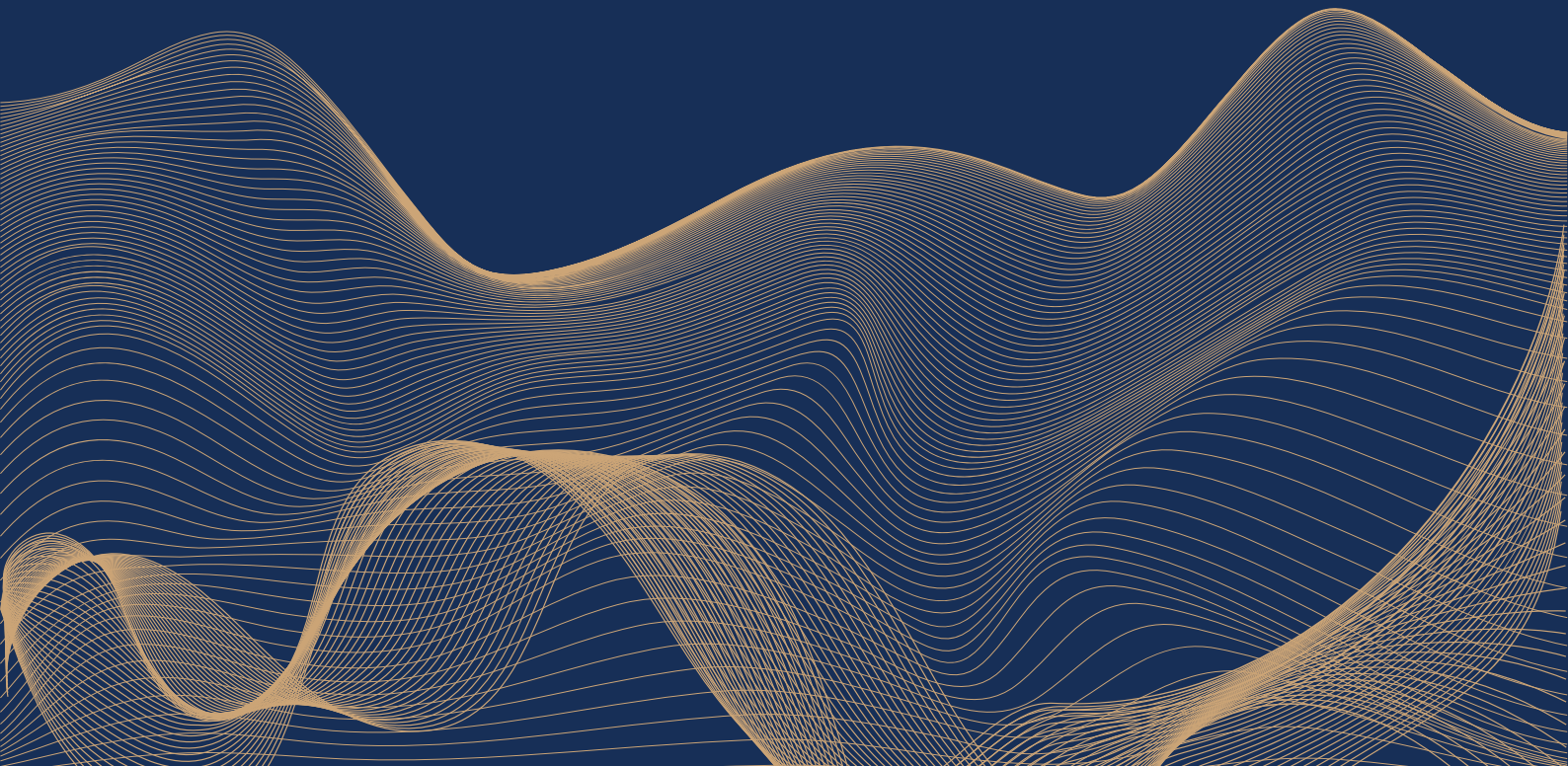


Practice Profile

2024-25



About us

Our chambers, named after Euclid's 5th axiom, "the whole is greater than the part," epitomises our unwavering commitment to approaching antitrust issues with a comprehensive mindset. We firmly believe that examining antitrust matters within a framework that encompasses regulations, governance, market dynamics, and economic policy is crucial.

We offer our clients holistic and meticulously tailored competition law advice, ensuring that they receive valuable strategic solutions. We are committed to guiding our clients through the intricacies of Indian competition law, helping them navigate complex regulatory landscapes and make informed decisions.

