



RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

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(Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

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RGNUL CASH organises lecture on “Contemporary Challenges to WTO”

31st August 2022

The Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH), Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL) organised a lecture on “Contemporary Challenges to WTO.” The lecture was delivered by Ms. R.V. Anuradha, Partner at Clarus Law Associates, New Delhi. She deliberated on WTO as a system of multilateral rules of the trade. With a mention to GATT, she highlighted several challenges before WTO. She discussed dispute settlement pattern, often seen as its “crown jewel”, and lacunae in the functioning caused by non-appointment of members to the Appellate Body. “This mechanism gets exploited by the nations and results in ‘Appeal in the void’,” said Ms. Anuradha. She elaborated, India is castigated and labeled as an obstructionist, for trying to revive the commitments of the Doha Round, by developed countries.

Furthermore, Ms Anuradha discussed the world of bilateral and regional free trade agreements with over 350 agreements notified to the WTO including CPTPP Agreement and the RCEP Agreement. “These agreements also address several new issues such as Environment, Labour, Sustainable Development and Gender. India is also negotiating several new FTAs which are likely to have rules governing these areas, she observed.” She also discussed protectionist regime implemented in President Trump’s Era leading to uprising of anti-globalization sentiments. The underlying cause for such a skewed approach adapted largely by developed nations is their wealth and this has negatively impacted the trade law regimes. After pointing out the challenges and issues, Ms. Anuradha then deliberated upon the growing narrative where India is an alternative to China.

Vote of thanks was extended by Mr. Kaustabh Dighe, member CASH.