



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BUSINESS LAWS,
NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD
IN COLLABORATION WITH
WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BERN,
SWITZERLAND
AND
CENTRE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT LAW (IIFT) AND
THE WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME IN INDIA
PRESENTS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

“NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS”

17-19TH JANUARY 2025

VENUE: NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW,
HYDERABAD

Last Date of Abstract Submission: 30th November
(2024)

01. Panel Discussions
02. Round Table Discussions
03. Plenary sessions
04. Paper presentations

BACKGROUND

Industrial policy refers to a comprehensive set of government strategies and interventions aimed at shaping economic activity toward specific industries and sectors, with the dual purpose of enhancing national productivity and fostering technological advancement. Industrial policies, which often include subsidies, tax incentives, and regulatory reforms, aim to create an ecosystem that nurtures industrial growth, innovation, and competitiveness. The ultimate objective is to accelerate development, drive economic transformation, and enhance a nation's standing in the global marketplace.

Historically, industrial policies have been instrumental in the economic strategies of the United States, Japan, South Korea, Germany, and the United Kingdom, in the pre- and post-World War II period. These nations successfully employed targeted policies to create, rebuild and modernise their industrial bases, establishing a foundation for sustained economic growth and global leadership. The economic miracles of these nations are often attributed to the strategic industrial policies, which fostered emerging industries and secure their rapid ascent to economic dominance. Following decolonisation and many newly formed independent nations called a new economic order enhancing development, in the 1960s and 1970s, and embraced industrial development policies, such as infant industry protection, import substitution, and domestic processing of raw materials and commodities.

However, the late 20th century saw a paradigm shift towards neoliberalism emphasising deregulation, the end of import substitution, and the promotion of free-market policies. This shift was reinforced by the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 1995, which introduced stricter regulations on tariffs, certain subsidies, quantitative restrictions, and other forms of government intervention to minimise market distortions and promote a rules-based international trading system. As a result, industrial policy fell out of favour in both advanced and many developing economies, replaced by the belief that unfettered and globalised markets would deliver superior economic outcomes and welfare gains for all.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, however, industrial policy has made a remarkable comeback, driven by a confluence of global crises such as economic stagnation, the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating climate change, and rising geopolitical tensions. Nations are rethinking their industrial strategies, focusing on economic resilience, green transition, technological self-reliance, and the protection or creation of critical industries. For example, People's Republic of China's push to dominate sectors like steel, aluminium, high-tech industries, and renewable energy has spurred responses from the United States, the European Union, and India, each of which has introduced its own set of industrial policies. The U.S. Inflation Reduction Act and India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme are examples of policies aimed to strengthen domestic manufacturing, reduce dependence on global supply chains, and bolster strategic sectors. In Europe, initiatives like the European Green Deal, Horizon 2020 and the EU's Strategic Autonomy initiative illustrate the use of industrial policy to address both economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Similarly, Indonesia's Industrial Policy seeks to boost downstream industries and move away from a resource-based economy. Major economies like the United States, the European Union, India and China, along with other Asian countries and developing countries are navigating the delicate balance between industrial policy and their obligations under global trade rules, demonstrating how these strategies can promote economic growth, social equity, and alignment with international trade norms.

Beyond economic competition, there is increasing recognition of the need to address geo-economic fragmentation and public demands for climate change mitigation action. Modern industrial policies of the 21st century have, thus, evolved into multi-dimensional tools designed not only to achieve economic and geopolitical goals but also to promote sustainability and address environmental challenges.

A key challenge for contemporary industrial policies is the potential conflict with WTO agreements, as many of the measures employed—such as import substitution or export subsidies, and import restrictions—are prohibited under the WTO rules. To justify these restrictions, countries often invoke exceptions under Articles XX and XXI of the GATT 1994, with Article XX permitting, subject to conditions, measures pursuing legitimate non-trade objectives and Article XXI covering national security interests. Similarly, under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), WTO Members may have recourse to exceptions under Articles XIV and XIV *bis*.

BACKGROUND

However, certain invocations of security exceptions, including by the United States, have been controversial, as they sometimes appear to stretch the definition of “security” to encompass economic interests rather than traditional national security threats. This has intensified recourse to WTO dispute settlement and calls for WTO reforms, particularly to curb the misuse of security exceptions while accommodating the growing role of industrial policy in global trade.

