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PANEL DISCUSSION:

Carbon Pricing and Climate Actions: Exploring Innovative Options under Trade Agreements



08 April, 2026 | 06:00 P.M.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HALL,
CONSTITUTION CLUB OF INDIA,
NEW DELHI

 www.ctil.org.in



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Background

The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (EU CBAM), fully operational since January 2026, imposes a price on the carbon emissions embedded in imports of products such as steel, aluminium and others. While the cost and compliance challenges of the EU CBAM persist, other countries have also declared their carbon pricing measures. The United Kingdom, for instance, has announced the imposition of its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism effective from 1 January 2027 (covering identical sectors as the EU CBAM).

Carbon pricing measures usually pose challenges to competitiveness for the industries in developing countries. The monitoring, verification and reporting requirements add to the logistical complexities and compliance costs. Proportionate pricing, combined with the current offset mechanism, such as Article 9 of the EU CBAM Regulation, has also been a point of discussion.

At the domestic level, India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), notified in 2023, will gradually place a price on carbon emissions across nine key industrial sectors, which include the EU CBAM-covered sectors. Bearing in mind the differences between the Indian CCTS and the EU CBAM, there remains scope for deliberation regarding the trajectory that the CCTS must take to increase its cost efficiency in line with the global benchmarks.

Currently, it appears difficult to repatriate revenues accruing from measures like EU CBAM to developing or least developed countries. This issue raises challenges related to WTO consistency, adherence to fundamental principles of taxation, and integrating the element of equity.



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Regulations like the EU CBAM raise interesting questions and offer potential for what countries can accomplish as trade partners. Can trade agreements play a pivotal role in navigating the challenges regarding accreditation and verification mechanisms? What role do instruments such as Annex 14 A of the India-EU FTA play in bridging the regulatory divide?

In the above backdrop, this Panel will delve into the following questions:

1. In what ways does the EU CBAM affect Indian exports? What are the key administrative challenges?
2. Can parameters other than price be viable options for establishing equivalence of carbon pricing measures?
3. What should be the role of domestic agencies in enhancing preparedness of the domestic carbon measures in the short and long term? How can the India-EU FTA, through Annex 14 A, help address such challenges?
4. How can the revenue collected through carbon pricing measures be directed towards decarbonisation efforts of the exporting countries?
5. What steps can countries take to conceptualize a global carbon pricing mechanism? Is global carbon price a distant reality?





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Programme Schedule

TIME	PROGRAMME DETAILS	INVITEES
18:00 – 18:10	Welcome Remarks	Head and Professor James J. Nedumpara Centre for Trade and Investment Law
18:10 – 18:20	Opening Remarks	Dean and Professor R. Sudarshan O.P. Jindal Global University
18:20 – 18:50	Presentation	Professor Archie Parnell O.P. Jindal Global University School of Law
18:50 – 19:50	Panel Discussion	Chair Dean and Prof. R. Sudarshan Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Archie Parnell, Jindal Global University• Dr. James J. Nedumpara, Head and Professor, CTIL• Mr. Anil Jauhri, Visiting Fellow, RIS, ex-CEO National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (TBC)• Mr. Saurabh Diddi, Director, Bureau of Energy Efficiency• Mr. Abhishek Acharya, Director, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)• Ms. Shiny Pradeep, Asst. Professor, CTIL
19:50 – 20:00	Vote of Thanks (Followed by Dinner)	Ms. Shana Sharma, Associate, CTIL



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About Speakers



Prof. (Dr.) James J. Nedumpara is a Professor and Head of the Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. He advises the government on International trade, investment, and dispute settlement-related matters, and has represented India in WTO disputes and FTA negotiations. He holds a doctorate from NLSIU, Bangalore. He has widely published in trade law related issues, including a co-authored book titled, 'International Economic Law: Texts, Cases and Material' (CUP, 2021). In addition, he is a Co-Chair of the South Asian International Economic Law Network and was appointed as the India Chair of WTO Chair Programme in 2022.

Prof. R. Sudarshan is an economist and scholar with a distinguished career in research, development, and governance. He holds master's degrees from the Delhi School of Economics and the University of Oxford. He was also elected for a research fellowship at the University of Cambridge. He has held key roles with the Ford Foundation and UNDP in India, Jakarta, Oslo, and Bangkok, focusing on governance, human rights, and legal reforms. Since 2012, he has served as founding Dean of the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, with an extensive record of interdisciplinary publications in development, law, and policy.



Prof. Archie Parnell is a leading international tax expert with over five decades of experience in public service, global finance, and academia. He has held senior tax roles at the U.S. Department of Justice, Exxon, Coudert Brothers, and Goldman Sachs in Asia, shaped tax policy through committees in Hong Kong and the OECD, and adjudicated tax appeals on Hong Kong's Board of Review. Today, he translates this rich practical experience into the classroom, co-teaching international tax and environment-tax courses at Jindal Global Law School while continuing to publish and speak on cross-border tax disputes, climate-related taxation, and global tax policy.



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Mr. Saurabh Diddi is working as Director with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power. He has more than 16 years of experience in the energy efficiency sector. Mr Saurabh has led the development of many prestigious schemes of the Government of India, which include PAT for industries, Standard & labelling of Appliances, Energy Conservation Awards and energy efficiency in the building sector. He led and carried out a number of energy efficiency studies addressing various facets like Demand Side Management, sectoral studies, preparation of reference manuals, cluster and unit level projects as well as capacity building initiatives.

Mr Abhishek Acharya is a Director at MoEFCC, with 17 years of experience in the GoI, specialising in climate change and climate finance. He served as India's Climate Finance Negotiator at UNFCCC COP 24, 25, and 26, including as the Like-Minded Developing Countries coordinator in climate-finance talks, and represented India in technical discussions on the "New Collective Quantified Goal on Finance" under the Paris Agreement. He has also negotiated on sustainable development and climate-change provisions in the India-EU, India-Chile, and India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreements.





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Mr. Anil Jauhri is the former CEO of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) under the Quality Council of India. He has also worked with the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Export Inspection Council. He has over 44 years of experience in quality, standards, accreditation, certification, and technical regulations. His expertise includes developing certification systems across sectors such as food, healthcare, and industrial regulation. He is associated with international organisations including the UNFCCC, WTO, UNIDO, and FAO, particularly on sustainability and carbon-related frameworks.

Ms. Shiny Pradeep is a Consultant/Assistant Professor (Legal) at the Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. She possesses expertise in international trade law, with key areas of her work including trade and environment, trade in services, and industrial policy. She has been part of the negotiating teams in many of India's recent and ongoing trade negotiations. She also works on industrial policy issues, specifically from a sustainability perspective and has been actively involved in the research on the EU CBAM, European Union's Deforestation Regulation and domestic regulation reforms in the services sector in India.

