



INDIAN FORUM FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY (IFPD)

with

GLOBAL POLICY INSIGHTS (GPI)

ONLINE WORKSHOP COURSE ON

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WTO @ 25

Assessing Geopolitics, Economy and Trade Policy of
India in the post COVID- 19 World

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About the Workshop

The WTO has recently commemorated its 25th anniversary. In the course of its short history, the WTO has managed to achieve and establish its objectives more than any other International Organization in the world. From establishing interconnectedness between the world countries to developing jurisprudence, the organization played a key role in the development of multilateral relations. India has been one of the most active participants in the WTO's mechanism and also one of the major contributors to its International trade jurisprudence. On the other hand, India's interconnectedness in the global order through the course of history has been to a large extent shaped by its International Trade and Commerce. It is never an understatement to say that trade acts as a catalyst for the establishment of strategic alliances. Despite the fact that International trade has seen an unprecedented rise in the past years, changed the perception of globalization, protectionist policies, disruptions in the administrative functions of the WTO, lack of precision in the WTO agreements and, several other factors have disrupted International Trade. Now as we move into the third decade of the century, the world is facing a new face of challenges amid the pandemic. The COVID-19 has not only shocked the global economy but set several challenges and impediments to the International Trade order. Several International Economic Organizations predict shrink and downfall in the global economy. India's share of challenges also comes with its share of opportunities. It is important to explore these challenges and opportunities in order to ascertain India's policy priorities and also, its vision for the world. Therefore, to explore the tenets of India's trade policy in the post-pandemic world and, to encourage dialogue, debate, and discourse on International Trade, the Indian Forum for Public Diplomacy (IFPD) along with Global Policy Insights (GPI) initiates a workshop on "International Trade and WTO @ 25 – Assessing Geopolitics, Economy and Trade Policy of India in the post COVID- 19 World."

About Indian Forum for Public Diplomacy (IFPD)

Indian Forum for Public Diplomacy (IFPD) is a student-run non-partisan, not-for-profit think tank established by students from all over India with the aim of aiding foreign policy thinking through young academia. In an era in which Foreign Policy has to be rooted in the landscape of people, diplomacy is no more just a government-to-government engagement. The idea of Public Diplomacy advocates the engagement of people into a participatory Foreign Policy and reform process. In the age of the 21st century, where global co-operation is sporadic and the consensus is elusive, it is imperative to drive foreign policy and reform through people. The forum hence engages to bring forth initiatives through research, opinion, dialogue, and debate to catalyze global cooperation and enhance Indian Public diplomacy.

About Global Policy Insights (GPI)

Global Policy Insights (GPI) is a Centrist Policy Institute with a vision to equip Governments, Policy Makers, NGPs and diverse actors within the sphere of International Development with the tools required to nurture Good Governance practices and promote sustainable development. In the presence of a rapidly evolving international political economy, it is crucial for these actors to navigate through dynamic circumstances and adopt comprehensive strategies to stimulate and catalyze inclusive socio-economic growth through local, regional, national and global perspectives. Thus, GPI partners with and serves governments, universities, local and multinational communities, and corporates throughout the world to deliver innovative unions of research, advisory, design, deliberative enquiry, and consulting services

Overview of the Course

- The Workshop shall be a 6-day event composed of a series of 10-12 lectures, discussions, discourses delivered by experts from the field.
- We also encourage debates between student groups during the course of the workshop.
- Each day shall consist a maximum of 2 sessions in the evenings (Morning and evening on Sunday) on various topics concerning International Trade, Trade Law, Economy, and Trade Relations.
- It is mandatory for the participants to fill a feedback form after each session and the minimum requirement of attendance shall be 70%.
- Upon the completion of the workshop, it is mandatory that each candidate shall submit an article or research paper (1200-2000 words) in the areas concerning International Trade and Relations.
- All submissions shall be published on IFPD's special edition on International Trade and Economy.
- Few selected authors shall be called upon again to undertake research under the guidance of our junior fellows and Board of Advisors and convert their papers into policy proposals which shall be sent to the Ministry of External Affairs/ DGFT or Ministry of Commerce as policy recommendations.
- All the participants shall be provided with a certificate of participation post their submissions for their participation and contribution to the workshop.

Objectives of the Course

- To provide young academia an opportunity to explore the contours of International Trade, Policy, and WTO Studies.
- To lively interact with experts from the field and to pool knowledge, experience and expertise of various academia in International Trade and Relations.
- To help young participants explore the prospects of International Trade.

- To acquire insights from both experts and young students for ascertaining India's policy decisions in order to make recommendations in trade reforms and practice.
- To encourage dialogue, debate, discourse, and research among the policy community and young academicians.