Rather than outright rejecting industrial policy, a balanced approach is needed within the WTO’s legal framework. Such an approach should recognize the legitimacy of industrial policies in achieving economic resilience, inclusive development, technological advancement, and environmental sustainability, while ensuring that these policies do not unduly distort international trade. A recalibrated WTO rulebook providing a framework fit for purpose in the 21st century could provide the clarity and consistency needed to manage the increasing prominence of industrial policy in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Therefore, the present conference aims to foster an in-depth discussion on the resurgence of industrial policy, focusing on underlying motivations, new approaches making such policies fit for purpose in the 21st century, and implications for global trade. Dedicated sessions will critically evaluate the trade and industrial policies of India, the European Union, the United States, China, and other emerging economies, assessing their effectiveness and strategic impact on global trade frameworks. The conference will explore key lessons from past successful and failed industrial policies, particularly in relation to welfare, efficiency, sustainability, and inclusivity, thereby identifying approaches and conclusions that can inform future policy design. Additionally, the role of the WTO in today’s evolving economic landscape will be a central theme, examining whether its current rules can effectively address the challenges posed by modern industrial policy or if new reforms to the WTO’s rulebook are necessary to support strategic objectives. By addressing these issues, the conference will contribute to shaping economic development strategies that balance national policy priorities with global trade norms, fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, economic and political stability, and the integration of strategic industrial policies with broader economic and environmental goals.

CONFERENCE THEMES



Climate Change Mitigation and Inclusive Sustainability

Building Resilient and Adaptive Regional and Global Supply Chains



Advancing Competitiveness in Critical and Emerging Technologies



Ensuring National, Economic, and Food Security



EACH THEME WILL INCLUDE SUB-THEMES SUCH AS:

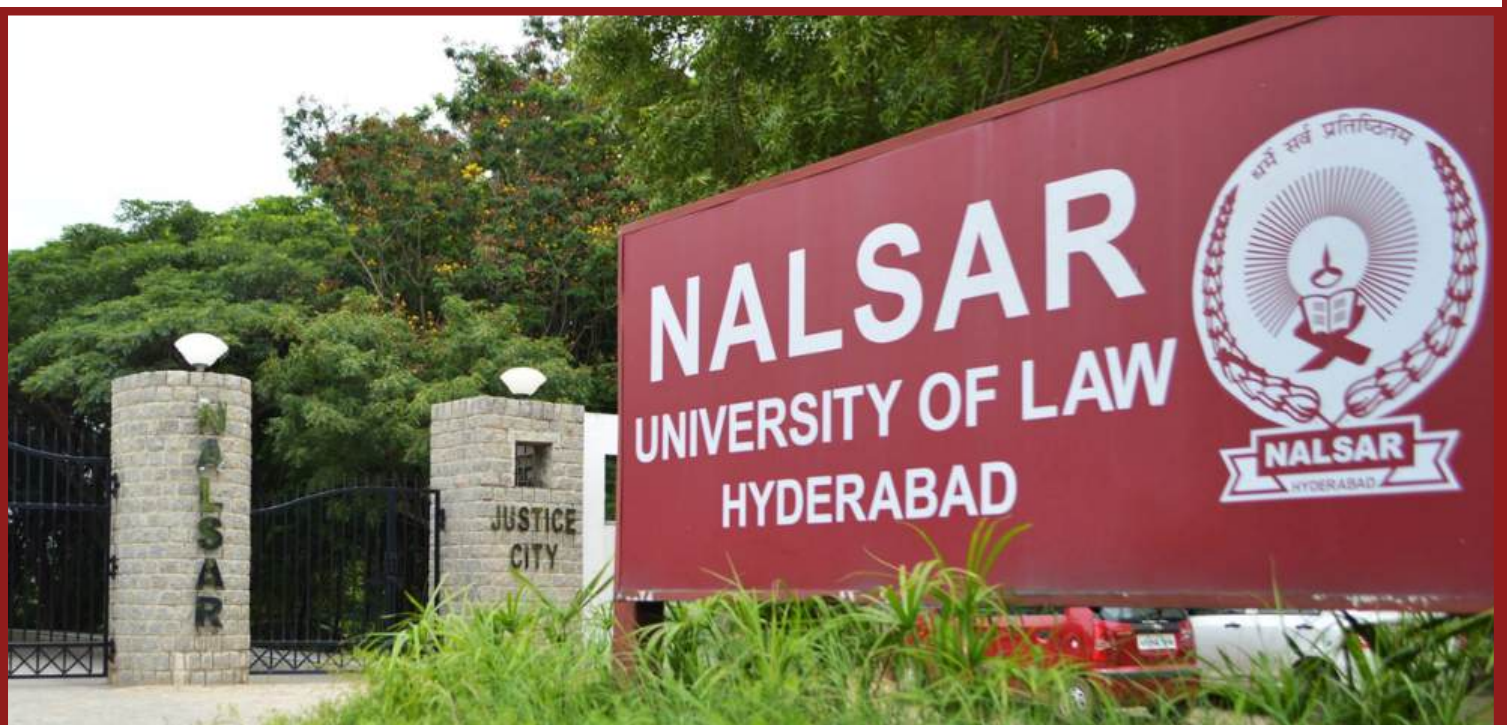
- Green Industrial Policies
- Motivations for Industrial Policy: Technological Advancements, Retaliation, National Security, and Geopolitical Rivalries
- Economic Rationale of Industrial Policy: Externalities, Market Failures, and State Intervention
- WTO's Evolving Framework and Role in Industrial Policy: Subsidy Rules, Enforcement, and Trade Tensions
- China's Industrial Policy and Its Engagement with the WTO
- Impact of Industrial Policy on Global Trade Dynamics: Digitalisation, Global Value Chains (GVCs), and Regional Trade Agreements
- Industrial Policy and Comparative Advantages in Emerging Economies: Sectoral Development and the Role of State-Led Innovation
- Geopolitics and Industrial Policy: Reshoring, Deglobalisation, and Strategic Competition
- The Role of Security Exceptions in Critical Mineral Trade and Industrial Policy
- India's Industrial Policy: '*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*,' PLI (Production Linked Incentive) Scheme, and Trade Strategy in a Global Context
- Ensuring Coherence Between Green Transition and Strategic Autonomy Industrial and Trade Policies: The EU and Global Examples
- Environmental, Industrial, and National Interests in the WTO: GATT Article XX and Climate Change
- International Coordination and the Need for a Green Industrial Policy Framework
- Industrial Policy as a Development Strategy in the Knowledge/Digital Economy
- Intersections Between International Institutions, Private Sector, and State Finance in Shaping Industrial Policy
- Social Equity, Inclusiveness and International Trade: Cooperation in Sustainable Development, Social Cohesion, and Good Governance

