



भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग
Competition Commission of India



*EVENT REPORT:
WORKSHOP ON COMPETITION LAW IN INDIA, PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES*

20th September 2024

*School of Law
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya
Bilaspur, (C.G.) – 495009
(A Central University)*

1. INTRODUCTION



The School of Studies of Law at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, successfully hosted a workshop on the theme Competition Law in India: Practice and Procedures on 20th September 2024. This prestigious event was chaired by Prof. A.S. Ranadive, Registrar of the university, alongside Prof. M.N. Tripathi, Dean of the School of Studies of Law, and Prof. Sudhanshu Ranjan Mohapatra, Head of the Department. The Chief Guest for the occasion was the eminent **Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey**, Adviser (Law) at the Competition Commission of India (CCI), whose presence added immense value to the discussions on the evolving legal landscape of competition law in India. The workshop was a highly anticipated academic gathering, attracting students and legal professionals eager to deepen their understanding of competition law and its evolving nature in the Indian legal system.

The workshop commenced with a formal introduction of the Chief Guest by Professor Sudhanshu Ranjan Mohapatra, Head of the Department, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya. Dr. Pandey's academic career began in 2001 as an Assistant Professor at the National Law University, Jodhpur, where he played an instrumental role as one of the founding members. Between 2001 and 2008, he contributed to the development of the institution, shaping its legal education landscape. In 2010, he joined the Competition Commission of India as a Joint Director, and by 2015, his expertise and leadership earned him the position of Director. Since 2020, Dr. Pandey has been serving as the Legal Adviser to the CCI, where he continues to be a significant influence in the world of competition law, both in India and internationally.

Professor Mohapatra underscored Dr. Pandey's stature in the field, describing him as "one of the renowned figures in the world of competition law." As a gesture of goodwill, Professor Mohapatra made a humble request to the Chief Guest to donate two books to the departmental library, a proposal that was met with great enthusiasm. In his introductory remarks, Professor Mohapatra offered a brief yet comprehensive explanation of competition law and the role of the CCI in safeguarding market integrity. He emphasised the importance of understanding the dynamic nature of law, quoting, "Law by its nature is not static but dynamic." This statement set the tone for the discussions to follow, highlighting the necessity of constantly evolving legal frameworks to meet the demands of a rapidly changing economic and legal landscape.

2. LECTURE



Following the formal introductions, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, delivered an intellectually stimulating lecture that traced the development of market economics in India, contextualising it within the broader framework of industrial growth and regulatory reforms. Dr. Pandey commenced his lecture by discussing the role of market economics in shaping a nation's economy. He explored how the market-driven approach came to dominate global economic policy, especially post the industrial revolution. The lecture seamlessly transitioned to India's experience with the first Industrial Development and Regulation Act of 1951, which sought to regulate the burgeoning industries in post-independent India. This act marked the country's early steps towards establishing a regulated economy, setting guidelines for industrial

licensing, production controls, and sector-specific regulations. The lecture further highlighted the MRTP Act and its limitations in addressing the complexities of a liberalising Indian economy. Dr. Pandey then shifted focus to the landmark enactment of the Competition Act in 2002, which replaced the MRTP Act and established a robust legal framework for promoting competition in India. The Act, he explained, was designed to prevent practices having adverse effects on competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in Indian markets. This reform was crucial for integrating India into the global economy, enabling it to compete on a level playing field with other liberalised economies. Throughout the lecture, Dr. Pandey offered a detailed and nuanced analysis of competition law, explaining its core principles—such as the prohibition of anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position, and regulation of combinations. His discussion included real-world examples, case law, and international perspectives, giving participants a comprehensive understanding of both the theoretical and practical aspects of competition law in India.

The lecture culminated in a highly interactive *Question and Answer session*, where students and participants raised pertinent queries regarding the finer points of competition law and its implementation. Dr. Pandey addressed each question with clarity, ensuring that all issues were resolved to the satisfaction of the attendees. His responses not only demonstrated his depth of knowledge but also his commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of the subject among the participants.

3. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE AND MEMENTO



A special moment followed as a token of gratitude and appreciation was presented to the Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey. The Head of the Department, Prof. Sudhanshu Ranjan Mohapatra, honoured Dr. Pandey with a Certificate of Appreciation and a commemorative

memento as a gesture of deep respect for his insightful contribution to the workshop. This presentation not only marked the formal conclusion of the lecture but also symbolised the Department's recognition of Dr. Pandey's expertise in competition law and his ongoing efforts to contribute to legal education and regulatory reform.

4. PLANTATION CEREMONY: A SYMBOL OF GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY



After the insightful lecture and engaging discussion on competition law, the Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, accompanied by the Head of the Department, Prof. Sudhanshu Ranjan Mohapatra, proceeded to a special plantation ceremony within the university premises. Together, they planted three saplings, symbolising the growth, resilience, and sustainability that underpin not only environmental stewardship but also the ideals represented in the field of competition law. This act of planting saplings resonated deeply with the theme of the workshop. Just as nurturing plants requires careful attention and a balanced ecosystem to thrive, so too does a fair and competitive market demand regulatory frameworks that ensure no single entity dominates to the detriment of the others. The plantation represented the continuous growth of legal knowledge, the fostering of new ideas, and the need for sustainable economic practices within an evolving legal system. It stood as a reminder of the event's overarching message—that competition law, like nature, is dynamic, requiring constant vigilance, nurturing, and adaptation to ensure healthy and equitable progress for all.

5. ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

Faculty Coordinator	- Dr. Sagar Kumar Jaiswal
Coordinators	- Apoorva Azad Nande (<i>LL.M. 1st Year</i>) - Shekhar Gupta (<i>LL.M. 1st Year</i>) - Homirani Mehar (<i>LL.M. 1st Year</i>)
Deputy Coordinators	- Arushi Singh (<i>B.A.LL.B. 5th Year</i>) - Vidhi Jain (<i>B.A.LL.B. 5th Year</i>) - Ashutosh Mishra (<i>B.COM.LL.B. 4th Year</i>)
Report Writing	- Shivam Kumar (<i>B.A.LL.B. 3rd Year</i>) - Sushant Gautam (<i>B.A.LL.B. 3rd Year</i>) - Arti Kumari (<i>B.A.LL.B. 2nd Year</i>)

6. CONCLUSION



The Workshop on Competition Law in India: Practice and Procedures concluded on a highly positive and intellectually enriching note. The presence of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, a luminary in the field of competition law, not only elevated the academic discourse but also provided invaluable insights into the evolving landscape of market regulations in India. His detailed lecture, covering the historical development of industrial regulations, the transition from the MRTP Act to the Competition Act, and the legal challenges surrounding competition

law enforcement, left a lasting impact on the participants. The interactive session allowed participants to engage with complex legal concepts, and Dr. Pandey's thoughtful responses helped clarify key issues, ensuring that students and professionals alike left with a well-rounded grasp of the subject matter. The symbolic plantation ceremony served as a reflective moment, reinforcing the themes of growth, sustainability, and balanced regulation—principles that are as crucial to environmental well-being as they are to legal and economic systems.

This event was not just an academic exercise but a meaningful exploration of how law, like nature, is dynamic, evolving with the needs of society. With a renewed sense of purpose, the participants left inspired to contribute to the legal profession, fostering fair competition and safeguarding the integrity of markets.