Fair Play

VOLUME 28 : JANUARY - MARCH 2019

IN FOCUS
THE FOURTH ROADSHOW ON COMPETITION LAW & NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS OF COMPETITION LAW

Release of Competition Advocacy Booklet in Telugu by Shri E. S. L. Narasimhan, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during Roadshow at Hyderabad
## CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRPERSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>In Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Section 3 &amp; 4 Orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Section 5 &amp; 6 Orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Judicial Pronouncements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Eco Watch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Know Your Competition Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Engaging With The World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Developments In Other Jurisdictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Advocacy Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Capacity Building Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Forthcoming Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>HR Corner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the recent developments in the arena of competition law through this 28th volume of Fairplay. In the quarter gone by, the Competition Commission of India (CCI/Commission) enhanced its advocacy outreach further by organising Roadshow at Hyderabad, sector specific advocacy events, conferences, seminars and moot courts.

After organising Roadshows at Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad, the Commission organised Fourth Roadshow on Competition Law on 25th February 2019 in the Pearl City of Hyderabad with a thematic focus on Public Procurement, Trade Associations, Cartels and Leniency. The Roadshow was attended by senior policy makers from Central Government, State Government, participants from the public sector enterprises, industry, legal and finance professionals, corporate lawyers, academics, among other relevant stakeholders.

The Chief Guest for the Conference, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, the Hon’ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana delivered the Inaugural Address and also released Competition Advocacy Booklet in Telugu.

The Commission organised the fourth edition of the National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on March 1st, 2019 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Conference, an annual feature since 2016, is an endeavour of the Commission to stimulate research and debate on contemporary issues in the field of economics of competition law, to develop a better understanding of competition issues relevant to the Indian context and also to create a critical mass of antitrust economists in the country.

The Commission has been receiving information alleging anti-competitive practices in various sectors. In order to engage with the concerned stakeholders and hold deliberations on competition issues therein, the Commission has taken initiatives to organise sector specific advocacy events. Towards this, a workshop on Competition issues in Automotive Sector was organized by CCI in association with Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and Automotive Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) at New Delhi on 08th March, 2019. A Workshop on Competition Law & Public Procurement was also organised jointly by Standing Conference Of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) and CCI on 27th March, 2019 at New Delhi.

In addition to the advocacy initiatives, various enforcement measures were also undertaken during the last quarter. After conducting
in-depth inquiry, Chemists & Druggists Association, Baroda was penalised for indulging in anti-competitive practice of seeking ‘No Objection Certificate’ (NOC) prior to appointment of stockists by pharmaceutical companies. The Commission also passed order in respect of cartelisation in Indian Zinc-Carbon Dry Cell Batteries Market, involving Lesser Penalty Applicants.

On the combinations front, the Commission approved the acquisition of controlling stake in REC Limited by Power Finance Corporation Limited. Acquisition of stakes in IndiaIdeas.com Limited by Visa International Service Association, Springfield Investments International B.V. and Claymore Investments (Mauritius) Pte. Ltd. and acquisition of 22.44% of the total share capital of Delhivery Pvt. Ltd. by SVF Doorbell (Cayman) Ltd. was also approved.

The quarter gone by also witnessed vital clarifications on some important interpretational issues in competition law by the judiciary. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 15th January, 2019 in CCI vs JCB observed that authorization for a “search” extends to the authorization of a “seizure” as well. The Delhi High Court in its judgment dated 29th March 2019 in M/s Rajasthan Cylinders and Containers Ltd. vs CCI held that failure to comply with the orders or directions of the Commission would lead to criminal prosecution under the provisions of the Act.

On 06th February, 2019, the Commission and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) entered into a bipartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The objective of the MoU is to set-up an institutional mechanism for formal interaction between CCI and GeM, wherein both the Parties shall share information, intelligence and pool knowledge and expertise as needed to devise tools to detect anti-competitive practices (cartelisation) in the digital matrix. Given the respective expertise of the two organisations in their fields, the MoU is likely to create a synergy that will aid in better monitoring and detection of cartel activity on the GeM platform.

In times to come, we hope that the enforcement and advocacy efforts of the Commission will bring positive outcomes and result in inculcating a culture of competition compliance cutting across sectors for the benefit of the consumers and economy as a whole.

(Ashok Kumar Gupta)

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI called on the President of India on 14th January 2019
The Competition Commission of India (Commission/CCI) organised the fourth edition of the National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on March 1st, 2019 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address this year. Dr Subramanian underscored the role of CCI in facilitating markets to foster innovation in India. He highlighted three major ingredients for promoting innovation. These are: effective competition in product markets, competition in factor markets and encouraging pro-competitive behaviour.

He said that competition law enforcement should be attuned to promotion of innovation and productivity of Indian firms and not be chasing an illusionary perfect competition benchmark.

He also pointed out that product market competition needs to be complemented by competition in factor markets, viz. market for finance and market for research. He pointed out that proportion of credit, though not the magnitude, flowing to smaller firms has shrunk over the last decade, which needs to be addressed through an enabling regulatory framework. Finally, underlining the importance of CCI, he pointed out that deterrence effect of an institution brings in behavioural change in firms that addressing legacy issues of anti-competitive behaviour. He illustrated this behavioural shift in firms post the introduction of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) as

“Competition law enforcement should be attuned to promotion of innovation and productivity of Indian firms and not be chasing an illusionary perfect competition benchmark. The optimum level of competition to foster innovation depends on the structure of the industry. Some amount of profits is necessary for firms to invest in innovation because firms consider risk adjusted returns. It is all about finding the sweet spot that aligns the level of competition with innovation incentives of a firm in a given industry.”

- Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India

they are now more prudent in their capital budgeting.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta,
Chairperson, CCI, in his Special Address, emphasised that competition law is an economic law and most modern competition law regimes have economic goals, such as promoting economic efficiency and consumer welfare. The Competition Act, 2002, he said, rests on economic foundation and its architecture is such that adjudication entails appreciation of the economics of markets.

