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1 Basel Norms (Source: The Hindu)

- *Basel norms or Basel Accords are the international banking regulations issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.*
- *The Basel norms are an effort to coordinate banking regulations across the globe to strengthen the international banking system.*
- *It is the set of agreements by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision that focuses on the risks to banks and the financial system.*

Norms

- **Basel I Norms**
    - The first Basel Accord, known as Basel I, was issued in 1988
    - It focused on credit risks and defined capital and the structure of risk weights for banks
    - The minimum capital requirement was fixed at 8% of the Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA)
- **Basel II Norms**
    - It is the refined and reformed version of Basel I, which was published in 2004.
    - It defined 3 types of risks – Operational Risks, Credit Risks, and Market Risks.
    - Its 3 main pillars of Basel II were as follows:
- **Basel III Norms**
    - Basel III guidelines were released in December 2010 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of 2008.
    - The guidelines aim to promote a more resilient banking system by focusing on four vital banking parameters viz. capital, leverage, funding, and liquidity.

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2 Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) (Source: The Hindu)

- *The FCRA was passed in 1976 due to concerns that foreign governments were funding independent organizations to meddle in India's internal affairs.*
- *The law aims to control foreign donations to organizations and people to ensure that they operate following the principles of a sovereign democratic republic.*
- FCRA registrations are granted to individuals or associations with definite cultural, economic, educational, religious, and social programs.
- **The FCRA requires every person or NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be:**
  - Registered under the Act,
  - To open a bank account for the receipt of foreign funds in the State Bank of India, Delhi,
  - To utilize those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
- **Exceptions**
  - Under the FCRA, applicants must be genuine and cannot engage in forced or incentivized religious conversions.
  - They must not have been charged or convicted of inciting communal conflict.
  - The Act also prohibits political parties, public officials, journalists, media organizations, judges, government employees, and politically affiliated groups from accepting foreign donations.
- **Previous Amendments**
  - The FCRA was revised in 2010 to "consolidate the law" on the use of foreign funds and "to prohibit" their use for "any activities detrimental to the national interest."
  - The 2020 amendment strengthened government oversight and control over how foreign donations to NGOs are received and used.
- **FCRA Amendment Rules 2026**
  - NGOs must specify exact objectives and operational areas, with separate fees for each activity category and State/UT.
  - Foreign funds can be used for worship, religious education, heritage preservation, and community kitchens, but cannot be used for religious conversion.
  - Associations having foreign nationals (other than Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)) as key functionaries will "ordinarily not be considered" for registration or prior permission to receive funds.
  - NGOs must utilize at least 75% of previous funds before receiving further installments and spend at least Rs 10 lakh on approved activities over two years for renewal eligibility.
  - Mandatory disclosure of the ultimate donor, official websites, social media accounts, and publications to strengthen accountability.

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3 Carbon Trading and Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (Source: Down To Earth)

Carbon Trading

- Carbon trading is a market-based mechanism designed to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by placing a financial value on carbon.
- The fundamental premise is that 1 carbon credit or permit equals 1 metric ton of CO2 (or its equivalent in other GHGs) reduced, avoided, or removed from the atmosphere.

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

- *The **Carbon Credits Trading Scheme (CCTS)** is a market-based mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by creating a national carbon market.*
- It enables industries to trade carbon credits, thereby encouraging cost-effective emission reductions.
- CCTS is notified under the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022.**
- **Jointly Implemented By:**
  - Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**) – Ministry of Power
  - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**)