

PRESS RELEASE

Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce said that “trade and investment policies need to be examined holistically and in integrated manner rather than within inter-ministerial silos”. Mr. Pandey noted that trade agreements are important as investors tend to look not just at the foreign markets, but how investments could be harnessed to achieve greater access and integration in goods and services. Mr. Pandey was launching a Special Issue of the Global Trade and Customs Journal in a function held at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi on 15 November, 2019. The Special Issue was edited by Dr. James J. Nedumpara, *Head and Professor of the Centre for Trade and Investment Law*, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and published by Wolters Kluwer, Netherlands. The Journal launch was followed by panel discussions on topics falling within the theme “*India in the International Economic Order: Issues and Perspectives*”.

The Special Issue of Global Trade and Customs Journal brought together extensive articles pertaining to India and its involvement in the international trading system. The Journal in particular focused on topical issues such as India’s engagement with regional trade agreements, India’s position on electronic commerce and the need for flexibilities for developing countries such as the GSP and the availability of import restrictive measures in agriculture, especially when there is a domestic glut.

The panel discussions which was chaired by Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Professor and Head, Centre for Regional Trade, included presentations from Ambassador V S Seshadri, India’s former Ambassador to Myanmar, Dr. Veena Jha, former India Co-ordinator of UNCTAD and Partner, *Ikdhwaj Advisors*, Prof. Abhijit Das, Professor and Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Ms. R V Anuradha, Partner, Clarus Law, Mr. Parthasarathy Jha, Economic Laws Practice, Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, South Asian University, and Ms. Rohini Sisodia, Of Counsel. Most of the participants noted that whether a country should adopt a defensive or over offensive trade policy should be fashioned only after analysing the country’s trade and export promotion profile and the domestic sensibilities.

The panel discussion was concluded by a vote of thanks given by Ms. Akshaya Venkataraman, *Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Trade and Investment Law*.