In her opening remarks, Dr Sangeeta Verma, Member, CCI, emphasised that markets are changing rapidly and the application of the law also has to keep pace, especially in the digital space and in related issues of big data, artificial intelligence, internet of things, machine learning etc. She pointed out that this Conference was an attempt to bring theory and practice closer, to reconcile economic rationale to the legal principles and above all to have exchange of ideas.

The Conference consisted of two Technical Sessions, a Special Session and a Plenary. The key points that emerged from the deliberations are summarised below.

**Technical Session I – 'Competition Law and Policy'**

- Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI along with Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India and Dr. Sangeeta Verma, Member CCI at the Conference.

Three Papers were presented in this session. The first paper on ‘Competition Regulation in two-sided market: The Indian Jurisdiction’ discussed how two-sided markets were different from traditional markets. Referring to the regulatory debate between ‘Discretion lists’ and ‘Legalists’, the paper showed that CCI’s jurisprudence is of ‘market discretion list’ category i.e. high on discretion and low on intervention. The second paper on ‘Relationship between Cartels and Mergers & Acquisitions in Indian Cement Industry: A firm Level Analysis’ observed that M&As are seen as an alternative arrangement to cartel in the cement industry i.e., firms engaged in cartels post its detection have taken M&A as an alternative to cartel to gain similar or an increased level of profits. In the third Paper on...
‘The Nexus between Product Market Competition and Productivity Growth: Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Sector’ presented in the Session, product market competition was observed to have a significant positive impact on total factor productivity both at the firm and industry level.

Technical Session II – ‘Economics of Mergers’

Three Papers were presented in this session. The first Paper was on ‘Application of Economic and Quantitative Tools for Mergers Analysis in India’ where the authors assessed how the use of economic analysis and quantitative tools has evolved in merger assessments. The second paper on ‘Mergers and Innovation Portfolios’ studied mergers in markets in which firms invest in a portfolio of independent research projects of varying profitability and social value. The Paper suggested that mergers may increase or decrease welfare, depending on how the appropriability of the social surplus from an innovation varies across markets. The third Paper on ‘Effect of mergers and acquisitions on innovations in agri-input companies: Theory and evidences’ dealt with the key question of what has led to the increase in innovation and competitiveness in agri-input sector (seed and pesticides). The paper suggested that effect of merger and acquisition on innovation depends on the typology of M & A and hence the effect of M & A on innovations should be looked into on a case by case basis.

Special Session – ‘Contemporary Antitrust Issues’

The Special Session included a special address and three independent lectures on different contemporary antitrust issues. Dr Ioannis Lianos, Professor, University College of London, in his Special Address on ‘Competition law in a Complex Economy: Concepts, Metrics and Remedies’, highlighted that structural change in the modern society from industrial to super industrial was characterized by certain distinctive features such as change in nature of competition from product development to development of an ecosystem, change in business style and mass personalization.

Plenary – ‘Digital Markets: Antitrust and Beyond’

The Plenary on Digital Markets brought forth a range of

India will have to devise its own regulatory philosophy that is tuned to the Indian context and hence forge its own regulatory response.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI addressing the audience at the Conference.

Dr. Sangeeta Verma, Member CCI addressing the audience at the Conference.
relevant issues pertaining to the digital markets. The nature of digital economy has profound implications on the principles on which antitrust law rests. Powerful and innovation-based new high tech companies are the drivers of India's growth in the digital economy.

The very first problem in regulating this economy is that it is very difficult to ascertain 'who owns the data'. The new e-commerce policy provides for centrality of data and postulates that data belong to the people of the country. Data in itself does not have value, it has value when it is present in some form. However, considering the fact that data creates huge value for the consumers a balance between regulation and creating economic value for consumers need to be maintained.

Discussing the regulation of digital economy, the participants noted that there can be two ways of regulating it, viz. an ‘open’ approach followed by the United States and the Chinese approach of constructing walls to build value out of data domestically. India will have to devise its own regulatory philosophy that is tuned to the Indian context and hence forge its own regulatory response.

The National Conference was attended by one hundred sixty-four delegates including Indian and foreign speakers, policy makers, members of econo-legal fraternity and academia.

**THE FOURTH ROADSHOW ON COMPETITION LAW**

The Fourth Roadshow on Competition Law was organised on the 25th February of 2019 in the Pearl City of Hyderabad by the Commission with a thematic focus on Public Procurement, Trade Associations, Cartels and Leniency. The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) was the Implementation Partner for the Roadshow. This Fourth Roadshow was part of a series of Roadshows being organised across the country by the Commission as an advocacy initiative as mandated under Section 49 of the Competition Act.

The first Roadshow was organized in Mumbai on 16th of October, 2018, the second in Delhi on 5th of November, 2018, and the third in Ahmedabad on 18th of December, 2018. The main theme of these Roadshows has been ‘Public procurement, cartelization and bid-rigging’.

The Roadshow was attended by senior policy makers from Central Government, Telangana Government, participants from the public sector enterprises, industry, legal and finance professionals, corporate lawyers, academics, and other relevant stakeholders.

The Chief Guest of the Conference, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in his Inaugural Address stated that with the decreasing role of state in non-sovereign functions, market’s role in achieving optimal public welfare is pivotal. Hon’ble Governor also released Competition Advocacy Booklets in Telugu. He stated that bringing out competition literature in local language will go a long way in spreading the message of competition in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He further said that erosion of moral values and integrity have emerged as root causes of multiple problems including anti-competitive conducts such as cartels. Last but not the least; he commended CCI for hosting the Roadshow in Hyderabad.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary, Telangana, Shri Shailendra Kumar Joshi
applauded the CCI’s initiative in reaching out to states and generating awareness about competition law and its impact on economic policy. He emphasized that role of CCI in advising the states in infusing competition in economic policy would reap rich dividends. He stated that deliberations on public procurement and competition law will help in mitigating the loss of public money on account of anti-competitive practices. He further added that trade and industry which are major actors in the state economy stand to gain immensely by complying with the competition law.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI, in his theme address, mentioned that the Competition Act, 2002 casts upon the Commission a duty to eliminate anti-competitive practices and promote competition in the country. In the last nine years, since CCI got its enforcement power, the CCI has so far received a total of 644 combination filings, reviewed 1001 anti-trust cases and conducted about 700 advocacy events, he added. Outlining priorities of the Commission, Chairperson mentioned busting cartels as the top one. He further said that approximately 100 leniency applications have been so far submitted to CCI to avail the lesser penalty benefits. He stated that the evolving regime of cartel mitigation will bear significant fruits in times to come. He also mentioned that the recently launched online guidance system of CCI is helping the industry in determining the notifiability of mergers and acquisitions.

