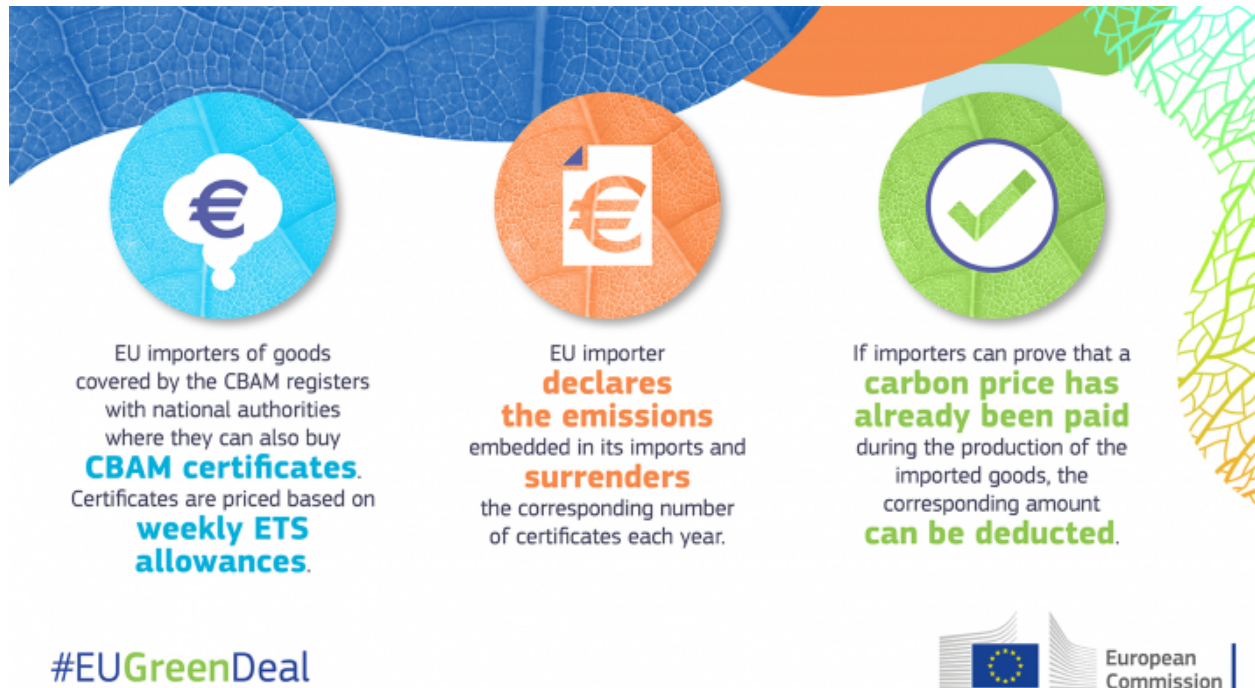


1. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The European Union has informed that it is willing to collaborate with India in easing the administrative burden for businesses while enforcing its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

More on the Topic

- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) seeks to impose tariffs on imports with a high carbon footprint entering the EU countries.
- CBAM is **one of the EU's climate actions**, designed to **prevent the offset of the EU's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** by increased emissions beyond its borders due to the relocation of production outside the EU or by increased imports of carbon-intensive products (so-called 'carbon leakage').

Stated goal of CBAM:

- **To eliminate the difference in carbon price** paid by companies subject to the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the price paid by companies elsewhere.
- Levelling the playing field for EU firms.
- To implement stronger emission reduction efforts.
- **Incentivises non-EU countries** to increase their climate ambition.
- It will ensure that EU and global climate efforts are **not undermined due to the relocation of production which is defined as 'carbon leakage'**.



Concerns of India:

- Carbon border taxes could result in **market distortion**.
- India exports about \$2 billion worth of products annually to EU that would attract the CBAM levy.
- It is likely to unfairly protect EU domestic industries from international competition – a practice known as ‘**green protectionism**.’
- This will be harmful to industries in India.

Source: Indian Express

2. Irradiation of onions with Gamma rays

Topic: Science and Technology



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Food Irradiation

Food irradiation technology is one of the most effective methods to minimize the abysmal effects of chemical preservation. Food irradiation means exposing the raw foods to controlled doses of gamma radiation which kill microbes and pathogenic organisms.

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In News: The Centre is planning to irradiate onions with Gamma rays before sending them into cold storage on a pilot basis.

More on the Topic:

- Post-harvest losses of onion in India are significant. Onion noticeably gets rotted and starts sprouting even in cold storage.
- Irradiation prevents sprouting and thus brings down post-harvest losses which is patently 25%. It could be brought down to 10-12% by providing irradiation.



