO COUNTER EU'S CARBON TAX PLAN

Why in news?

- The Commerce Ministry is exploring various options to cope with the European Union's decision to introduce a Carbon Tax.
- The EU is planning to introduce a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- CBAM will entail a monitoring mechanism for imports from producers deploying non-green technologies starting this October and a tax levy from January 2026.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

• Background:

- In 2021, the European Union (EU) proposed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which would tax very carbon-intensive items such as cement and steel beginning in 2026.
- CBAM is part of the “Fit for 55 in 2030 package”, the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

• About:

- A carbon border adjustment tax is a **duty on imports based on the amount of carbon emissions** resulting from the production of the product in question.
- As a price on carbon, it discourages emissions and as a trade-related measure, it affects production and exports.
- The CBAM will enter into force in its transitional phase as of 1 October 2023 and the permanent system will enter into force on 1 January 2026



• How does it work?

-
- If implemented as intended, EU importers will be required to purchase **carbon certificates equal to the carbon price paid in**

the EU if the items had been manufactured locally.

- The certificates' price would be determined by the auction prices in the EU carbon credit market.
- The number of certificates required would be determined yearly by the quantity of commodities imported into the EU and the embedded emissions in those goods.
- The CBAM would first apply to cement, iron and steel, aluminum, fertilizers and electricity imports.
- **Concerns:**
 - The US, China, India, Brazil, South Africa and several others, including least-developed countries, have expressed concern over -
 - How to fairly account for emissions related to the production of imported goods?
 - How to duly consider the costs that companies already face in complying with climate regulations in exporting countries?
 - It places a carbon charge on companies from countries that did not primarily cause climate change.
 - Mozambique's GDP, for example, would drop by about 1.5% due to the tariffs on aluminium exports alone.
 - According to the EU, CBAM is designed to be in full compliance with WTO rules and international climate law.
 - However, questions have been raised over the consistency of CBAM with international trade law and environmental principles.
 - It is likely to be viewed as unfair by trading partners since it runs the possibility of unfairly protecting local industries from foreign competition in so-called '**green protectionism.**'

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITIZATION, PAPERLESS COURTS AND E-INITIATIVES

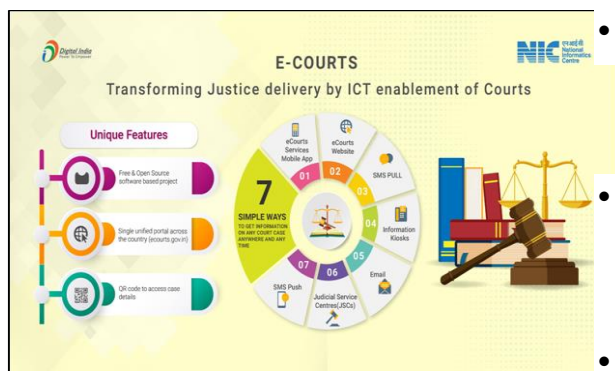
Why in News?

- To explore the possible ways of use of technology in the legal system a National Conference on Digitization, Paperless Courts and e-Initiatives has been organized by the High Court of Orissa in the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack.

- Implementation of the Action Plan of Phase-III of **e-Courts Project** of the Supreme Court of India is the focal point of the conference.

What is the e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project?

- As part of the **National e-Governance Plan**, the Project has been under implementation (under the aegis of the e-Committee SC) since **2007** for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary.
- It is a **Pan-India Project**, monitored and funded by the **Department of Justice**, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, **for the District Courts** across the country.
- It is based on the **National Policy and Action Plan** for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005.
- **The Project envisages:**
 - To provide **efficient and time-bound citizen centric services delivery**.
 - To develop, install and implement decision support systems in courts.
 - To automate the processes to provide **transparency in accessibility of information**.
 - **To enhance judicial productivity**, to make the **justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost effective, predictable, reliable and transparent**.
- The Phase I of e-Courts was concluded in **2015** in which 14,249 Court sites were computerised. Under Phase II, 18,735 District and Subordinate courts have been computerised so far.