The sub themes are suggestive only and not exhaustive.

ABOUT CITBL

The Centre was established in September 2022 with the vision of becoming a premier institution for trade law research, which is crucial for a rapidly growing economy like India. It aspires to be a leading hub for training and research in international trade and investment law and policy, aiming to build a deeper understanding of the complexities of global trade. The Centre is actively engaged in research projects that address contemporary issues in international trade law, contributing to academic discourse and providing practical solutions for policymakers. It encourages research on topics such as trade dispute resolution, investment regulations, and policy reforms, fostering an environment that promotes critical thinking and innovative approaches to trade law.

The Centre's dedication to advancing knowledge in this field is further demonstrated through its dynamic initiatives, including hosting guest lectures by distinguished former ambassadors and senior IAS officers like Amb. Ujal Singh Bhatia, Dr. V.S. Seshadri, and Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, offering valuable insights into real-world trade negotiations and policies. Additionally, it has organised major international conferences on pressing topics, such as the 'Crisis and Solutions to Dispute Settlement System Under WTO.' This event featured esteemed experts, including Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, former Chairperson and Member of the WTO Appellate Body, Prof. Werner Zdouc, former Director of the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat, and prominent Indian ambassadors and trade experts like Amb. Ujal Singh Bhatia, Amb. Jayant Dasgupta, Mr. Atul Kaushik, Prof. James J Nedumpara, Prof. Abhijit Das, and Prof. Sheela Rai. These initiatives, alongside its research efforts, position the Centre as a leading authority in trade law and a crucial contributor to shaping India's role in the global trade landscape.



ABOUT WTI

The World Trade Institute (WTI) is a premier interdisciplinary academic institution at the University of Bern, renowned for its focus on international trade and investment regulation, economic globalisation, and sustainability. As a center of excellence, the WTI offers a unique blend of graduate-level education, cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, and specialised advisory services, exploring the intricate connections between law, economics, and political science.

