



## **Panel Discussion on “Shaping the future of WTO”**

29<sup>TH</sup> January 2019, NAFED House, New Delhi

It has been reiterated that there is a need to solve the crisis concerning the appointment or reappointment of judges in the WTO Appellate Body. Mr. Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, chaired a Panel Discussion on the topic “Shaping the Future of WTO” organized by Centre for Trade and Investment Law, an autonomous agency established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Panel Discussion was attended by former trade negotiator for India and the present Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, who discussed the need for a combination of various approaches to resolve the issue. Dr. V. S. Seshadri, former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, highlighted that issues have risen in the WTO because of the rapid industrialization in China.

Prof. Colin Picker, Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Wollongong (Australia) while giving the keynote address, provided us with ‘Utopian’ and ‘Dystopian’ possibilities that may arise in the international legal-economic system. Mr. Picker specifically pointed out the disarray into which the world economic order could relapse in the event the functioning of the Appellate Body fails.

Mr. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, discussed the need to resolve the issues which arose during the Doha Round and the need for the WTO Members to show more statesmanship to overcome the present threat surrounding the WTO Appellate Body. Concluding the Panel Discussion, Prof. James J. Nedumpara, Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, discussed the increasing rate of appeals in the WTO and the incompetence of the Appellate Body to meet deadlines. He also stressed on the importance of a working Appellate Body to establish a rule-based discipline in the WTO.

Mr. Dammu Ravi acknowledged the points raised by all the panelists and also provided his inputs on the views expressed by the discussants and the participants in the event. The vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Apeksha Chauhan, Research Fellow at the Centre for Trade and Investment Law.