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Commerce Ministry Holds Exporter Awareness Session on EU CBAM's Definitive Phase

19 August 2026 ·

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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Commerce Ministry Holds Exporter Awareness Session on EU CBAM's Definitive Phase

19 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

The Department of Commerce, with the NABCB and EEPC, held an awareness session for around 100 exporters at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, on the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), on August 19, 2026.

What Was Discussed

CBAM moved from its transitional phase (**October 2023-December 2025**) to a **definitive, certificate-purchase phase from January 2026**, requiring importers of carbon-intensive goods into the EU to purchase certificates reflecting the embedded carbon emissions of steel, aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen and electricity. The certificate price is set quarterly and stood at roughly **€75 per tonne of CO₂** in Q1 2026.

Why This Matters

India's steel export carbon intensity exceeds the EU average, commonly cited around **2.1 tCO₂ per tonne** for India against **1.8** for the EU on a blast-furnace basis, meaning Indian exporters in affected sectors face a real cost disadvantage under CBAM unless domestic **decarbonisation** accelerates or bilateral carbon-price adjustments are negotiated.

UPSC Relevance

This connects GS3 trade policy with the climate-trade **nexus**, testing familiarity with the WTO's **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)** principle and India's own **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022. A useful Mains angle examines whether **unilateral** climate-linked trade measures like CBAM are compatible with developing-country trade interests and CBDR.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**EU CBAM, DEFINITIVE PHASE:**

Transitional phase: October 2023-December 2025; definitive phase: from January 2026

Certificate price: ~€75/tonne CO₂ (Q1 2026, set quarterly)

Affected sectors: steel, aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen, electricity

India's steel carbon intensity: ~2.1 tCO₂/tonne vs EU average ~1.8 (blast-furnace basis)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

EU-India Strategic Agenda (September 2025) commits to deducting India's domestic carbon price from CBAM adjustments

Sources: PIB, Department of Commerce

Source: Commerce Ministry Holds Exporter Awareness Session on EU CBAM's Definitive Phase — Ujjiyari.com |
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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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