



# SHAILJA SINGH

BA.LL.B. HONS. (NUJS), LL.M. (CANTAB)

## LEGAL CONSULTANT (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR)

### CENTRE FOR WTO STUDIES

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### KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- ▶ WTO Dispute Settlement
- ▶ Trade in Goods
- ▶ Non-Tariff Barriers
- ▶ Subsidies
- ▶ Electronic Commerce
- ▶ Trade and Development



### PROFILE

Shailja Singh is a Legal Consultant (at the level of Associate Professor) at the Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT. She is a lawyer and trade policy adviser 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 leads a team of legal research fellows at the Centre.

Shailja has been with the Centre since 2011. She previously worked as an Associate at **AZB & Partners**, Advocates and Solicitors, Mumbai, and in International Private Banking at **ICICI Bank**, Mumbai, India. She has also worked at the **Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL)**, Geneva, Switzerland on a special secondment. At ACWL, Geneva - an inter-governmental trade advisory organization - Shailja provided legal advice and support on a number of WTO-related policy matters, including trade disputes that involved Developing and Least Developed Member nations of the World Trade Organization.

### WORK

Shailja researches a diverse range of issues relating to the World Trade Organization (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. She is regularly called upon by the government to examine the WTO-consistency of domestic policies. She 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. These include:

- India – Measures Concerning the Importation of Certain Agricultural Products (DS430)
- India – Certain Measures Relating to Solar Cells and Solar Modules (DS456)

- c. United States – Measures Concerning Non-Immigrant Visas (DS503)
- d. United States – Certain Measures Relating to the Renewable Energy Sector (DS510)

As a designated Sector Expert, Shailja was part of India's negotiating teams for E-Commerce, SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) and TBT (technical barriers to trade) chapters of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)** from 2016 to 2019.

She also advises the government on India's trade negotiations with specific countries and trade blocs. This includes the **European Union, Peru, Iran, Chile and EFTA (European Free Trade Association)**. Shailja has also been a **Member (Trade Expert)** of the **Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)**, constituted by the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (now Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology).

## TEACHING AND TRAINING

Shailja is 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.

She was also a key faculty member for the 2-year training programme for government officials from **Afghanistan** on WTO issues, in partnership with the **International Trade Centre, Geneva**. She has lectured in country specific training programmes, conducted by the Centre for Afghanistan and Mongolia (in New Delhi), and Myanmar (in collaboration with UN - ESCAP in Yangon), in addition to the various national training programmes on WTO issues for state government officials and other stakeholders

Shailja is the faculty coordinator as well as teaching faculty for the **Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy**, a one-month international summer school for law students and legal professionals, jointly organized with the **World Trade Institute, Bern** since 2013.

## PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES

Shailja's publications include (as Co-Editor) a book on *Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: A Framework for Future Trade Rules?* (Sage: 2017), in which she has also authored three chapters.

Shailja also co-authored the Introduction to *WTO Dispute Settlement at Twenty: Insiders' Reflections on India's Participation*, edited by Abhijit Das and James Nedumpara (Springer:2016). Shailja has authored several editions of the Centre's **Dispute Analysis** and its **Working Papers**.

She also writes opinion articles in leading newspapers in India on topical issues relating to international trade.

Shailja is regularly invited to speak at several international and national conferences, seminars and workshops on issues relating to international trade. This includes such events organized by the **South Centre, UN-ESCAP, Jindal Global Law School, National Law University, Delhi, South Asian University.**

She has also been a judge at the **John H. Jackson (ELSA) Moot Court Competition** and the **GNLU International Moot Court Competition**.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Member, **Asia WTO Research Network (AWRN)**

Member, **Society of International Economic Law (SIEL)**

## EDUCATION

Shailja holds a **Master of Law (LL.M.)** from the **University of Cambridge**, United Kingdom, and a **B.A. LL.B. (Hons)** from the **WB National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS)**, Kolkata - where she was awarded the **L Jhunjhunwala Memorial Gold Medal**.