



India IGF (IIGF-2022) Workshop

Part 1 - Lead Organizer

Salutation	Mr.
Contact Person	Kazim Rizvi
Organization / Affiliation (Please state "Individual" if appropriate)	The Dialogue
Designation	Founding Director
Economy of Residence	India
Primary Stakeholder Group	Civil Society

Part 2 - Workshop

Primary Theme	Internet Regulation
Primary Sub Theme	Antitrust and digital markets
Session Title	Leveraging Competition Policy for growth of Digital Markets
Session Format	Panel Discussion

Description of Session Formats **Birds of a Feather (BoF)** – An informal discussion session designed to connect the participants of shared topic of interests without a pre-planned agenda. **Panel** - Presentation and/or sharing of viewpoints by speakers on a particular topic. The number of speakers on the panel shall not be more than 4 to allow sufficient time for interaction with the attendees. **Roundtable** - Interactive dialogue involving all participants with designated moderators and not more than 2 speakers.

Specific Issues of Discussion

The growth of digital markets in the country has been driven by increasing internet penetration, rising scalability of startups and an enabling regulatory framework. The extant Indian antitrust law, for instance, has strengthened digital markets by allowing pro-competitive mergers and giving new digital business models like cab aggregators freedom to innovate. However, the rapid growth of digital markets has also come with its own fair share of challenges. For instance, the multi-sided nature of digital markets makes it challenging for countries to adequately address the anti-competitive concerns. To deal with such peculiar challenges of emerging digital markets, India is tailoring its current laws and contemplating future tools.

For instance, the Competition Amendment Bill, 2022 which has been referred to the Finance Committee contains provisions that would equip the Competition Commission of India to deal with the digital markets. However, to supplement these remarkable measures, it is required that the basic antitrust principles that suited traditional markets are evolved to cover the intricacies of digital markets and further their growth and innovation. The panel discussion will discuss the manner in which reforms in the Indian competition law can evolve to cater to the growth of digital markets.

Describe the Relevance of Your Session to Theme

The proposed session pertaining to digital markets falls in with the broad ethos of the IIGF workshop. The IIGF's 'Internet Regulation' web page rightly includes 'antitrust and digital markets' as one of the potential discussion topics. It rightly states that a multi stakeholder approach is needed on the subject to ensure a trusted internet. All encompassing nature of digital markets which not only covers a majority chunk of today's population as users but also connects us on a global level makes it the need of the hour to deliberate on issues and possible solutions to make this space more safer and fulfilling for all the stakeholders involved.

Issues especially pertaining to antitrust should be at forefront when conversing about 'internet regulation' as antitrust law keeps consumer interests at its heart. It seeks to find a right balance between the two fundamental pillars of digital markets: users' interests and innovation by enterprises. A balance between the two would shape the future of digital markets. 'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat' is an attempt in the same direction where fostering innovation by startups and protecting consumers would be at the forefront of empowering Bharat.

Methodology / Agenda

The event will primarily be driven by the speaker's insights on the subject along with dedicated time for the audience's questions and feedback . The workshop will have the following time breakup:

Introduction to the topic: 5 minutes

Discussion by speaker 1 on the relevance of antitrust law for digital markets and an empowered Bharat: 10 minutes

Discussion by speaker 2 on issues and evolving themes in digital markets that necessitate evolution of competition law: 10 minutes

Discussion by speaker 4 on the specific interventions required in the Indian antitrust law and policy space to encourage digital markets: 10 minutes.

Conclusion: 5 minutes

Questions and answers round with the audience: 20 minutes

Please provide 3 subject matter tags that best describe your session. #antitrustindia #digitalcompetition #competitionintech

*Please specify gender e.g. agender, cis woman, cis man, female, gender-fluid, gender-neutral, male, trans woman, trans man, etc.

Moderators & Speakers Info (Please complete where possible)

	Moderator (Primary)	Moderator (Backup)	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4
Name	Saksham Malik	Bhoomika Agrawal	Unnati Agrawal	Rahul Rai		Aditya Bhattacharjea
Email	saksham.malik@thdialogue.co	bhoomika@thdialogue.co				
Organization	The Dialogue	The Dialogue	Induslaw	Axiom5		Delhi University
Designation	Programme Manager	Research Associate	Partner	Partner		Professor - Economics
Gender	Male	Female	Female	Male		Male
Economy of Residence / Country	India	India	India	India		India
Stakeholder Group	Civil Society	Civil Society	Technical Community	Technical Community	Other	Academia
Status of Confirmation	Confirmed	Confirmed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed

Please explain the rationale for choosing each of the above contributors to the session.

For a topic as expansive as antitrust, it is imperative to get multiple perspectives to the workshop. Seeking views of lawyers, policy professionals, antitrust regulator would acquaint us with the challenges faced by different stakeholders and help us adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to the conversation.

Ms. Unnati Aggarwal has an experience ranging over 10 years of practice. Her past tenure at JSA, a premium law firm and her current position as Partner and Head of Competition vertical at IndusLaw has equipped her with in-depth experience of representing businesses and financial institutions in relation to a broad range of competition law matters including merger control issues and antitrust litigation.

Mr. Manish Mohan Govil is currently an Adviser and Head of Combination Division at the Competition Commission of India. His past bureaucratic experience at the esteemed Indian Revenue Services and skills at governance and development would bring a fresh perspective to the discussion.

Mr. Samir Gandhi was a part of the Competition Law Review Committee and is a leading competition lawyer with decades of experience. Dr. Aditya Bhattacharjea was also a part of the esteemed committee and is one of the leading economics professors and competition academicians in the country.

IIGF 2022

Session Title

Leveraging Competition Policy for growth of Digital Markets