

**Specialised Training Programme for Asian Countries on Select Issues for  
Forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting  
13 September to 17 September 2021**

The Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) organized a “Specialised Training Programme for Asian Countries on Select Issues for Forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting” from 13 to 17 September, 2021 in collaboration with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The training programme was conducted virtually for a period of 5 days and was attended by 22 government officials from 8 countries, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Maldives, Mongolia, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Professor Abhijit Das, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies, delivered the welcome address at the inaugural session of the programme on 13<sup>th</sup> September, which was followed by Mr. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, CWS delivering the opening remarks. Subsequently, the participants attended a session on ‘Introduction to WTO, Ministerial Meeting’ conducted by Ms. Shailja Singh, Associate Professor, CWS, a session on ‘Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations’ by Mr. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, CWS, and a session on ‘Agricultural Issues’ by Dr. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor, CWS. On the second day the participants attended sessions on ‘Environment and Labour’, ‘Trade and MSME’ by Dr. Murali Kallummal, Professor, CWS, and on ‘Industrial Subsidies; Non-Market Economy (NME)’. The third and the fourth days’ sessions focussed on contemporary issues in international trade such as ‘WTO Response to Pandemic’, ‘E-Commerce’, and ‘Investment Facilitation’, and ‘TRIPS Waiver’ by Ms. Chandni Raina, Economic Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs, ‘WTO Reform’ by Professor Abhijit Das, Head CWS, and ‘Issues Related to Dispute Settlement Understanding’.

On the final day of the specialised training programme on 17<sup>th</sup> September, participants from various countries made presentations highlighting their respective countries’ priorities at the WTO and discussed issues which they considered important for developing countries in light of the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12). The training programme concluded with an evaluation by the participants, followed by valediction and closing remarks by Professor Abhijit Das and Professor Mukesh Bhatnagar.

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