
CCI's 1st National Conference on the Economics of Competition Law, 2016

Call for papers

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is organising a two-day national conference on the '**Economics of Competition Law**' on **3-4 March 2016 in New Delhi**.

Competition plays a critical role in ensuring efficiency in the economic system. Its contribution in furtherance of innovation and enhancement of economic welfare is well established. Competition law aims at promotion and sustenance of competition in markets and at preventing practices having adverse effect on competition. It also aims to protect the interest of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on in the market.

On the day to day level, applying competition law involves identifying markets and assessing whether competition is working well in these markets. It involves assessing how consumers are affected when there are more or fewer competitors, when firms merge or when firms change their behaviour, all of which are essentially economic issues. Today, economic analysis plays a vital role in the enforcement of competition law the world over. Economics is recognised as an essential tool to assess market power and to determine boundaries of the market in which such market power is to be analysed by the competition authorities. The role of economics has grown significantly in practically all areas of competition enforcement including analysis of market definition, market power, cartels and other coordinated behaviour, abusive unilateral conduct by dominant firms (exclusionary and exploitative practices), vertical restraints, horizontal and vertical mergers, and exercise of intellectual property rights (IPR).

As application of economics in competition enforcement is an evolving area and competition enforcement in India is also relatively young, there is a need for academicians, practising economists and competition enforcers to come together to discuss emerging issues related to the economics of competition and competition law, specifically relevant to the Indian context.

Objectives

This conference aims to:

- Bring together scholars from across the country and stimulate research and debate on contemporary issues in the field of the economics of competition law
- Develop a better understanding of issues relevant to the Indian economy and competition law
- Draw implications for implementation of competition law in India

It is intended for the conference to be a biennial feature to discuss and debate issues of competition economics.

Who should participate?

The conference targets students and academic scholars with a keen interest in competition regulation, and practitioners of economics including competition agency officials and competition economists.

Submission of papers

Interested scholars are invited to send an abstract of 100 words and an extended abstract of 1,000 words of original research papers relating to competition economics along with their *curricula vitae* and professional contact details in order to present their papers at the conference. Authors of a few selected abstracts will then be invited to hand in their papers in entirety. The papers, not more than 5,000 words, should be in the New Times Roman font style of size 12 with a line spacing of 1.5.

A scholar may submit abstracts on two themes. However, each participant will be allowed to present only one paper during the conference. Co-authored papers may be presented by any of the authors.

For the paper to be included in the conference, the author, or at least one of the co-authors if that is the case, must register before the deadline.

Themes

The conference is expected to cover a wide range of related themes. A non-exhaustive list of themes includes:

- 1. Market definition and measuring market power:** These are at the heart of competition analysis. Issues like empirical methods of defining markets and measuring market power, problems in defining markets such as in two- or multi-sided platform industries and the ones in defining innovation markets may be covered among others.
- 2. Economics of cartels and collusion:** Prohibition of collusive conduct of firms is a key component of competition law. Issues such as economics of collusion, tacit collusion and information exchanges, price signalling, facilitating factors for cartels, detecting and discouraging cartels, and estimation of damages and assessment of fines for cartels may be covered: Can economics help us with cartel detection? Is it possible to identify cartels using economic evidence in collusion-prone sectors of the Indian economy?
- 3. Economics of abuse of dominant position:** Economic analysis is integral to the assessment of dominance and its abuse. The economics of exclusionary pricing strategies (predatory pricing, excessive pricing, price discrimination, bundling and tying, etc.), the concept of collective dominance in foreign jurisdictions and relevance for India, factors in defining dominance under section 19(4) of the Competition Act, 2002, and analysis of exclusionary conduct by dominant firms in India, etc. may be covered.
- 4. Economic analysis in merger review:** Economic analysis is increasingly playing a vital role in merger review and covers a broad range of issues including assessment of unilateral and coordinated effects, analysis of efficiencies, role of remedies, analysis of non-horizontal mergers, the ex-post review of merger decisions, and so forth: What are the recent developments in estimating the effects of mergers (merger simulation, diversion ratios, pricing pressure indices, etc.)? What are the concerns as well as welfare effects in vertical or conglomerate mergers? What are the issues in the use of remedies, that is, adoption of structural versus behavioural remedies? What is the approach required for assessment of mergers as outlined in factors given in section 20(4) of the Competition Act, 2002?
- 5. Interface between competition and IPR:** Innovation is a key driver of economic growth. The interplay of competition policy and IPR are crucial for the economic dynamics of developing as well as of industrialised countries seeking to promote innovation, technology transfer, a fair chance for competitive firms in the markets, and affordable good-quality products for consumers. Issues like standardisation-related abuses, imposition of abusive terms in licensing, refusal to license or deal, effects of mergers on innovation and its impact on economic dynamics, and others may be covered.
- 6. Economics of E-commerce:** The Internet is having a mammoth impact on how people communicate, trade goods and services, and interact in various spheres of life. This is bringing many new issues before the competition authorities worldwide. This session may cover issues

such as competition in search engine market, competition among electronic platforms, vertical restraints in e-commerce and across-the-platform parity agreements, etc.

Conference fee

There is no conference fee.

Post-conference publication

Depending on the quality of submissions, some papers may be considered for publication by the CCI. Given the limited time available for presentation at the conference, some exceptional papers not selected for presentation may be considered for inclusion in the publication or the electronic compendium to be placed on the CCI website.

Financial support

Deserving speakers may be considered for limited financial support to attend the conference.

Venue

Gulmohar, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, India

Important dates and deadlines

1.	Submission of abstracts	5 October 2015; 2300 hrs IST
2.	Intimation regarding selection of abstracts	10 November 2015
3.	Registration of speakers	30 November 2015
4.	Submission of final papers to the CCI	31 January 2016
5.	Conference dates	3-4 March 2016

Selection of themes and speakers

The CCI will have complete discretion in deciding the themes of the sessions based on the responses received as well as in selecting the speakers. Preference will be given to original empirical research-based papers.

Submission/Contact

Abstracts along with CV may be sent to ecoseminar@cci.gov.in. Requests for further information or any other queries may also be sent to this email id.