



DATE: 28 MAY 2026

1 Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) (Source: The Hindu)

CBAM is part of the "Fit for 55 in 2030 package", which is the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with the European Climate Law.

Aim

- The CBAM is a policy tool aimed at reducing Carbon Emissions by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the same carbon costs as products produced within the EU.

Facts

- It applies first to carbon-intensive sectors such as cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity, and hydrogen.
- The CBAM will be implemented by requiring importers to declare the quantity of goods imported into the EU and their embedded Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis.
- It is linked to the EU Emissions Trading System and the gradual phase-out of free allowances.



Impact on India

- India's exporters in steel, aluminium, and related sectors may face higher compliance costs.
- It may push Indian industry toward cleaner production and stronger MRV systems.
- It also raises concerns about climate equity, trade fairness, and CBDR-RC under UNFCCC

2 EVM-VVPAT (Source: The Hindu)

Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is a portable microcontroller-based instrument designed to modernize the Election process.

- It is manufactured and supplied to the ECI by Bharat Electronics and the Electronic Corporation of India Limited





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Components

- **Ballot Unit:** Functions like a keyboard with 16 buttons/keys.
- **Control Unit:** Also called the master unit, remains with the polling/presiding officer
- **VVPAT:** Allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
 - When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name, and symbol of the candidate
 - This slip is visible through a transparent window for 7 seconds before it is automatically cut and dropped into a sealed box.
 - It was introduced to ensure full transparency in the voting system and to restore voter confidence by verifying the accuracy of the voting system using EVMs.
 - Note: It was first used in the Goa Legislative Election (2017)

3 Appointment of Supreme Court Judges and Collegium System (Source: The Hindu)

Appointment of Supreme Court Judges

- The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president as per the recommendation of the collegium that emerged after the Third Judges Case.
- The president appoints the chief justice after consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and high courts as he deems necessary.
- The President appoints the other judges after consultation with the Chief Justice and such other judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts as he deems necessary.
- The consultation with the Chief Justice is obligatory in the case of the appointment of a judge other than the Chief Justice.

Qualifications Required for the Appointment of Supreme Court Judges

- A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 - He should be a citizen of India.
 - He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or
 - He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or
 - He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.
- The Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.



COLLEGIUM SYSTEM IN INDIA

Judges appointing Judges

A judicially evolved mechanism for the appointment and transfer of judges of Higher Judiciary.



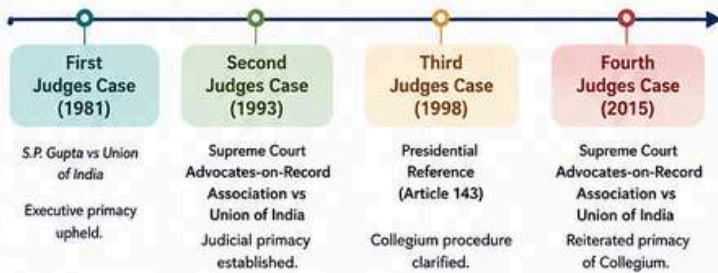
WHAT IS THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM?

The Collegium System is a judge-centric method of appointing and transferring judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts in India.

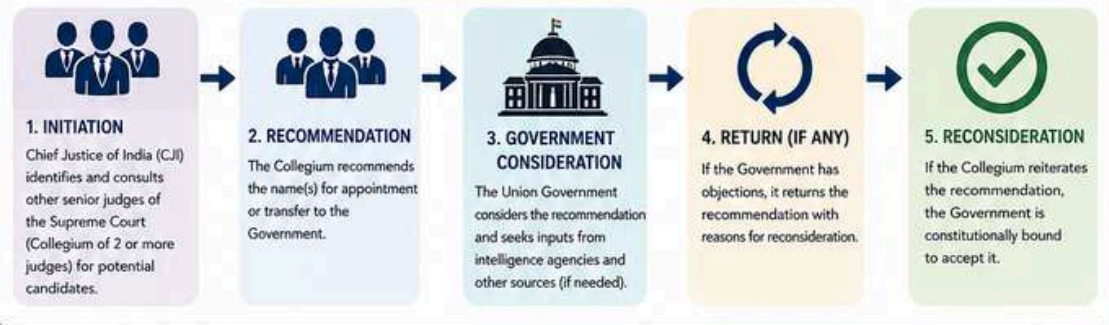


It is not based on a constitutional or statutory provision, but evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court.

EVOLUTION OF THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM



HOW THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM WORKS



WHO IS IN THE COLLEGIUM?



For Supreme Court Appointments
Collegium of the CJI + 4 senior-most judges of the Supreme Court



For High Court Appointments
Collegium of the CJI + 2 senior-most judges of the Supreme Court

KEY FEATURES

- ✓ Judiciary has primacy in appointments and transfers.
- ✓ Aims to ensure independence of judiciary from executive interference.
- ✓ Based on collective wisdom and consultation of senior judges.
- ✓ Government's role is limited to consideration, not decision.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Articles 124 & 217: Appointment of judges of Supreme Court and High Courts by the President.
- Article 222: Transfer of judges.
- However, the Collegium System is a judicially created mechanism to interpret these provisions in the interest of judicial independence.



RATIONALE BEHIND THE SYSTEM

- ✓ To protect judicial independence, a basic feature of the Constitution.
- ✓ To prevent executive dominance in appointments and transfers.
- ✓ To uphold public confidence in the impartiality of judiciary.

CRITICISMS

- ✗ Lack of transparency in the selection process.
- ✗ Perceived opacity and absence of accountability.
- ✗ Limited diversity (gender, social, regional) among appointees.
- ✗ No fixed criteria or evaluation metrics.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



- In 2023, the Supreme Court constituted a 7-judge Constitution Bench to examine the need for reforms in the Collegium System.
- Debate continues on bringing transparency and accountability while preserving judicial independence.

AT A GLANCE



Judges appointing Judges



Judicial primacy



Government bound by reiterated recommendations



Evolved through landmark judgments



Aims to safeguard judicial independence

"An independent judiciary is the sentinel on the qui vive of the Constitution."
— Supreme Court of India