Touching upon the recent developments in online markets, Chairperson stated that the Commission intends to study e-commerce sector in India to understand the role of algorithms and artificial intelligence in collusion. He further added that for achieving long-term growth trajectory, achieving level playing field, characterized by healthy competition, is central. He urged the stakeholders to ensure that their acts are competition compliant and mentioned that all stakeholders stand to gain from a healthy competition in the market.

In his address, Shri K.V.R. Murty, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs touched upon the ongoing work of Competition Law Review Committee. He shared that through extensive consultations, the Committee has gathered inputs from all stakeholders and is in the process of making substantive recommendations for amendments in Competition Act.

Shri M. Venkateshwarulu, President, Telangana Chamber of Commerce and Industry proposed vote of thanks and highlighted that Telangana industry is keen to understand importance of competition law and is actively engaging through a Competition Law
Committee of the Chamber. He expressed his gratitude to the Commission for hosting the Roadshow in Hyderabad.

Deliberations in the Roadshow were divided in two open house sessions. The first session on ‘Infusing Competition in Public Procurement’ was chaired by Dr. S. Chakravarthy, former Member, MRTPC, and the second session on ‘Trade Associations, Cartels, Vertical Restraints and Leniency’ was chaired by Dr. Sangeeta Verma, Member, CCI.

Advocacy booklets were distributed to participants. Each of these sessions saw extensive discussions and active participation from the audience.
The Commission, in the matter of Vedanta Bio Sciences, Vadodara v. Chemists and Druggists Association of Baroda ("CDAB"), has found CDAB in contravention of the provisions of Section 3(3)(a) and 3(3)(b) read with Section 3(1) of the Act. The Commission held that CDAB through its practices was limiting and controlling the supply of drugs through use of compulsory obtainment of ‘No Objection Certificate’ prior to appointment of stockists and also indulged in fixation of trade margins for wholesalers/retailers. Accordingly, the Commission, under the provisions of Section 27 of the Act, issued a cease and desist order and imposed monetary penalty at the rate of 10% of average relevant income, i.e. INR 32,724/- for the relevant period.

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in respect of cartelisation in the ‘Zinc Carbon Dry Cell Batteries’ market in India on the basis of a Lesser Penalty (‘LP’) application filed under Section 46 of the Competition Act read with the CCI (Lesser Penalty) Regulations, by Panasonic Corporation and Panasonic Energy India Co. Limited (‘Panasonic’). The Commission held that Panasonic and Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (‘Godrej’) were involved in a bilateral ancillary cartel in the institutional sales of dry cell batteries in India in contravention of the provisions of Section 3(3) (a) read with Section 3(1) of the Competition Act from January 13th, 2012 till November 30th, 2014.

Considering the relevant factors, the Commission calculated penalty on Panasonic at the rate of 1.5 times of its profit for each year from January 2012 to November 2014 amounting to INR 31.76 crore, and on Godrej at the rate of 4 percent of its turnover for each year from January 2012 to November 2014 amounting to INR 85 lac. Penalty at the rate of 10 percent of their average income for the preceding three years was also levied on the individual officials of Panasonic and Godrej. However, in view of the fact that Panasonic was the first LP Applicant in the matter, Panasonic as well as its individual officials were granted 100 percent reduction in penalty.
Acquisition of controlling stake in REC Limited by Power Finance Corporation Limited approved

The Commission received a notice from Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) for acquisition of REC Limited (REC) pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Both PFC and REC are Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India (GoI) engaged at broader level in, inter alia, provision of credit disbursement for the power sector in India. The Commission observed that considering the specific mandate and role of PFC and REC, the acquisition is not likely to result in any appreciable adverse effect on competition, regardless of their market presence. Accordingly, the Commission approved the aforesaid transactions.

Acquisition of stakes in Indialideas.com Limited by Visa International Service Association, Springfield Investments International B.V. and Claymore Investments (Mauritius) Pte. Ltd.

The Commission received three separate notices from Visa International Service Association (Visa), Springfield Investments International B.V. and Claymore Investments (Mauritius) Pte. Ltd. for acquisition of shareholding in Indialideas.com Limited (Indialideas). Indialideas, which uses the name “BillDesk”, offers technology-platform and services that primarily assist utility companies, businesses and other entities to receive payments from their customers, who choose to pay using digital payment methods. The Commission observed that the proposed Combination is not likely to confer any ability/incentive to Visa to put in place any exclusivity arrangement with Indialideas. The acquisition of shares by Claymore and Springfield is also not likely to change market competition dynamics. Accordingly, the Commission approved the aforesaid transactions.

Acquisition of Den Networks Ltd. and Hathway Cable and Datacom Ltd. by Reliance Industries Limited group approved

The Commission received two separate notices from certain entities belonging to the Reliance Industries Limited group (RIL) for acquisition of Den Networks Ltd. and Hathway Cable and Datacom Ltd. The Commission noted that the products/services of the parties exhibit horizontal and vertical overlaps in the provision of the various products/services relating to broadcasting & distribution of TV channels and Wired broadband internet services. The Commission assessed the above said overlaps and noted that either the incremental market share in some overlapping segments is not significant, or there are other competitors providing competitive constraint.

However, the Commission raised an apprehension that in case RIL group carries out technical realignment, post-combination, the customer of respective party may have to bear the cost of such technical realignment. In this regard, the acquirers submitted a voluntary modification which, inter alia, stated that in case there is any technical re-alignment which will result in change in customer premises equipment, then the parties undertake that the cost of such technical realignment will be borne by the parties and they will submit annual compliance report for a period of five (5) years. The Commission accepted the said voluntary modification and approved the proposed combination.

