

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS OF COMPETITION LAW**

**2-3 March, 2017**

### **CURTAIN RAISER**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is organising the second edition of the National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on March 2-3, 2017 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Conference, which will bring together competition economists from India and abroad, will be inaugurated by **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry, Government of India at 10.00 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017. Dr Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India** will deliver the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session of the Conference as the Guest of Honour.

The Competition Act, 2002 is an economic law. The role of economics in competition law enforcement is being increasingly recognised across competition law jurisdictions with the incorporation of economic theories and principles into case analysis, the growing judicial reliance on economic evidence and the significant presence of economists in competition authorities. Keeping this in view, it has been a constant endeavour of the CCI to build capacity in the area of economics of competition law in the country. As part of this initiative, the National Conference on Economics of Competition Law has been institutionalised as **an annual flagship programme of the Commission to be held on the first Thursday and Friday of March every year** for economists from across the globe to deliberate on various economic theories, tools and methods relevant for competition law enforcement.

In the second edition of this **first-of-its-kind Conference**, twelve research papers on a diverse range of issues relating to economics of competition law will be presented by **senior economists from various research institutes and institutes of higher learning of the country including Indian Institute of Management Kolkata, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, ICRIER, TERI** etc. The papers will bring forth many interesting policy-relevant subjects such as the Maximum

Retail Price policy in India purportedly aiding collusion through focal point pricing, interplay between regulations in the Pharmaceutical sector and competition outcomes on innovation, supply and pricing of drugs, cartel-induced overcharge in the cement industry in India, to mention a few.

Internationally acclaimed competition economists **Dr John M. Connor, Professor Emeritus, Purdue University, Dr Yannis S. Katsoulacos, Professor of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business and Dr R. Shyam Khemani, former Chief Economist, Canadian Competition Bureau** will be present at the Conference as distinguished panellists.

Fair competition in markets brings about efficiency, widens the choice-set for consumers, makes better quality goods and services available at lower prices. The CCI, the fair-play regulator of the nation, was established with the mandate to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interest of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade of market participants in India. **The Commission till date has received 488 merger cases and 791 cases of alleged anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position.** Over the years, the Commission, through its orders in diverse sectors such as stock exchange, infrastructure, travel, automobile, real estate, pharmaceuticals, entertainment etc., has been working effectively towards implementing its mandate.

The Conference will be attended by senior economists from across India, senior government officials, economic consulting firms, representatives from apex industry bodies, economists working for law firms and other stakeholders.