Founded in 1999, shortly after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT and the establishment of the WTO, the WTI has been dedicated to training future leaders and practitioners in international economic law and governance. Its mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the legal, economic, and political frameworks governing globalisation and sustainable development, while promoting sustainable trade practices and policies.

The WTI's commitment to excellence is reflected in its diverse community of students, researchers, and faculty members who come from all over the world. With close collaboration with the Institute of European and International Economic Law, the WTI stands at the forefront of shaping global trade policies, making it an ideal institution for those aspiring to lead in the field of international economic governance.



ABOUT CTIL

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) was established in the year 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). The Centre's primary objective is to provide sound and rigorous analysis of legal issues pertaining to international trade and investment law to the Government of India and other governmental agencies.

The Centre is aiming to create a dedicated pool of legal experts who could provide technical inputs for enhancing India's participation in international trade and investment negotiations and dispute settlement. The Centre also aims to be a thought leader in the various domains of international economic law such as WTO law, international investment law and legal issues relating to economic integration.



STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE



Panel Discussions

Dynamic panel discussions on Industrial Policy, featuring leading experts who will share diverse perspectives on the evolving landscape of industrial policy in today's global context.

Round Table Discussions

A round table discussion bringing together diverse stakeholders and beneficiaries of India's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. This interactive session will provide a platform for policymakers, industry leaders, manufacturers, and representatives from various key sectors of strategic importance to India to engage in meaningful dialogue on the scheme's impact, challenges, and opportunities. (e.g., pharmaceuticals, green technologies, steel and primary commodities, agro-industries etc)



Plenary sessions

There will be two plenary sessions dedicated to exploring various aspects of industrial policy. In these sessions, distinguished experts will deliver comprehensive lectures, providing in-depth insights into key issues and trends shaping industrial policy today.

Paper presentations

The author(s) are invited to present their paper through a PowerPoint presentation. Each author will be given 10 minutes to present their paper and the remaining 5 minutes will be for Q&A and feedback.



ABSTRACT AND PAPERS

Submission of abstract

- Scan the QR code for submitting the abstract or click on the link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdq84SGyxKhk0nPXT5k9m76d4hj7tofVPxg17nw8O-D8l1Ylw/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Only abstracts submitted through the google form will be considered for the selection process
- All abstracts must be submitted by 30th November 2024(Midnight IST)
- Presenters will receive an abstract acceptance notification by 10th December 2024
- Co-authorship is allowed but limited to two persons.



Abstract Guidelines

- Length: Maximum 500 words excluding title/cover
- Abstracts should have a cover page with title and details of the authors.
- Abstract Should indicate one or two guiding questions.
- Margins: 1 inch
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 points
- Spacing: 1.5

Paper submission Guidelines

- Length: 5000 to 7000 words excluding title/cover page, references and footnotes
- Margins: 1 inch
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 points
- Spacing: 1.5 Citation:
- Footnoting: Bluebook 21st edition, Times New Roman, 10 points
- Selected papers may be published in form of an edited book.



TIMELINE

Last Date of Abstract Submission	30th November (Midnight IST)
Announcement of Selected Abstracts	10th December 2024
Last Date for Registration Fee Submission	20th December 2024
Paper Submission	5th January 2025

REGISTRATION FEE

Category	Indian (INR)	Foreign (USD)
Academicians/ Practitioners/ Others	7500 (per individual author)	150
Students	6000 (per individual author)	100

The conference fees include registration fee, cost for accommodation on sharing basis and food

Travel Grant



- Two international participants may be awarded with travel grants on merit cum need basis. Interested participants are required to submit the travel grant application stating reasons at the time of abstract submission.

Remote Participation

- We have few slots for remote participation in the conference. International participants may request for online paper presentation, if necessary. There shall not be any fee waiver for the remote participation.

Best Paper Award

- The best paper will receive a waiver of the tuition fee for one WTI Summer or Winter Academy course, which are organized in a hybrid format.



Bank Details

- Registration fees are to be paid only to the following bank account:

Name: Registrar NALSAR University of Law (JRCITBL)
A/c No.7181339488

Bank: Indian Bank, Shameerpet Branch
IFSC Code: IDIB000S166

SWIFT Code: IDBINBBHYD (For International Participants)

For Queries Contact:

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