Commission approves acquisition of 22.44% of the total share capital of Delhivery Pvt. Ltd. by SVF Doorbell (Cayman) Ltd

The Commission received a notice in relation to acquisition of equity share capital of Delhivery Pvt. Ltd. (DPL) by SVF Doorbell (Cayman) Ltd., a group entity of SoftBank Group. This acquisition was contemplated along with acquisitions of shares in DPL by CA Swift Investments (Comb. Case No. C2019/01/634) and Deli CMF Pte. Limited (Comb. Case No. C-2019/02/640). All these acquisitions were proposed under a common and same agreement i.e. SSA. DPL was stated to be engaged in the provision of third-party logistics (3PL) services in India, which includes transportation, warehousing, freight services, etc. The Commission noted that there are no significant horizontal or vertical overlaps between the target entity and the acquirers. It was also noted that there are various entities engaged in 3PL services in India. Therefore, the Commission approved the acquisitions in terms of Section 31(1) of the Act.
CCI ordered an investigation into an alleged abuse of dominant position by JCB. Pursuant to the same, dawn raid was carried out by the DG in the JCB premises and all incriminating documents, hard drives and laptops found by the inspecting team during the course of the “dawn raid” were seized. A writ petition before the Delhi High Court was filed for setting aside of the search and seizure conducted by the DG. The Single Judge Bench of Delhi High Court, vide order dated 02nd June 2016 stayed the investigation restraining DG from acting on the seized material for any purpose whatsoever till the next date of hearing. CCI filed an SLP in the Supreme Court against the order of the Delhi High Court. The Apex court vacated the stay stating that the blanket restraint which had been imposed by the Delhi High Court on the DG from acting on the seized material for any purpose whatsoever was not warranted. The appeal was allowed and the transferred matters were remitted back to the Delhi High Court to be decided in the writ petitions pending before Delhi High Court.

2. Failure to comply with the orders or directions would lead to criminal prosecution

CCI issued notices to Rajasthan Cylinders & Containers Ltd. and Shri Jose C. Mundadan in three separate cases, however, both of them failed to comply with the said notices. Pursuant to the same, penalties were imposed upon them. Failure to deposit the penalties as imposed by the CCI under Section 43 of the Act upon Rajasthan Cylinders & Containers Ltd. and Shri Jose C. Mundadan led to initiation of criminal prosecution against them under Section 42(3) before the CMM. Same were challenged before the Delhi High Court on the grounds that Section 42(3) cannot be invoked for non-payment of penalty imposed under Section 43 of the Act and that criminal action under Section 42(3) in cases wherein penalty has been imposed under section 43 of the Act, would lead to double jeopardy.
Insolvency Resolution and Competition: Wheels of the same cart

Speaking at the inaugural session of a three-day international conference on ‘Insolvency and Bankruptcy Laws: Global Response’, organised by ICFAI Law School, Shri Injeti Srinivas, Secretary MCA correctly pointed out that ‘Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) liberates resources and it has changed the course of business from a hopeless end to endless hope. It has also brought in competition for entrepreneurship and capital’.

The enactment of IBC, 2016 is a path-breaking event of Indian economic reforms. It provides a very systematic approach in resolution of stressed assets and has brought in sea change in the corporate governance of the country that was long overdue.

Competition law along with the IBC is an integral part of the corporate governance. While the Competition Act does so by promoting competition, the IBC does it by reviving market players and hence competition through its resolution mechanism that includes mergers and amalgamation (M&A) among others. It is at this juncture that the interplay of both these instruments comes into play, as the legislature has not exempted stressed assets combination from appreciable adverse effect on competition (AAEC) assessment. It is quite possible that the acquisition of stressed assets rests market power in the acquirer causing competition concerns. Thus, the Commission is lending its hand in assisting the IBC to achieve its mandate of time-bound resolution of stressed assets. These instruments, though different in their mandate, yet strive to achieve the same objective of obtaining economic efficiency and hence contributing to the larger economic goals.

Until the second amendment of IBC in 2018, it was not clear when the role of Competition Commission of India is triggered whenever a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Plan (CIRP) is initiated. The debate was what will be the fate of such a resolution that involved a M&A if not cleared by the Commission after its approval by Committee of Creditors(CoC). Fortunately, that ambiguity has been removed via the amendment in Section 31 of the IBC that mandates CCI approval as a pre-condition for approval by CoC and the NCLT. However, parties are free to submit their resolution plan to CoC and the CCI either sequentially or simultaneously if the resolution combination meets the thresholds of Competition Act.

Until now the Commission has dealt with sixteen cases pertaining to stressed assets combinations, fourteen of them have been given consent for carrying further steps of resolution after carrying out an AAEC assessment. It is worthwhile to be noted that the Commission has carried these assessment sticking itself within the resolution time-period of IBC.

In taking these decisions and making an AAEC assessment of stressed assets under combination, the relative advantage by way of contribution to the economic development by these combinations and the benefits of the combination out weighing the adverse impact on competition, if any, has weighed on the mind of the Commission.

It should be noted that all these cases pertain to crucial sectors of Indian economy like steel, infrastructure and cement. By its very nature, it is not easy for a firm to enter these crucial sectors as it requires huge capital, investment and other resources. And therefore, it is not in the business interest and in the interest of economy as a whole that the firms become stressed and die. Both the CCI and IBBI approach is same that the revival is the best form of resolution. This is clear from the AAEC assessment approach of the CCI and the observation of NCLAT in the case of Prowess International Private Limited versus Parker Hannifin India Limited that the IBC proceeding is not a recovery proceeding to recover the dues of creditor. Rather, the IBC enables a financial creditor to trigger a CIRP even when the corporate has defaulted to another creditor and thereby head towards resolution.
Section 41(3) of the Competition Act, 2002 (the Act) states that the DG has powers equivalent to that of an Inspector as given under Section 240A of the Companies Act, 1956 (Companies Act). Section 240A of the Companies Act refers to seizure of documents by an Inspector. Under sub-Section (2) of 240A of Companies Act, a sanction by the Magistrate of First Class empowers the Inspector:

“(a) to enter, with such assistance, as may be required, the place or places where such books and papers are kept;

(b) to search that place or those places in the manner specified in the order; and

(c) to seize books and papers he considers necessary for the purposes of his investigation.”