Learning Outcomes

- Participants will be able to learn some of the critical issues in International Trade, Relations, and the implications of changing world trade and economic dynamics on India.
- Participants will be able to develop or suggest pro-active solutions for some of the key issues in International Trade and Relations through active dialogue and debate.
- Participants will be able to contribute research on the subjects and areas discussed in the course.
- Participants will be able to explore the contours of International Trade and WTO studies which shall help them understand the career prospects in International Trade and Relations.

Who can opt for this Course?

- Students who are pursuing or have complete their Undergraduation in Social Sciences, IR, Law, Economics, and any other field with an interest in Trade and WTO Studies.
- Post Graduates pursuing or completed, in any field.
- Recent graduates, post-graduates.

Other Relevant Details

- As a part of the Course, participants shall get an opportunity to lively interact with experts, research, get published in our journal and selected candidates shall undertake a project to convert their papers into policy proposals.
- Since there are a high number of applications, applications shall be reviewed by the board and payment/transaction for the course shall be made upon acceptance.
- The workshop shall be conducted on a live interactive platform.

Dates for the event – 28th February 2021 to March 06th, 2021

Registration Deadline – 25th February 2021

Registration Link – <https://forms.gle/wyWqhPrxbXC39Xyy6>

Course Fee – 1000INR

Distinguished Speakers:



Prof. Dr. Abhijit Das
Head, Centre for WTO Studies
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)



Prof. Ms. Shailja Singh
Legal Consultant, Centre for WTO Studies
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)



Ambassador Anil Trigunayat
Retd. Indian Foreign Service
Distinguished Fellow, VIF



Mr. Manab Majumdar
Deputy Secretary General, FICCI

Prof. Dr. Abhijit Das is the Head & Professor at Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). He combines extensive experience and expertise in International Trade Negotiations with formulating, implementing and managing trade-related capacity-building projects. He worked at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India programme before he joined IIFT between 2005-10. Mr. Das has also worked as a Director at Trade Policy Division in the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India between 2000-05 and made substantial contributions in developing India's negotiating position on several trade issues including Anti-dumping, Subsidies under the Doha Round at the WTO and OECD Steel subsidy negotiations. He also contributed and co-ordinated in India's submissions in various landmark WTO disputes. Mr. Das was an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (1988) batch and an officer of premier civil service for more than 21 years.

Ms. Shailja Singh is a Legal Consultant at the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. She is a lawyer and trade policy advisor with over a decade of experience in international economic law; and is part of the Government of India's trade negotiation, policy and dispute teams. She has previously worked as an associate at AZ&B Partners, Mumbai and in International Private Banking at ICICI. She has also worked at the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), Geneva, Switzerland. Mrs Shailja has acted as a Legal Counsel to the Government of India in several WTO disputes and has participated in the dispute proceedings at the WTO. She advises the Government of India (the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in particular) on issues pertaining to the WTO and free trade agreement rules and negotiations. Mrs Shailja is also part of the Centre's core team for training programmes on international trade issues conducted under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs. In this role, she has trained about 1000 foreign officials from over 50 countries to date.

Ambassador Anil Trigunayat is a former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and has served as Ambassador of India to Jordan, Libya, and Malta. Mr. Anil is currently the president of MIIICCIA Chamber of Commerce, Secretary to the Association of Indian Diplomats, Distinguished Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, and the Member of Governing Council of the Raisina House. He is also an advisor at the Asia Africa Chamber of Commerce and BRICS Chamber of Commerce. He is a Post Graduate in Physics from the Agra/Kumaon University and also studied Russian History, Culture, and Language at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. As a visiting fellow, he also conducted research work on "WTO and Regional Trading Blocs" at Oxford University. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he has worked in the Economic, West Asia, and North Africa and Consular Divisions. He also served as Director-General/Joint Secretary for the Gulf & Haj Divisions in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

Mr. Manab Majumdar is the Deputy Secretary-General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce Industry (FICCI), the premier apex business chamber of India. With 30 years of experience in research and advocacy in WTO studies, Free Trade Agreements (FTA), Trade Policy, Globalisation, Investment, and industry-related issues, he currently also leads the Trade Division at FICCI. Mr Manab has been closely involved in the negotiation and industry consultation process for a number of FTAs involving India and participated in several WTO ministerial conferences as a member of the official Indian delegation. He also represented the Indian private sector in a large number of international conferences and high-level policy dialogues in Trade and WTO related issues. Mr Manab is an alumnus of Presidency College Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and has extensively worked before on India's trade and investment relations with South-East and North-East Asian countries.



Ambassador Vishnu Prakash
Former Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
Foreign Affairs Analyst, Author.



