



NALSAR
University of Law, Hyderabad
(Accredited with 'A++' grade by NAAC)

nalsarpro
e-nexus for Law
Directorate of Distance Education

THREE DAY ONLINE COURSE ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA

About the Course

Dispute settlement lies at the heart of the rules-based multilateral trading system. The WTO Dispute Settlement System (DSS) is often described as the “crown jewel” of the WTO, offering members a structured and legally binding process to resolve trade conflicts. For India, participation in this system has been more than a matter of defending commercial interests; it has also served as a platform to assert developmental priorities, safeguard food security concerns, and contest unfair trade practices.

This course introduces participants to the dynamics of dispute resolution in international trade law, with a special reference to India’s experience. It traces the evolution of the DSS, highlights India’s active role in shaping WTO jurisprudence, and places these developments against the backdrop of contemporary global trade tensions. Through case studies, discussions, and simulations, learners will explore how disputes are not merely legal contests but also reflect deeper political, economic, and developmental challenges.

The course is designed to blend conceptual clarity with practical application. It does not limit itself to doctrinal understanding of WTO law, but situates India’s engagement in a wider context — one that involves strategic litigation choices, negotiation of trade-offs, and long-term policy implications. At a time when the DSS itself is facing a crisis of legitimacy and functionality, examining India’s approach provides critical insights into both the strengths and limits of international economic law.

By engaging with this course, participants will gain an appreciation of the legal, political, and strategic dimensions of WTO dispute resolution, and how India navigates these challenges while pushing for a more equitable and development-sensitive multilateral order

Course Objectives

This course aims to provide participants with a comprehensive and practice-oriented understanding of dispute resolution in international trade law, with a special focus on India’s participation in the WTO dispute settlement system (DSS). The objective is to equip learners with both theoretical grounding and practical insights into how trade disputes are framed, litigated, and resolved.

Particular emphasis will be placed on trade remedies disputes (anti-dumping, subsidies, safeguards), which have been central to India’s experience before the WTO. The course will also explore agriculture-related disputes,

given that agriculture remains one of the most contentious areas in WTO negotiations and litigation, with significant implications for India's food security, livelihood concerns, and developmental priorities.

Beyond case-specific analysis, the course will highlight India's litigation strategies, stakeholder engagement, and the impact of WTO rulings on India's domestic policies. Participants will also be introduced to the evolving state of play in WTO dispute resolution including the current paralysis of the Appellate Body, the interim arbitration arrangements (such as the MPIA), and debates around reform of the DSS. Understanding these systemic challenges will help learners critically assess the strengths and shortcomings of the multilateral system.

Finally, the course will situate India's stance within this broader context, examining how India balances its defensive and offensive trade interests, how it engages in shaping WTO jurisprudence, and how its participation in disputes reflects its wider vision of a fairer and more development-oriented multilateral trading system.

Course Outcome

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the structure, functioning, and evolution of the WTO dispute settlement system, including its current challenges and reform debates.
- Analyse India's role as a complainant, respondent, and third party in WTO disputes, with particular emphasis on trade remedies, agriculture and SPS-related disputes, as well as intellectual property and quantitative restrictions, thereby understanding how these cases have shaped India's litigation strategies, influenced its domestic policies, and contributed to broader debates on reforming the WTO dispute settlement system.
- Assess the impact of WTO rulings on India's trade policy, agriculture, industry, and domestic regulatory framework.
- Critically evaluate the state of play of dispute resolution, including the paralysis of the Appellate Body, the rise of alternative mechanisms (e.g., MPIA), and implications for India and other developing Members.
- Gain practical skills in dispute resolution processes through drafting, case analysis, and mock dispute simulations, enabling them to frame legal strategies in real-world contexts.
- Appreciate India's stance and strategic positioning in WTO disputes and understand how its participation reflects broader systemic concerns about development, equity, and the future of multilateralism.