In a recent judgment in CCI vs JCB, Hon’ble Supreme Court observed that Section 41(3) specifically incorporates a reference to Section 240A of Companies Act in its application to an investigation by the DG under the provisions of the Act. As per Section 240A of the Companies Act, an Inspector who has reasonable ground to believe that books and papers of, or relating to, any company may be destroyed, mutilated, altered, falsified or secreted may apply to the Magistrate to secure an authorisation for the seizure of the books and papers. It was held by the court that the provisions of Section 240A of the Companies Act do not merely relate to an authorisation for a search but extend to the authorisation of a seizure as well. Unless the seizure were to be authorised, a mere search by itself will not be sufficient for the purposes of investigation.

The Supreme Court passed the said judgment in a case where CCI, upon the allegations of abuse of dominant position by JCB, directed for investigation. The DG sought search warrant from the CMM to inspect the premises of JCB. The dawn raid was conducted and it was challenged by JCB before the Delhi High Court which stayed the investigation vide order dated 02.06.2016.

Having due regard to the said provisions of Section 240A of the Companies Act and the underlying purpose of Section 41(3) of the Act, the Supreme Court observed that the blanket restraint imposed by Delhi High Court on the DG utilising the seized material for any purpose whatsoever was not warranted. Observing that the Delhi High Court has blocked the investigation on an erroneous construction of the powers of the DG, it was directed to be more circumspect before restraining an investigation under the statutory authority of the DG.
ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD

Participation of CCI in various workshops / seminars / meetings:

1. A bilateral meeting was held between delegation from CCI led by Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI and a delegation of Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS), Russia led by Shri Andrey Tsyganov, Deputy Head at CCI Office, New Delhi on February 18th 2019.


3. Shri Nandan Kumar, Director (Eco) participated in the ICN Advocacy Workshop “Competition Advocacy: from Barriers to Prosperity” during February 28th to 1st March, 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

4. Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI participated in the 19th International Conference on Competition which was hosted by the Bundeskartellamt (German Competition Authority) during March 13-15th, 2019 in Berlin, Germany.

5. Ms. Bhasha Gulati, Joint Director (Law) participated in the study visit and a meeting of the Working Group for the Research of Competition Issues in Pharmaceutical sector during March 26-28th, 2019 in Kazan, Russia.

6. Shri Pankaj Kumar, Joint Director (FA) & Shri Yogesh Dubey, Deputy Director (Eco) participated in the OECD-Korea Policy Centre Competition Law Workshop on Competition Rules in the Transport Sector during March 26-28th, 2019 in Busan, Korea.

7. Shri P. K. Singh, Secretary, CCI participated in the American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law 67th Annual Antitrust Spring Meeting during 27-29th, March 2019 in Washington D.C, U.S.A.
Shri P.K. Singh, Secretary, CCI with representative of American Bar Association

Shri Nandan Kumar, Director (Eco) participated in the ICN Advocacy Workshop

Ms. Bhawna Gulati, Joint Director (Law) in Russia

Shri P.K. Singh, Secretary, CCI with representative of American Bar Association
1. UNITED STATES: Office Depot and Tech Support Firm Will Pay $35 Million to Settle FTC Allegations that they tricked Consumers into Buying Costly Computer Repair Services

Office Depot, Inc. and a California-based tech support software provider have agreed to pay a total of $35 million to settle Federal Trade Commission allegations that the companies tricked customers into buying millions of dollars’ worth of computer repair and technical services by deceptively claiming their software had found malware symptoms on the customers’ computers. Office Depot has agreed to pay $25 million while its software supplier, Support.com, Inc., has agreed to pay $10 million as part of their settlements with the FTC.

In its complaint, the FTC alleged that Support.com worked with Office Depot for nearly a decade to sell technical support services at its stores. Office Depot and Support.com used PC Health Check, a software program, as a sales tool to convince consumers to purchase tech repair services from Office Depot and OfficeMax, Inc., which merged in 2013.

In addition to the monetary payment, the proposed settlement also prohibits Office Depot from making misrepresentations about the security or performance of a consumer’s electronic device and requires the company to ensure its existing and future software providers do not engage in such conduct. As part of its proposed settlement, Support.com cannot make, or provide others with the means to make, misrepresentations about the performance or detection of security issues on consumer electronic devices.

2. EUROPEAN UNION: Antitrust: Commission fines Nike €12.5 million for restricting cross-border sales of merchandising products

The European Commission has fined Nike €12.5 million for banning traders from selling licensed merchandise to other countries within the EEA. This restriction concerned merchandising products of some of Europe’s best-known football clubs and federations, for which Nike held the licence.

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In June 2017, the Commission opened an antitrust investigation into certain licensing and distribution practices of Nike to assess whether it illegally restricted traders from selling licensed merchandise cross-border and online within the EU Single Market.

The Commission investigation has found that Nike’s non-exclusive licensing and distribution agreements breached EU competition rules:

- Nike imposed a number of direct measures restricting out-of-territory sales by licensees, such as clauses explicitly prohibiting these sales, obligations to refer orders for out-of-territory sales to Nike and clauses imposing double royalties for out-of-territory sales.
- Nike enforced indirect measures to implement the out-of-territory restrictions, for instance threatening licensees with ending their contract if they sold out-of-territory, refusing to supply "official product" holograms if it feared that sales could be going towards other territories in the European Economic Area (EEA), and carrying out audits to ensure compliance with the restrictions.
- In some cases, Nike used master licensees in each territory to grant sub-licences for the use of the different IPRs to third parties. To secure the practice through the
whole distribution chain, Nike imposed direct and indirect measures on master licensees. Through these measures, Nike compelled master licensees to stay within their territories and to enforce restrictions vis-à-vis their sub-licensees.