Prof. Dr. Parth J Shah
Founder, Centre for Civil Society
Co-Founder, Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP)



Mr. Sanjay Notani
Partner, ELP LAW
Expert, Trade and WTO Studies



Dr. P.K Ghosh
Former Indian Navy
Maritime Security Expert

Ambassador Vishnu Prakash is a retired Indian Foreign Servant and presently he serves as a foreign affairs analyst at multiple think tanks and organizations. He was an Ex-Envoy and has served as High Commissioner to Ottawa, Ambassador to Seoul, Official Spokesperson of Foreign Office, and Consul General to Shanghai. He has also done postings in Moscow, New York, Vladivostok, Tokyo, Islamabad, and Cairo. Since retirement in Nov. 2016, he has turned into a foreign affairs analyst & commentator, with a special focus on the Indo-Pacific region

Dr. Parth J Shah an economist, public policy specialist and is the founder of the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) and the Co-Founder, Director Director of Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). Mr. Parth's research and advocacy focus on the themes of economic freedom, choice and competition in education, property rights, trade and environment. Through his market-liberal think tank, CCS, he promotes social change through Public Policy. He is a member of the education task force of the governments of Delhi and Karnataka and serves on the Senate of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. He holds a PhD in economics and has taught at the University of Michigan and been a visiting faculty at JNU, Delhi and MS University, Vadodara. As the President at the Centre for Civil Society, he has steered the Centre's flagship School Choice Campaign, including India's first school voucher pilot reaching out to 400 students and the National Independent Schools Alliance - an alliance of 55,000 budget private schools across 20 states in India.

Mr. Sanjay Notani is a partner at ELP Law and Co-Heads, the International Trade and Customs Practice. He is a member of the Supreme Court Bar of India (SCBA), The American Bar Association (ABA), and has the distinction of being appointed to the ABA's steering group of Export Controls & Economic Sanctions representing Asia. Mr. Sanjay has contributed to the cases before WTO representing India and he is also a member of the Indo-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) and Customs and International Trade Bar Association (CITBA) and represents various committees. His advisory work includes appellate litigation to obtain trade remedial reliefs from unfair trade imports in anti-dumping, Trade Remedial Actions, and Disputes on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). He provides advice for various negotiations undertaken by India on Free Trade and Regional Trade Agreements and also advises businesses on Non-Tariff Barriers. With over 2 decades of expertise in WTO and Trade Law, Sanjay has also implemented and led the research project that monitors SPS Measures of trade that is likely to be incompatible with the provisions of WTO.

Dr. Probal Ghosh is a former Indian Naval Servant and a SEAS Fellow with the outstanding prerogative of being both the Lead Co-Chairman and India Representative to two consecutive CSCAP International Study Groups on Maritime Security (Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific Region is the Track II version of the ASEAN Regional Forum to whom it reports) during which he along with delegates from nearly 22 countries prepared two Memorandums forwarded to ARF Summit meets. He has served in many think tanks, inclusive of holding the position of a Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) for nearly eight years and earlier a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS). Being one of its kind, he was the first Senior Research Fellow (and the de facto Research in Charge) of the National Maritime Foundation. Dr. Ghosh is also the holder of the prestigious Prof. DS Kothari DRDO Chair at the USI (United Services Institution) and has also been a Research Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) for two tenures.



Mr. Jonathan Cummings
Vice-President, America's North-Suth Region



Dr. Sreeradha Datta
Centre Head, Centre for Neighbourhood Studies
Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)



Mr. Shashank Shukla
Former NDA (Airforce)
Social Worker, Corporate Expert, Politician



Mr. Arpit Charurvedi
Co-Founder, CEO,
Global Policy Insights (GPI)

Mr. Jonathan Cummings is a Member of the Steering Committee, Alliance for United Nations South-South Co-operation. He is a post-graduate from Cornell Institute of Public Affairs with a keen focus on Government, Politics, and Policy Studies. He has also worked in multiple Diplomatic engagements at the Global Peace Foundation (GPF). Currently, he is a partner at Shomei Group. Mr. Joathan is originally from Kingston but has moved to New York and as the Diplomatic Engagement Associate, Jonathon's responsibilities were to work on strengthening and expanding partnership opportunities with Embassies, the World Bank, the State Department, U.S. Congress, the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, as well as several Permanent Missions and Agencies at the United Nations Headquarters.

Dr. Sreeradha Datta is the Centre Head and Senior Fellow, Neighbourhood Studies, at Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi. She was a Research Fellow at Indian Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IIDSA) and was the former Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata. Ms Datta holds a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University and her area of expertise is India's Foreign policy with an emphasis on India's Neighbourhood relations and South Asian Regional Security. She has been a recipient of Fellowships from German Institute of Global Affairs, Distinguished Indian Scholar Series, University of Taiwan, International Leadership Visitors Programme, at the USA and was awarded the Shelton Kodikara Award for South Asian Strategic Studies. She has over a hundred articles published in different journals and websites and is the author of her books, Caretaking Democracy: Political Process in Bangladesh, 2006-08, Bangladesh: A Fragile Democracy, The Northeast Complexities and its determinants and Act East Policy and North East India, 2021.

