

INTRODUCTION

The Indian Journal of International Economic Law started with a germ of an idea two years ago at a time when narratives of trade and international economic relations dominated much of the discourse in the public sphere generally, and legal circles specifically. International economic law as a practice area, heralds the beginning of mainstream acceptance of interdisciplinary approaches to black letter law. Despite this global movement, the subcontinent lacked a structured dialogue amongst legal academia. IJIEL was thus a response to the felt needs of scholars, researchers and policy makers, for a forum in which to discuss alternate perspectives in this field.

The mission of IJIEL is to promote scholastic attention to International Economic Law in developing countries, and provide a forum for voicing their particularistic concerns in an era of untrammelled globalization. Our aim is to make a modest contribution towards improving, information flow, analysis and normative evaluation of global economic governance. Though our focus is to encourage perspectives from the developing world, it would be indeed myopic to ignore the need for North-South dialogue. We aim to deliver a well-balanced, issue-based perspective. This issue is, therefore, truly reflective of the journal's overall mandate.

The first article sets the tone of the issue with a discussion on trade liberalisation and its impact on human rights, an issue which has divided the developed and developing world since the age of colonisation. Continuing the theme of balance of power, the second article examines legitimacy in the language of WTO texts, and its interpretation which ignores the political context of the negotiations. Focusing on agricultural agreements, this article in effect is a reflection of the tussle which ensued after the Doha Round. The third piece discusses the importance of the role played by the G20 and NAMA 11 groups in the Doha Round of WTO negotiations in the light of the new 'agency' roles being played by these groups as opposed to an earlier, 'welfare-oriented' approach. The next article is on a nascent but important aspect of trade: bilateral investment treaties. From a law and economics perspective, this piece explores the reasons which have contributed to the meteoric rise of South-South investment treaties in Latin America and India. A marked change from the existing North-South investment regimes, the article analyses the economic viability of this flow. The final article discusses issues of

fragmentation and the public-private divide in international trade using the novel example of the DVD Regional Coding System. In the next section, *Law in Focus*, the new Competition Act in India and its implications on new businesses is discussed.

On a final note, we would like to thank Mr. Rajiv Luthra, Managing Director, Luthra & Luthra Law Offices and his firm for their generous contributions and support to the journal since its inception, and Mr. Samir Gandhi and Mr. Dhruv Singhal their unstinting support and advice. We would also like to extend our gratitude towards the members of our Board Editors, and to all our ad-hoc reviewers, for taking time to provide helpful comments and suggestions. With a dynamic student board at the helm of affairs, it is a moment of pride for the founding board as we humbly present the first issue of the Indian Journal of International Economic Law.

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(On behalf of the Student Editorial Board, IJIEL)
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