- Nike included clauses that explicitly prohibited licensees from supplying merchandising products to customers, often retailers, who could be selling outside the allocated territories. In addition to obliging licensees to pass on these prohibitions in their contracts, Nike would intervene to ensure that retailers (e.g. fashion shops, supermarkets, etc.) stopped purchasing products from licensees in other EEA territories.

The Commission has concluded that Nike’s illegal practices, which were in force for approximately 13 years (from 1 July 2004 until 27 October 2017), partitioned the Single Market and prevented licensees in Europe from selling products cross-border, to the ultimate detriment of European consumers. Nike’s illegal practices affected to varying degrees the licensed merchandise products bearing the brands of clubs like FC Barcelona, Manchester United, Juventus, Inter Milan and AS Roma, as well as national federations like the French Football Federation.

**AUSTRALIA:** DP World, Hutchison Ports and VICT remove likely unfair contract terms

Three container stevedore companies - DP World Australia, Hutchison Ports Australia and Victoria International Container Terminal (VICT) agreed, after the ACCC’s intervention, to remove or amend terms in their standard form contracts that the ACCC considered were likely to be considered “unfair” within the meaning of the Australian Consumer Law.

DP World and Hutchison had contract terms that allowed a stevedore to unilaterally vary terms in the agreements without notice, including fees paid by the land transport operators.

DP World and Hutchison also had terms that limited their liability for loss or damage suffered by the transport businesses, while not offering the transport businesses the same protections. VICT’s contract had a term requiring transport businesses to indemnify VICT for loss or damage, with no reciprocal obligation on VICT.

DP World’s standard agreement also required the transport businesses to pay the stevedore’s legal costs and expenses, in circumstances where such payments would normally be determined by court order.

Those contract terms which previously allowed the stevedore to amend the contract without notice have either been removed, or now require the stevedore to give 30 days’ notice of any changes, including for any price rises.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Approval of Merger between Dis-Chem Pharmacies Limited (Dis-Chem) v MundelGien (Pty) Ltd trading as Springbok Pharmacy (Springbok Pharmacy)

The Competition Commission of South Africa (CCSA) has recommended to the Competition Tribunal (Tribunal) that the proposed merger, whereby Dis-Chem intends to acquire Springbok Pharmacy, be approved, without conditions. Dis-Chem Group is a vertically integrated pharmacy group that operates more than 100 corporate and franchise pharmacies in major metropolitans and suburbs across South Africa. Dis-Chem Group’s offerings include scheduled and unscheduled pharmaceutical products as well as non-pharmaceutical products or goods ranging from baby-care products and toiletries to household cleaning items (front shop products). Springbok Pharmacy is an independent retail pharmacy with a single outlet situated in Alberton in Gauteng Province.
During the year a total of 123 advocacy events were organised.

I. Sector Specific Events

In order to sensitise different categories of stakeholders, two sector specific advocacy events were conducted during the quarter, one at Hotel Taj Mansingh, New Delhi on ‘competition issues in auto sector’ and other at SCOPE Complex on ‘Competition Law and Public Procurement’.

i. Workshop in Automobile Sector

CCI in association with SIAM and ACMA organised a workshop on Competition issues in Automotive Sector at Delhi on 08th March, 2019.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI, delivered the theme address. Ms. Payal Malik, Shri Manoj Pandey, Ms. Jyoti Jindgar, Advisers chaired three technical sessions on Abuse of Dominance, Cartels and Vertical Agreements. Members and senior officers of the Commission were present during the event.
ii. Workshop on Competition Law and Public Procurement

A Workshop on Competition Law & Public Procurement was organised jointly by SCOPE and CCI on 27th March, 2019 at New Delhi. Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI, Shri Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, DIPAM, Shri Ved Prakash, Chairman, SCOPE, Shri U D Choubey, DG, SCOPE, addressed the representatives of various PSUs in the inaugural session. Ms. Payal Malik, Adviser, CCI was a speaker in the technical session.
II. Other Important Advocacy Events

i. Chairperson participated in a meeting of Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) at Vishakhapatnam on 28th January, 2019.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson addressing the gathering at Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) meeting

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson at Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) meeting

ii. Address of Chairperson CCI at American Bar Association event at New Delhi

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson delivered a speech at American Bar Association’s event held on 8th February, 2019 at New Delhi.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson delivering a speech at American Bar Association’s event

iii. 2nd Edition of CCI-NLU Delhi Moot Court

Second edition of CCI-NLU Delhi in association with NLU-Delhi was held on March 8-10th 2019. The valedictory session was graced by Shri Dipak Misra, Ex-Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India, Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI, Shri BC Tripathi, Ex-Member, Law Commission and Shri Ranbir Singh, Vice Chancellor, NLUD. Nirma University was declared the winner. Surya Narayanan N. from School of Excellence in Law, Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University was declared the best speaker and team representing National Law University Odisha won the best Memo. Shri P.K. Singh, Secretary, CCI & Shri Nandan Kumar, Director (Eco.) addressed the Inaugural session. Ms. Payal Malik, Adviser (Economics) and other officers from the Commission judged the final and other rounds respectively of the CCI-NLUD Moot Court Competition on 10th March, 2019. Shri Manoj Pandey, Adviser (Law) proposed vote of thanks during the Valedictory session.
iv. Lecture of Chairperson at Central Vigilance Commission

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson delivered Distinguished Guest Lecture at Central Vigilance Commission on 25th March, 2019 at New Delhi on need for a Diagnostic Toolkit for procurement officers.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson at Central Vigilance Commission.