Schedule and Details of the Sessions (Tentatively from December 12 – 14, 2025)

- The WTO Dispute Settlement System: Structure, Objectives, and Evolution
- Who participates In WTO Dispute Settlement System
- Overview of Stages In WTO Dispute Settlement System
- Panel Adjudication, composition and Challenges
- Appellate Review In WTO Dispute Settlement System
- Compliance and Enforcement in WTO Dispute Settlement System
- ADR Mechanisms in WTO Dispute Settlement System
- Reform Proposals: Strengthening Legitimacy, Transparency, and Developmental Balance
- Substantive Issues and India's Experience in WTO Disputes (I)
- Substantive Issues and India's Experience in WTO Disputes (II)
- Where WTO stands today and what is its future?

Eligibility

Candidates who are pursuing graduation or had graduated are eligible to register.

Admission Procedure

- Submission of Online Application Form along with the required documents and the fee
- Direct admission subject to fulfilling the eligibility criteria

Course Fee:

Rs. 10,000/-

How to Apply

All the candidates should apply online through the website www.nalsarpro.org

Link to Apply : <https://apply.nalsar.ac.in/application-form-for-short-term-courses>

Last Date to Apply : December 10, 2025.

Conduct of the Course

Live sessions will be conducted online by the academicians, professionals and industry experts during weekend. Soft copy of the reference materials will be provided to the candidates.

If the enrollments are more than 100, then the University may conduct the classes in different batches on different dates.

Mode of Assessment

Online Examination will be conducted only once at the end of the course. The assessment may include MCQ, short answer questions, case study, problem based questions etc.

Award of Certificate (only soft copy through email):

- Course Completion Certificate: Candidates securing 50% or more in the Assessment Test will be awarded the 'Course Completion Certificate'
- Certificate of Participation: All other enrolled candidates will be awarded 'Certificate of Participation'

Please note that certificates will be issued in soft copy format only and will be sent via email. Printed (hard) copies will not be provided.

Course Coordinator & the Instructors



**Dr. Kapil Sharma, Assistant Professor, NALSAR University of Law
Course Coordinator**

Dr. Kapil Sharma is an Assistant Professor at NALSAR University of Law, specializing in International Trade Law (ITL), International Economic Law (IEL), and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). He teaches courses on International Trade Law, WTO Dispute Resolution, and International Economic Law, offering students a comprehensive understanding of the legal

and institutional frameworks that shape global economic governance.

He holds a Ph.D. titled “A Tussle Between Rule of Law and a Power-Based System under the WTO Dispute Settlement System,” which critically examines the challenges facing WTO dispute resolution in the broader context of IEL.

Dr. Sharma has published extensively in national and international journals, contributed book chapters on international trade law and international economic law, and edited books on the subject. He has presented research at major conferences on themes such as the US-China trade war, WTO Appellate Body challenges, international investment law, the interface between trade and maritime transport, sustainability, and global crises.

His work highlights not only the WTO’s role in ensuring a stable and predictable global trade system but also the evolving intersections of trade, investment, and other branches of international economic law, emphasizing the need for coherence and balance between economic integration and regulatory autonomy.



Amb. Ujal Singh Bhatia (Former Appellate Body Chairperson and India’s Ambassador to the WTO)

Amb. Ujal Singh Bhatia served as a Member of the WTO Appellate Body from 2011 to 2020 and was its Chairman in 2017–2018. Earlier, he was India’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO (2004–2010) and had a distinguished career in the Indian Administrative Service, serving in Odisha and the Central Government, including as Joint

Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce. As India’s Chief Negotiator, he played a key role in the India–Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) and the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). With wide experience in trade policy and international negotiations, Mr. Bhatia frequently writes and speaks on trade, development, and sustainability.



Prof. Werner Zdouc (Former Director, Appellate Body Secretariat, WTO)

Prof. Werner Zdouc was Director of the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat from 2006 to 2020. He is currently Director of the Knowledge and Information Management, Academic Outreach and WTO Chairs Programme Division of the WTO. He obtained a law degree from the University of Graz in Austria and then went on to earn an LLM from the University of Michigan and a PhD from the University of St Gallen in Switzerland. Dr Zdouc joined the WTO Legal Affairs Division in

1995 and the Appellate Body Secretariat in 2001. In 2008 to 2009, he chaired the WTO Joint Advisory Committee to the Director-General. He has been a lecturer and visiting professor at Vienna Economic University, the Universities of St Gallen, Zurich, Barcelona, Seoul, and Shanghai and the Geneva Graduate Institute. From 1987 to 1989, he worked for governmental and non-governmental development aid organisations in Austria and Latin America.