You'll find our members across Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. We believe in encouraging our team members to work from locations where they can thrive. This approach allows us to foster a dynamic, tech-led, and collaborative work environment.

We are committed to building strong relationships based on trust and respect, ensuring that our clients feel supported and confident in our ability to effectively represent their interests.

Ranked by

Chambers
AND PARTNERS

LAW
dot
ASIA

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B **BENCHMARK**
LITIGATION

What we do

Litigation & Enforcement

We're mindful that not all competition law issues can be addressed through compliance alone, and that our clients will require effective litigation and enforcement strategies. We are perfectly positioned to provide holistic advice in complex competition litigation.

Counselling & Compliance

We work with our clients to provide tailored advice to assist them in calibrating commercial decisions and understanding competition law implications, designing compliance and training programs, and creating policies to reduce infringement risk.

Pro Bono

Access to competition law enforcement is often limited by financial constraints and information asymmetry. We dedicate a third of all our time to addressing these constraints by representing clients with limited ability to pay, and contributing to academic thought and writing beyond client mandates.

Merger Control

We work closely with clients with competition law issues, from assessment to implementation. We help prepare merger filings, engage with regulators, and advise on how to avoid and mitigate risks, or structure litigation strategies.

Competition Policy & Advocacy

We use our diverse experience in law, economics, and policy making to craft evidence-based policy solutions. Our contributions include research papers, studies, policy recommendations, and participation in regulatory consultations.



Our experience

Litigation & Enforcement

- Representing a leading global technology company in abuse of dominance proceedings before the CCI.
- Representing F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG and its subsidiary in proceedings before the Delhi High Court, having successfully obtained an interim stay of CCI proceedings.
- Representing UFO Moviez India Limited in an abuse of dominance investigation before the CCI.
- Representing Super Cassettes (T-Series) in its ongoing appeal before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
- Representing a multinational tyre manufacturer in an ongoing proceeding before the CCI.
- Representing Warner Bros. before the Supreme Court in proceedings arising from a COMPAT order to initiate an investigation into allegations of abuse of dominance and cartelisation.
- Representing a multinational corporation in the heavy industry sector in an ongoing cartel inquiry.
- Representing Tata Motors Limited before the CCI, resulting in the closure of an inquiry into alleged vertical restraints.



Rahul Rai - "...has a tremendous knowledge of Indian antitrust law, coupled with a very practical, client-focused approach. In my experience, he is one of the smartest lawyers in his field in India, but one who can also distil complex issues into a clear, measured and client-focused solution. Even in the most high-stakes matters, he remains calm, measured and works extremely well as part of a wider team.

~ **Benchmark Litigation**

Merger control

- Advised Convergent and Samara in their acquisition of majority shareholding in Agro Tech Foods in a \$78 million deal.
- Advised Brookfield in its acquisition of American Towers Corporation (ATC) India in a \$2.5 billion deal.
- Advised Manipal Group in their acquisition of shareholding in Aakash Institute in a \$300 million deal.
- Advised Clicktech Retail Private Limited in its acquisition of Appario Retail's entire business, and its sale of certain shareholding to Amazon Inc.
- Advised Real Trustee Advisors in its acquisition of shareholding in WeWork India in a \$310 million deal.
- Advised Slice, a fintech company, in its merger with NESFB, a bank.
- Advised India-Japan Fund in its acquisition of a shareholding in Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited in a \$48 million deal.
- Advised the promoters of Caratlane in their sale of 27.18% shareholding to Titan Company Limited in a \$553 million deal.
- Advised a leading global technology company in avoiding gun-jumping proceedings before the CCI.
- Advised LANXESS Deutschland GmbH in its formation of a joint venture with Advent.
- Advised Tata Consumer in assessing notification to competition authorities in key foreign jurisdictions for its acquisition of an Indian entity.



Samir Gandhi has been our go-to person when it comes to competition law advisory or litigation. He brings with him a lot of experience in handling and managing complex issues with ease.