Shri KV Chowdary, Central Vigilance Commissioner on the dais with other Dignitaries.
III. Advocacy Events attended by officers of CCI

i. Shri Manoj Pandey, Adviser delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by BCCL, Dhanbad on 12th February, 2019.

ii. Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director (Eco.) and Shri Vipul Puri, Deputy Director (FA) delivered lecture on Overview of Competition Law and Vertical Agreements and Joint Ventures during a training program organised by IOCL-IICA on 25th February, 2019 at Gurugram.

iii. Shri V. Sriraj, Joint Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law during a Training on Public Procurement organised by RCF, Mumbai from 25th February to 26th February, 2019.

iv. Shri Nandan Kumar, Director (Eco) had an Interactive meeting with Sr. Officers on Competition issues in Insurance Industry at Agriculture Insurance Company, New Delhi on 19th March, 2019.

v. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director delivered lecture on use of analytics in detection of Cartels during a workshop organised by TERI research institute at New Delhi on 18th January, 2019.


viii. Shri Alok Tripathi, Joint Director delivered lecture on Role of Competition Commission of India in financial sector during a workshop organised by RBI Staff College, Chennai on 8th February, 2019.

ix. Shri Anand Vikas Mishra, Deputy Director delivered lecture on competition law regulation in India at PGCIL Training Academy Manesar, Gurugram on 11th February, 2019.

x. Dr. Navdeep Singh Suhag, Deputy Director delivered lecture on Competition issues in Public Procurement at a workshop organised by NIFM, Faridabad on 18th February, 2019.

xi. Shri Rakesh Bhanot, Adviser delivered lecture on competition law at a program organised by CII at Kochi on 23rd February, 2019.
xii. Shri Anand Vijay Jha, Additional Director General delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by NAIR, Vadodara, on 21st February, 2019.

xiii. Shri Sukesh Mishra, Director (Law) took a session on Competition Law at Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Mumbai on 15th March, 2019.

xiv. Shri Arpit Gupta, Deputy Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Udaipur Chamber of Commerce & Industry on 26th March, 2019.

Advocacy Initiatives with Universities/Professional bodies

xv. Shri Pranav Satyam, Deputy Director and Ms Jyotsana Yadav, Deputy Director delivered lectures on Competition Law and Business Management during a workshop organised by Nirma University at Ahmedabad on 17th January, 2019.

xvi. Shri Ashutosh Kumar, Deputy Director delivered lecture on role of CCI in encouraging competition during a workshop organised by Ambedkar University at New Delhi on 28th January, 2019.

xvii. Shri Yogesh Kumar Dubey, Deputy Director (Economics) delivered lecture on competition law at Lloyd Law College, Noida on 2nd February, 2019.

xviii. Shri Anil, Deputy Director (Eco) delivered lecture on Competition Law at a workshop organised by Delhi Technological University on 12th February, 2019.

xix. Shri Mukul Sharma and Shri Anuj Verma, Deputy Directors delivered lecture on Cartels and Merger Review at a workshop organised by SVKM Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai on 13th February, 2019.

xx. Ms. Payal Malik, Adviser delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Ansal University, Gurugram on 14th February, 2019.
xxi. Shri Rakesh Bhanot, Adviser delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by UPES, Dehradun on 20th February, 2019.

xxii. Shri Anand Vijay Jha, Additional Director General and Shri M R Ronanki, Joint Director were judges in the Moot Court Competition organised by DSNLU, Visakhapatnam on 24th February, 2019.

xxiii. Shri Pranav Satyam, Deputy Director (Eco.) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Faculty of Law, University of Delhi on 25th February, 2019.

xxiv. Shri Vipul Puri, Deputy Director (FA) delivered a lecture on Competition Economics at IIT, Kanpur on 01st March, 2019.

xxv. Shri Rakesh Bhanot, Adviser (FA) and Shri Yogesh Kumar Dubey, Deputy Director (Eco.) were the judges in the Moot Court Competition organised by Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli during 1-3rd March, 2019.

xxvi. Shri Manish Mohan Govil, Adviser (Law) addressed the Inaugural session of the Moot Court Competition organized by VIT School of Law, Chennai on 2nd March, 2019.

xxvii. Shri Manish Mohan Govil, Adviser (Law) and Shri K P Anand Deputy Director (Law) were the judges in the Moot Court Competition organised by VIT School of Law, Chennai during 2-3rd March, 2019.

xxviii. Ms. Sayanti Chakrabarti, Joint Director (Eco.) delivered guest lecture on cartels at Amity School of Economics, Noida on 06th March, 2019.

xxix. Dr. Bidyadhar Majhi, Director (Eco.) conducted a Competition Law Advocacy Programme titled Competition Law in India: Economic Perspectives on 06th March, 2019 at Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.
xxx. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Eco.) delivered lecture on the topic “Competition Act & Competition Economics” on 12th March, 2019 at School of Humanities and Social Science under the aegis of G D Goenka University, Gurugram.

xxxii. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Eco.) chaired the session titled “Industry Initiative Towards Sustainability & CSR” in the 04th National Conference on “Consolidating SDGs to drive Socio-Economic Growth” on 14th of March, 2019 at Amity School of Economics, Amity University, Noida.

xxxiii. Shri Manoj Pandey, Adviser (Law) took a session named “Advocacy with Advocates” at the CCI’s office in Delhi.

xxxiv. Shri KD Singh, Joint Director (Law) and Shri Anand Vikas Mishra, Deputy Director (Law) were the judges in the Moot Court Competition organised by NLU, Jodhpur during 15-17th March, 2019.

xxxv. Shri P.K. Singh, Secretary, CCI and Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director (Eco.) were judges during Moot Court Competition organised by Faulty Law Centre, University of Delhi on 16th March, 2019.

xxxvi. Shri KD Singh, Joint Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law organised by Faulty Law Centre, University of Delhi on 17th March, 2019.

xxxvii. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Eco.) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences on 18th March, 2019.

xxxviii. Shri Yogesh Kumar Dubey, Deputy Director (Eco.) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Gujarat National Law University at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat on 18th March, 2019.
xxxix. Shri Mohan R Ronanki, Joint Director (Eco.) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by University of Delhi on 22nd March, 2019.

xl. Ms. Bhawna Gulati, Joint Director (Law) and Mr. Sachin Goyal, Deputy Director (FA) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi on 23rd March, 2019.

xli. Shri Nandan Kumar, Director (Eco.) addressed the Closing Ceremony of Certificate Course conducted by University of Delhi on 24th March, 2019.

xlii. Shri KD Singh, Joint Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Exim Bank on 26th March, 2019 at New Delhi.

xliii. Shri Arpan Sharma, Deputy Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Amity School of Law on 26th March, 2019 at Noida.