Prof. Abhijit Das (International Trade Policy and WTO Expert, and Former Head of the Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi)

Prof. Abhijit Das has over twenty-five years of experience in international trade, including serving as Head of the Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi, for twelve years and five years in trade policy-making with the Government of India. A former officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (1988 batch), he has directly participated in key multilateral and FTA negotiations such as the WTO Doha Round and OECD Steel Subsidies talks. He also led the UNCTAD India Programme from 2005 to 2010. Author of *Strategies in GATT and WTO Negotiations* (OUP, 2025), Mr. Das has co-edited several books and published extensively on trade and WTO issues. He has organised over 200 capacity-building programmes for policymakers, industry, and civil society, and collaborated with leading international organisations including the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, and WTI. A frequent media commentator and speaker in over 20 countries, his current interests span agriculture, sustainability, digital economy, FTAs, and global value chains.



Dr. Rosmy Joan, Associate Professor of Law, NALSAR

Dr. Rosmy Joan specializes in International Economic Law. At NALSAR Dr. Joan is the Director of the Centre for International Trade and Business Laws. Prior to her joining at NALSAR, Dr. Joan worked at the National Law University, Jodhpur for over more than a decade. At NLUJ she headed the Centre for Advanced Research and Training in Arbitration Law (CARTAL); Centre for Studies in Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Law and Policy (CSENRLP); Centre for Studies in Global Trade Engagements and Negotiations (C-GTen) and TradeLab Network; External Initiatives Committee; ADR Committee; and the journals- Trade, Law and Development (TL&D); and Indian Journal of Arbitration Law (IJAL).

Dr. Joan holds B.A. LL.B (Hons.) degree from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala with University First Rank and LL.M in International Trade and Business Laws from O.P. Jindal Global University with Gold Medal. She was a Savitri Jindal Merit cum Means Graduate Scholar during the Master's Programme and was awarded the First Position in the Dean's List Award consecutively for two years. During the Masters Programme, she has also completed the Harvard Law School Course on International Negotiation with 100% marks. She holds her doctoral degree in International Investment Law and Policy from the National Law University, Jodhpur.

Dr. Joan has won many accolades of national and international repute. Acknowledging her outstanding academic excellence, the Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Trust, Mumbai awarded her the prestigious Nani A. Palkhivala Gold Medal in 2013. In 2015, The Hague Academy of International Law, The Netherlands honoured her with their distinguished The City of the Hague Scholarship for attending the Summer Session on Private International Law at the Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands. Her alma mater, O. P. Jindal Global University honoured her with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Exemplary Accomplishments in Professional Work in 2019. She was selected as a Host Faculty under the Fulbright-Nehru Specialist Programme and hosted Prof. Jacqueline Lang Weaver, A. A. White Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas in February 2020. Dr. Joan has been awarded the prestigious Shastri Indo-Canadian Fellowship for Academicians in the area of Energy Law (2019-20). Dr. Joan also won the prestigious grant by the International Atomic Energy Agency (ICNL 2022).

Dr. Joan is a frequent speaker at venues around the world and writes extensively on the issues in public and private laws. Dr. Joan has teaching experience at the doctoral, postgraduate and the undergraduate levels.



Dr. Eluckiaa A., Assistant Professor of Law, NALSAR

Dr. Eluckiaa A. is an Assistant Professor of Law at the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University of Law, Hyderabad. She specialises in International Investment Law, International Trade Law, and Dispute Settlement, with particular research interests in the intersections of investment treaties, environmental and public health regulation in ISDS. Her doctoral research at the National Law University Odisha examined International Investment Law and the Autonomy of Host States to Protect the Environment and Public Health, critically analysing arbitral jurisprudence on regulatory measures and proposing doctrinal tools such as proportionality and margin of appreciation to balance investor protection with public interest regulation. Dr. Eluckiaa has over a decade of teaching and research experience, having previously served at the National Law University Odisha. She has led and contributed to several policy-oriented projects, including a World Bank-sponsored project on Litigation Management in Higher Education and a Ministry of Commerce and Industry project on Trade in Services. She has presented widely at national and international conferences on themes of investment arbitration, regulatory chill, sustainable development, and global economic governance.