



## FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF CENTRE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT LAW

CHIEF GUEST

**Ms. RITA TEAOTIA**

COMMERCE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

-followed by-

PANEL DISCUSSION

ON

**CAN THE WTO'S APPELLATE BODY EMERGE FROM THE STORM CLOUDS AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE?**

CONFERENCE HALL, 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, NAFED BUILDING, SIDDHARTH ENCLAVE, ASHRAM CHOWK, NEW DELHI

**Friday 27 July, 2018**

[0930hrs – 1200hrs]

Time	Agenda Item
0930 – 0940	<b>Arrival of Dignitaries</b>
0940 – 0948	<b>Welcome Address</b> Dr. James J. Nedumpara, Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law
0948 – 1000	<b>Director's Address</b> Prof. Manoj Pant, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
1000 – 1020	<b>Keynote Address</b> Ms. Rita Teaotia, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India
1020 – 1025	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> Ms. Shiny Pradeep, Assistant Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law
1025 – 1040	<b>Coffee Break</b>

PANEL DISCUSSION [1040hrs – 1200hrs]	
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Dr. Anup Wadhawan</b> Officer on Special Duty, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
<b>Panellists</b>	<b>Prof. Abhijit Das</b> Head and Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, New Delhi  <b>Dr. Leila Choukroune</b> Professor of International Law and University Research and Innovation Professor in Democratic Citizenship, University of Portsmouth (UK)  <b>Ms. R.V. Anuradha</b> Partner, Clarus Law Associates  <b>Dr. James J. Nedumpara</b> Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law  <b>Mr. Sanjay Notani</b> Partner, Economic Laws Practice, Mumbai
<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta</b> Former Ambassador of India to the WTO

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## **BACKGROUND OF PANEL DISCUSSION**

The WTO Appellate Body, apparently the Crown Jewel of the multilateral trading system, is facing an unprecedented and life threatening crisis. The crisis is real and unless timely decisions are made, the future of the rule-based multilateral trading system will be in grave danger. Paradoxically, this is happening at a time when disputes are piling up at the WTO and the need for an unbiased, impartial dispute settlement system is evident more than ever before.

No adjudicative organ is perfect. Is the impasse in the appointment of judges in the Appellate Body just a matter of differences on the adjudicative role and functioning of the Appellate Body, or is it a deliberate effort to asphyxiate and get rid of the appellate system? A dysfunctional or defunct Appellate Body could remind us of the GATT days where a party to a dispute could virtually block the adoption of a panel report. These are hard times for the multilateral trading system and bold responses may be called for to resolve this looming crisis.

The panel discussion brings together perspectives to deal with this crisis. The panel will be chaired by Dr. Anup Wadhawan, Officer on Special Duty, Department of Commerce (TBC)