xliv. Shri Kuldeep Kumar, Joint Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Starex University on 26th March, 2019 at Gurugram.

xl. Dr. Navdeep Singh Suhag, Deputy Director (Law) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Maharaja Agrasen Mahavidyalaya on 30th March, 2019 at Jagadhri, Yamunanagar.

xlvi. Shri Saurabh, Deputy Director (Eco) & Dr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Director (CS) delivered lecture on competition law at a workshop organised by Maharishi Law School on 30th March, 2019 at Noida.

xlvii. Ms Payal Malik, Adviser participated in a Panel Discussion organised by NLU Jodhpur on 30th March, 2019.
Other Major Initiatives

i. An MoU was signed on 06th February, 2019, whereby Competition Commission of India and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) entered into a bipartite MoU. The objective of the MoU is to set-up an institutional mechanism for formal interaction between CCI and GeM, wherein both the Parties shall share information, intelligence and pool knowledge and expertise as appropriate and as needed to devise tools to detect anti-competitive practices (cartelisation) in the digital matrix. Given the respective expertise of the two organisations in their fields, the MoU is likely to create a synergy that will aid in better monitoring and detection of cartel activity on the GeM platform.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI and Smt. S. Radha Chauhan CEO, GeM during the signing of the MoU

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI, Ms. Radha S. Chauhan CEO, GeM, Shri U.C. Nahta, Member, CCI, Dr. Sangeeta Verma, Member, CCI; Shri Suresh Kumar, Addl. CEO, GeM, Shri P.K. Singh, Secretary CCI; along with officers of CCI and representatives of GeM

ii. 15 students underwent internship during the period.
II. 2nd Refresher Course
Capacity Building Division (CBD) organized “2nd Refresher Course” for 17 professional officers during 18th-20th February, 2019 at CCI. Hon’ble Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs delivered the keynote address. Eminent speakers/resource persons for the course were Secretary-Department of Fertilizers, Chairman-TRAI, CEO-GeM, Principal-SRCC, Assistant Chief (International Section)-United States Department of Justice and first Secretary, Trade and Economic Affairs Manager, Delegation of the European Union to India.

III. Other Events
i. CCI organized a short workshop on “Basic Concepts of Economics” jointly by Economics Division and Shri Manish Mohan Govil, Adviser (Law) for professional officers on 10th January, 2019 at CCI.

ii. CCI organized a short workshop on “Rules of Interpretation of Statutes & Regulations” by Prof. (Dr.) B. T. Kaul, Ex-Chairperson, Delhi Judicial Academy on 14th January, 2019 at CCI.

iii. Two professional officers (Directors) participated in the Global Procurement Summit 2019 with theme “Digital Disruption & Innovation: Future of Procurement” organized by All India Management Association (AIMA) in partnership with Ministry of Finance and the World Bank during 7th-8th February, 2019 at The Lalit Hotel, New Delhi.


v. CBD organized a Peer to Peer session on the topic “Developing Suo Motu Cases” by Sh. Apurv Agarwal, Joint Director (Law) on 22nd March, 2019 at CCI.

vi. CBD organized a Peer to Peer session on “Discussion of Case No. 19 of 2014 (Vipul A Shah v. All India Film Employee Confederation & Ors.)” by Shri K. P. Anand, Deputy Director (Law) on 29th March 2019 at CCI.

vii. CCI officers in batches participated in ‘Capacity Building Programme on e-Office (Level-1)’ organised by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology during following days:

- 21st - 23rd January, 2019 (8 officers participated)
- 4th - 6th February, 2019 (10 officers participated)
- 25th - 27th February, 2019 (8 officers participated)
- 13th - 15th March, 2019 (5 officers participated)
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

• Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI will be the distinguished Panelist at 2019 ICN Annual Conference at Cartagena, Colombia during 15th to 17th May 2019.

• Dr. N.K. Singh, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, shall deliver Lecture on 20th May, 2019.

• Dr. Sangeeta Verma, Member, CCI will be the distinguished panelist at the Roundtable with Infrastructure Regulators at 17th SAFIR Core Course in New Delhi on 08th April, 2019.

• An officer from CCI would deliver lecture on Competition Law at the 17th SAFIR Core Course: Infrastructure Regulation Training Programme for Regulatory Officers on 06th April, 2019.

• An officer from CCI would conduct an awareness programme on Competition Law Tezpur Law College, Tezpur, Assam on 05th April, 2019.

• An officer from CCI would deliver lecture on Competition Law at JEMTEC School of Law, Greater Noida on 15th April, 2019.

• An officer from CCI would deliver lecture on Competition Law at Geeta Institute of Law, Panipat on 16th April, 2019.

• An officer from CCI would conduct a half-day workshop on the topic “Policy and Practice of Merger Control in India” at IFIM Law School, Bengaluru on 26th April, 2019.

HR CORNER

Shri P.K. Singh assumed the charge of the post of Secretary, CCI on 1st January 2019.

Shri Augustine Peter, Member, CCI completed his tenure on 15th January 2019.

Promotion orders issued in respect of Shri Nandan Kumar as Director (Eco.), Ms. Bhawna Gulati as Joint Director (Law), Shri V.S. Chary as Asstt. Director (CS) and Smt. Poonam Kohli as PPS.

Shri Ram Avtar joined as Joint Director (F&A), Shri Ajay Raj Singh Chauhan and Shri Shailendra Mohan Pathak as Asstt. Directors (CS) and Dr. Anil Singh as Asstt. Director (LS) in CCI on deputation basis.

Shri Anand Vijay Jha, Director (Law), Shri M. Rajagopalan, DDG, Shri Rakesh Vashist, DDG and Shri K.P. Raghunathan, OM (CS) were relieved from CCI on their own request/on completion of their deputation tenure.
Advocacy Programs conducted by CCI during last 10 years

Competition Commission of India
9th Floor, Office Block - 1, Kidwai Nagar (East), Opposite Ring Road
New Delhi-110023, India

Please visit www.cci.gov.in for more information about the Commission.
For any query/comment/suggestion, please write to advocacy@cci.gov.in

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