About Food irradiation:

- Food irradiation involves **controlled application of energy from ionizing radiations such as gamma rays, electrons and X-rays for food preservation.**
- Irradiation works by disrupting the biological processes that lead to decay.
- Gamma ray, X-ray or electrons do not induce any radioactivity in food.
- Gamma ray irradiation is **an effective form of preservation that extends the shelf life of the crops and reduces spoilage.**
- The process also benefits the consumer by **reducing the risk of illnesses caused by foodborne diseases.**

Benefit of Food Irradiation:

- **Enhances Food Safety:** Irradiation techniques are used to reduce risks related to foodborne illnesses that are caused by microorganisms such as Salmonella. Food irradiation can kill pathogens and can be used to sterilise the food of the patients with an impaired immune system such as those suffering from AIDS or undergoing chemotherapy.
- **Extended Shelf Life:** Apart from eliminating food pathogens, Food irradiation can also help extend the shelf life of food items by destroying the inactive organisms that cause spoilage and decomposition.
- **No Chemical Residue:** The WHO and the US Department of Agriculture believe that technology is safe to use on food and does not produce any toxic substances.
- **Minor Nutrient Loss:** While many claims that irradiation can affect the nutritional value of food, studies show that it helps preserve nutrients better than the common food preservative techniques such as boiling and freezing.
- **Properly Labelled:** Foods that have been irradiated come with a label, a Radura label that allows consumers to choose between buying or avoiding irradiated items.

Source: Hindu

3. Right to Health Bill

Topic: Polity and Governance



SALIENT FEATURES OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH DRAFT BILL, RAJASTHAN

OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT

- Appropriate state budget for health
- Within six months of enactment, develop and institutionalize a human resource policy for health for equitable distribution of healthcare workers across hospitals
- Social audit and grievance redressal mechanism
- Within one year, prescribing standards for quality and safety at all levels of hospitals
- Guarantee availability of government funded healthcare services as per distance or geographical area
- Ensuring that there is no direct or indirect denial to anyone for any government funded healthcare service
- Institute effective measures to prevent, treat and control epidemics and other public health emergencies
- Setting up state and district level health authorities

Source: Rajasthan Government


[moneycontrol](#)

In News: The Rajasthan Assembly has passed the Right to Health (RTH) bill.

More on the Topic:

- RTH gives every resident of the state **the right to avail free Out Patient Department (OPD) services and In Patient Department (IPD) services** at all public health facilities and select private facilities.
- The free healthcare services, including **consultation, drugs, diagnostics, emergency transport, procedure and emergency care**, will be provided subject to conditions specified in the rules, which will be formulated now.
- Also, all residents will be **entitled to emergency treatment and care without prepayment of any fee or charges**, and the hospital can't delay treatment on grounds of police clearance if it is a medico-legal case.

Government of India Initiatives to have Right to healthcare in India:

- **The Ayushman Bharat Programme** launched last year provides for holistic and integrated health care and is the principal vehicle for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- **Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** are free and universal to all individuals residing in the service area.

- **Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) & Telemedicine** are also being implemented with National Health Mission support to improve healthcare access particularly in rural areas.
- **AB-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** provides free and cashless care to about 500 million poor and deprived people for secondary and tertiary hospitalization care.
- High-Level Group constituted under **15th Finance Commission recommended to declare RTH a fundamental right.**

Source: Hindu

4. Directed Energy Weapons

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Indian Air Force Chief has mentioned about Directed Energy Weapons.

More on the Topic:

- It is an umbrella term covering technologies that produce a **beam of concentrated electromagnetic energy or atomic or subatomic particles.**
- **They damages its target with highly focused energy without a solid projectile, including lasers, microwaves, particle beams, and sound beams.**
- Potential applications of this technology include weapons that target personnel, missiles, vehicles, and optical devices.
- These weapons have advantages such as Speed of light engagement, Stealth-like performance, Precision targeting etc.

Source: Hindu



5. Butterfly Ecopark in Tripura

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: A butterfly park in a village near the India-Bangladesh international border in South Tripura district is now attracting tourists from all over the country and Bangladesh.

More on the Topic:

- The park close to the Trishna Wildlife sanctuary is the first butterfly park of northeast.
- The park is dedicated to conserving and promoting the unique butterfly species found in the region.
- It was established in 2016 and hosts around 250 species of butterflies.
- **Significance of Butterflies: Butterflies are key pollinators.**
- Butterflies and moths are indicators of a healthy environment and healthy ecosystems.

Source: Business Standard



6. Green Tug Transition Programme(GTTP)

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has launched Green Tug Transition Programme(GTTP).

More on the Topic:

- Tugs are **special boats that assist other vessels into and out of port**. The primary purpose of these boats is to help move larger ships by towing, pushing, and guiding.
- Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) **aims to make India a global hub for green shipbuilding by 2030**.
- The programme will start with '**Green Hybrid Tugs**', which will be powered by green hybrid propulsion systems, and subsequently adopting non-fossil fuel solutions like (methanol, ammonia, hydrogen).
- The target has been set for the initial green tugs to start working in all major ports by 2025.
- **At least, 50 per cent of all the tugs are likely to be converted into green tugs by 2030**, which will considerably reduce emission as the country move towards achieving sustainable development.

Source: Indian Express



7. INS Androht

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Anti-Submarine Craft INS Androht has been launched recently.

More on the Topic:

- The INS Androht is second in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).
- The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft corvettes are a class of anti-submarine warfare vessels currently being built for the Indian Navy, by Cochin Shipyard and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- Their primary role is to conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low intensity maritime operations and mine laying operations.

Source: Business Standard
