

Trade, Law *and* Development

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NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK

DR. BIPIN KUMAR*

Dear Reader,

It is with immense pleasure that I present to you Volume 16.1 of *Trade, Law and Development*. Before you proceed with this issue, I would like to share a few thoughts.

I am Dr. Bipin Kumar, Chief Editor and Faculty-in-Charge of *Trade, Law and Development*. I also serve as an Associate Professor and an expert in international trade law. Since its inception in 2009, this Journal has grown exponentially, and I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand its remarkable evolution. From the very first volume, it was evident that the Journal would serve as a vital forum for insightful academic discourse in the fields of international trade law, economic law, and investment law. Over the years, we have had the honour of publishing works by some of the most esteemed scholars in these domains, including WTO Deputy Director General Dr. Yonov Agah, Head of Law, Economics and Justice at IIED Lorenzo Cotula, Prof. Raj Bhala, Simon Lester, Prof. Peter Mavroidis, Prof. M.S. Sornarajah, and Prof. Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann. It has truly been an enriching experience to engage with their contributions.

The present issue, Volume 16.1, is a Special Issue on the theme “**Navigating the Murky Waters of Economic Treaties in International Trade**”. This topic is extremely relevant in today’s geopolitical climate, as nations increasingly pivot towards regionalism and nationalism — an approach that stands in contrast to the principles of globalisation and interconnectedness espoused by the World Trade Organization, the cornerstone of international trade. The scholarly contributions in this issue offer nuanced perspectives on these developments, covering a broad spectrum of themes ranging from Third World Approaches to International Trade Law to India’s trade policy in the aftermath of its withdrawal from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Through these discussions, this issue aims to foster meaningful intellectual engagement and scholarly debate on the shifting paradigms of international economic governance.

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I hope that our readers reflect on the profound transformations shaping international trade and globalization today. Have we, in scrutinising the trees, lost sight of the forest? Or is it, in fact, the other way around? These are among the many questions we seek to explore through this issue.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the authors who have contributed to this edition. I am also profoundly grateful to our esteemed Vice Chancellor, **Professor (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur**, Chief Patron of the Journal, whose unwavering support and guidance have been instrumental in bringing this issue to fruition. Furthermore, I wish to thank the **Editors-in-Chief—Chathurya Srinivasan, Priyanshu Shrivastava, and Simran Bherwani**—for their exceptional leadership in ensuring the successful and timely publication of this issue. Most importantly, my sincere appreciation goes to the **Board of Editors**, whose dedication and meticulous efforts have been invaluable in refining each manuscript to its final form.

As we move forward, Trade, Law *and* Development remains committed to its mission of fostering insightful academic discourse in the field of international trade law, economic law, and investment laws. It is our hope that this issue not only informs but also inspires, provoking thought and dialogue on the complexities of the evolving global trade landscape. We invite you to engage with the ideas presented in these pages, to challenge perspectives, and to contribute to the ongoing discourse in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the Journal. We look forward to your thoughts and reflections on this issue.

Thank you.

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