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**SUTRADHAR**

**Vinod Dhall**

The fledgling Competition Commission of India (CCI) is without teeth. Yet if it does make some noise, the credit should go to Vinod Dhall, its lone member. Mr. Dhall played an active role in conceptualising the commission as the company affairs ministry secretary earlier.

Till now, CCI, which is yet to get the full mandate for competition regulation, has been preparing the ground for future work and has been trying to infuse the spirit of competition in various policies in the making. The Planning Commission's working group on competition policy under his chairmanship has recommended that the competition dimension should be incorporated in government policies across sectors. This has the potential to make government policies democratic. Mr. Dhall, a gold medalist from Allahabad University where he post graduated in mathematics, holds a law degree from DU. As company affairs ministry secretary, Mr. Dhall had been involved in many projects from a nascent stage, including the government's e-governance project and the setting up of the serious fraud investigation office. These two projects are key to the ministry's transition to a modern service provider and a regulator armed with the latest technology and guided by the latest management and governance principles. The e-governance project called MCA-21 has made the offices of registrars of companies paperless. During his tenure the department initiated a bill for bankruptcy reforms. His expertise in economic administration took him to the UNIDO as an adviser.

According to reviews, the recent book *Competition Law Today*, edited by Mr. Dhall and published by the Oxford University Press India, is an important reference book on the subject. He is a regular at the Delhi Golf Club.

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