What are some of the Major Initiatives Launched under the Project?

- **Case Information Software (CIS)** based on customised Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.
- **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** is a flagship project launched in 2015 **for monitoring pendency and disposal of the cases** in HCs and Subordinate Courts.
- **Virtual Courts** (as of July 2022, there are 20 Virtual Courts in 16 States/UTs) and using **Video Conferencing**.

- An **e-Filing system** has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with advanced features like online submission of Vakalatnama, e-Signing, online video recording of oath, etc.
- **E-Sewa Kendras:** To make justice delivery inclusive and to mitigate handicaps caused by digital divide, e-Sewa Kendras have been rolled out to provide e-filing services to lawyers and litigants.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS

Recently Bye Elections to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council held by the members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).



About Legislative Councils:

- India has a bicameral system of legislature.
- While the Parliament has two Houses, it is optional for the states.
- At the state level, the equivalent of the Lok Sabha is the Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly; that of the Rajya Sabha is the Vidhan Parishad or Legislative Council.
- States, if they choose, can have a Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad as the upper house in addition to the Legislative Assembly.
- Legislative Council is in those states with bicameral legislatures.

Creation/abolition of legislative council:

- Under Article 168, states can have either one or two Houses of legislature.
- Article 169 leaves the choice of having a Vidhan Parishad to individual states.
- Art 169 of the Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States.
- Power of abolition or creation of Legislative council lies with the Parliament.
- To set up the council, the legislative assembly of state must pass a resolution by a majority of total membership & not less than 2/3rd of the members of the assembly present & voting.
- However, a resolution passed by legislative assembly of state for creation or abolition of its council is not binding on the Parliament. Parliament may or may not approve the resolution with simple majority.

- This step will not be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.

Membership:

- Under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the total number of MLAs of the state, and not less than 40 members.
- All the members of the Legislative Council are either indirectly elected or nominated by the Governor.
- One third shall be elected by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and such other local authorities in the State as Parliament may by law specify
- One-third of the members of this House are elected by the Legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are not its members.
- One-twelfth of the members are elected by graduates of at least three years standing.
- One-twelfth of the members are elected by teachers of secondary schools having at least three years experience.
- About one-sixth of the members are nominated by the Governor from among persons possessing special knowledge and experience in the field of art, science, literature, social service and cooperative movement.

COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMINOLOGY (CSTT)

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) is rushing to create technical and scientific terminology in 10 Indian languages underrepresented in the learning landscape.



About Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT):

- CSTT was established on October 01, 1961 in pursuance of a Presidential Order dated April 27, 1960 with the objective to evolve technical terminology in all Indian Languages.
- It was established under clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution of India.

- It is functioning under Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India with its headquarters at New Delhi.
- **Primary Function:** Evolve standard terminology, propagate its use and distribute it widely.
- **Other functions:**
 - Preparation and Publication of Bilingual and Trilingual Glossaries involving English/Hindi and other Indian Languages.
 - Preparation and Publication of National terminology.
 - Identification and Publication of School Level Terminology and Departmental Glossaries.
 - Identification of Pan Indian Terms.
 - Preparation of Definitional Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias.
 - Preparation of University level textbooks, monographs and journals.
 - Grant-in-Aid to Granth Academies, Textbook Boards and University Cells for University level books in regional languages.
 - Propagation, expansion and critical review of terms coined and defined through training/orientation programmes, workshops, seminars etc.
 - Free distribution of Publications.
 - Providing necessary terminology to the National Translation Mission.
- In the process of evolution of scientific and technical terminology and reference material in Hindi and Indian Languages, the Commission shall have collaboration of State Governments, Universities, Regional Text-Book Boards and State Granth Academies.

[KING CHARLES III CROWNED AT LONDON'S WESTMINSTER ABBEY](#)

Why in news?