Dr. Shashank Shula is an ex-NDA (Air force), a versatile entrepreneur and social-activist currently operating as the Founding Chairperson of Gurukul Group of Institutions (since 2005) which aims to bring social transformation by quality education through a low-cost Graduate college in rural UP, a charitable school for the destitute children and a teacher training college. Dr. Shukla is an M.P.A (Masters of Public Administration) from Harvard Kennedy School of Government and currently pursuing his P.H.D as a fellow from IIM-Lucknow in the arena of Business Development in Economics. He had been a Research Assistant at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard University and previously had also been a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Harvard Kennedy School of Government for nearly 2 years. Mr. Shukla is also an outstanding and stellar Government and Advocacy personnel as he held the position of National Head in Program for the Urban Homeless which is an action research program aimed at guiding the policy on the homeless & urban poor (adults & children) in 8 states across India involving the Supreme Court, the Central & state governments & local Civil Society Organizations.

Mr. Arpit Charurvedi is the Co-Founder and CEO of Global Policy Insights (GPI). He is also a Lecturer at the San Francisco State University, the US where he teaches Comparative Perspectives in Public Service. A graduate from the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, Arpit holds an MPA degree (phi alpha alpha) with a focus on Governance, Politics, and Policy Studies. He was also the first non-US citizen to hold the position of the Editor-in-Chief of the Cornell Policy Review. He is the author of the book "Our Egalitarian Universe?" and has been the editor of "Not Without her: Communal Harmony" – a monograph printed by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, Government of India, with essays from the top civil servants of the country. He has also published articles in various prestigious journals on the themes of democracy, governance, systems thinking, game theory, history, and politics.



Ms. Sulekha Agarwal
Fellow, GPODS, CPL



Mr. Mihir, S. Bhinsale
Independent Foreign Policy Analyst



Mr. James Silverman
Founder, U&I Global



Mr. Koshan Saha
Junior Fellow, Economy and Growth
Observer Research Foundation (ORF)



Mr. Arijit Dash
Research Associate,
Indian Institute of Public Administration

Ms. Sulekha Agarwal is a fellow at the Global Policy, Diplomacy, Sustainability Fellowship (GPODS) and a former Citizens for Public Leadership (CPL) fellow. She worked as a research assistant at the United Nations Law Commission and as a long-term intern at United Nations Environment Group and United Nations High Commissioner's office on Human Rights. Ms. Sulekha holds a Masters in International Law and Legal Studies and, has completed her Bachelors in Law from the University of Mumbai. Ms. Sulekha has endeavored to research and advocate on Industries with innovative solutions that address Global Challenges.

Mr. Mihir Bhinsale is an independent strategic affairs and foreign policy analyst based in Kolkata. Previously, he worked as a faculty expert at the Strategic Studies Programme of Observer Research Foundation (ORF) for 8 years. Mr. Mihir has authored many research articles focusing upon India's bilateral engagement with its' neighbours including Bhutan, China, and Myanmar. He has published papers on a range of topics that include, the Sino-Indian border, India's Soft Power Outreach to Southeast Asia, the Rohingya crisis and India-Myanmar relations, Bhutan's transition to democracy and bilateral relations with India and BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement.

Mr. James Silverman is a Sustainable Development expert, a Teacher, and is the founder of the U&I Global, a multimedia think-tank that focuses on sustainable, economic, and social development. He worked as a Senior Management Officer at Learn by Design and as a Wave Leader at the National Citizens Service Trust. Mr. James holds his Masters in Security, Development and Conflict Studies from King's College, London and he is a Bachelors in History and International Relations from Nottingham Trent University. Mr. James has undertaken multiple initiatives at a policy level and through his civil society on environmental sustainability and protection.

Mr. Koshan Saha is a Junior Fellow at Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata under the Economy and Growth Programme. He completed his Bachelors and Masters in Economics from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. His areas of expertise include International and Development Economics and is also interested in the economics of trade agreements and the environmental implications of international trade. He has worked on studies measuring the performance of Indian states in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and also analyzed state-wise FDI inflows.

Mr. Arijit Dash is a Research Associate at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, and also a Ph.D. candidate at Sussex University (fall 2021). He is a Bachelor of Science in Economics from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and holds a Masters in Economics from Queen Mary University, London. Mr. Dash has undertaken several projects related to Trade and Economy and presently he conducts both qualitative and quantitative research evaluation of several central government schemes laid down by the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment, Government of India.

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