- King Charles III becomes the 40th British monarch, crowned at Westminster Abbey in London.
- In front of a congregation, the spiritual leader of the Anglican Church, slowly placed the 360-year-old St Edward's Crown on Charles' head as he sat upon a 14th-century throne in Westminster Abbey.

Westminster Abbey

- It is a historic church located in the City of Westminster, London, United Kingdom.

- An abbey refers to a religious building, which can either mean a church or a place where monks or nuns live.
- This abbey's story begins with King Edward, also known as Edward the Confessor.
 - He was born in the 11th century into a royal family but was forced to flee his homeland after Danish attacks in the region.
 - Later, upon his return to the Kingdom, he ordered a new church to be built at Westminster. The Abbey was consecrated (to make or declare sacred) in 1065.
- It is one of the most famous and important religious buildings in the country, and has been the site of many important royal and national events throughout history.
- The Abbey has been the coronation church for English and British monarchs since 1066.
- Every Westminster Abbey coronation has taken place in the vicinity of King Edward's shrine.
- Successors were placed in **St Edward's Chair**, famously known as the Coronation Chair, carrying the **Stone of Scone**, and monarchs are typically crowned with St Edward's Crown.
- With the use of regalia related to King Edward, influence of a monarch from nearly 1,000 years ago continues to hold strong over the present.
- It is also the final resting place of many monarchs, statesmen, and other important figures from British history, including Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, and Winston Churchill.

Britain's Monarchy:

- Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom.
- In a monarchy, a king or queen is Head of State.
- The British Monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy.
- This means that, while The Sovereign is Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament.
- Although The Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, he or she continues to play an important part in the life of the nation.

Duties of the Monarch:

- As Head of State, The Monarch undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history.
- In addition to these State duties, The Monarch has a less formal role as '**Head of Nation**'.

- President of India enjoys the similar title of ‘Head of the State’ in India.
- The Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service.

Powers of the Monarchy:

- The British monarch is mainly a ceremonial figurehead and is generally expected not to intervene in political matters.
- But as head of state, they have retained some constitutional powers.
- **Appointing a Government –**
 - The day after a general election, the monarch invites the leader of the party that won the most seats in the House of Commons to become prime minister and form a government.
- **Opening & Dissolving Parliament –**
 - The monarch opens parliament every year and reads out the government's plans for the next 12 months.
 - The Crown also formally dissolves parliament before a general election.
- **Royal Assent –**
 - After a bill has been approved by the House of Commons and the House of Lords, it is sent to the monarch to approve and turn into a law.
 - The monarch has the power to refuse a Bill.
 - However, the most recent monarch to refuse assent was Queen Anne (in 1708).

News Summary: King Charles III crowned at London's Westminster Abbey

- Charles III, Britain's new monarch, was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London.
- Vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar represented India at the historic Coronation ceremony.
- In 1066, the monarch William the Conqueror invaded England with his army and was crowned here.
- Since then, 39 coronation ceremonies and 16 royal weddings have taken place in the cathedral.

RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized the ‘River-Cities Alliance (RCA) Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities’ recently in New Delhi.



About:

- The River Cities Alliance (RCA) has been launched with the objective to provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers, sharing best practices and supporting innovation.
 - The alliance has been launched initially with 30 cities namely Dehradun, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Srinagar, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Farrukhabad, Mirzapur, Mathura, Bijnor, Ayodhya, Patna, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Munger, Sahibganj, Rajmahal, Howrah, Jangipur, Hugli-Chinsurah, Behrampore, Maheshtala, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Pune, Udaipur and Vijaywada.
 - The Alliance is open to all river cities of India. Any river city can join the Alliance at any time.
 - State Governments are implementing Action Plans for restoration of water quality of the identified polluted river stretches.
 - The implementation is being monitored regularly at State level by Chief Secretary of the respective State/UT and at Central level by the Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
-