~ Legal 500



Counselling & compliance

- Advising a leading global automotive company on the antitrust implications of an ongoing strategic restructuring exercise.
- Advising a leading global pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturer in conducting a bespoke competition compliance exercise for each of their key products.
- Advising a global cosmetics manufacturer on competition compliance issues.
- Advising a leading Indian airline on its pricing strategies and engagement with travel agents.
- Advising a leading global shoemaker on its engagement with its dealers and wholesalers.
- Advising a leading global cab-hailing service provider on competition risk assessment and compliance.
- Advising a global motorcycle maker in conducting competition compliance exercises, and review of its dealership and distribution network.
- Advising a global automotive company on competition law aspects of its ongoing collaboration to develop new products for the Indian market.
- Advising several global and Indian FMCG companies on competition compliance issues by working with their business teams to propose bespoke solutions, such as redesigning agency, distribution, and franchise models or crafting dawn raid protocols.



*The consistency and frequency of **Samir's** high-quality work, and the magnitude of these dedicated efforts especially in view of the compressed schedules, is truly worthy of special recognition.*

*~ ABA in its announcement of
**Outstanding Performance Awards
2024***

Competition policy

- Advising numerous leading Indian & global technology companies on the implications of the proposed Digital Competition Bill, 2024.
- Working with the Antitrust Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA) and the Antitrust Section of the American Bar Association (ABA) to actively offer input and feedback on regulatory developments in Indian competition law, including on regulations published by the CCI and the Digital Competition Bill, 2024
- Rahul Rai served as a member of the Committee for Digital Competition Law, set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, for assessing and drafting an ex-ante law to address competition issues in the digital economy.
- Samir R Gandhi was a special invitee to the Competition Law Review Committee (2019), and deposed before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Finance (2023) on the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023.
- Advising the CCI on annual amendments to merger control rules, leniency regulations, and DIY online merger control, and preparing the competition compliance manual (along with the Competition Law Bar Association).
- Samir R Gandhi served as a member of the working group for the introduction of the merger control regulations in 2011.



Samir R Gandhi - "...highly respected for his handling of abuse of dominance investigations and leniency applications for high-profile global clients"...."very pragmatic approach and outstanding connections with the Competition Commission of India"... "he is extremely articulate, has absolute clarity of thought and is innovative in his approach.

~ Chambers and Partners



Our team

Samir R Gandhi, Partner

samir.gandhi@axiom5.in

Samir co-founded Axiom5 Law Chambers after spending over two decades at various law firms – most recently as a Senior Partner and the head of the competition law practice at AZB & Partners. Samir has been deeply engaged with the formulation of competition policy in India since its inception.

Samir's practice focuses on advising his clients on all aspects of competition law and has appeared before the CCI and superior courts, including the Supreme Court of India, in complex litigation.



Rahul Rai, Partner

rahul.rai@axiom5.in

Rahul co-founded Axiom5 after spending over fifteen years at leading Indian law firms and the chambers of senior counsel. He led the competition law team at AZB & Partners in Mumbai from January 2012 to 2019. He also spent three years litigating as a counsel with the Chambers of Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, former Solicitor General of India.

Rahul's practice focuses on antitrust investigations, contentious competition litigation, strategic merger control, and competition policy advocacy. Rahul was a member of the Committee on Digital Competition Law (2024).

Shivanghi Sukumar, Partner

shivanghi.sukumar@axiom5.in

Shivanghi has spent over eleven years practising competition law at leading law firms. Her practice focuses on antitrust investigations before the CCI, complex competition litigation before various fora, and advising on competition policy and representations to various ministries, including the proposed Digital Competition Bill. She has played leading roles in some of the most significant writ challenges against orders of the CCI before various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.



Pramod Singh, Senior Advisor

pramod.singh@axiom5.in

Pramod has spent over three decades practising law: first as a civil judge, and more recently as a regulator in the CCI. At the CCI, he spent over a decade in various senior positions including as Adviser of the Antitrust Division, the Legal Division, and finally, Secretary of the CCI in 2019.

Shruti Aji Murali, Counsel

shruti.murali@axiom5.in

Shruti has spent over a decade practising competition law, and has worked at two leading Indian law firms prior to joining Axiom5. Her practice focuses on merger control, competition compliance programmes, and competition policy. She has contributed to competition policy advocacy via leading industry associations and extensive research on the amendments to the Competition Act in 2023 and on the new Digital Competition Bill in 2024.



Shivam Jha, Counsel

shivam.jha@axiom5.in

Shivam has spent over seven years as a competition lawyer at a leading Indian law firm in Mumbai. He represents clients in all areas of antitrust law, spanning merger control, competition litigation, investigations, and counselling. He has also contributed to policy representations to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on behalf of various industry stakeholders.



Nikhil Pillai, Of Counsel

nikhil.pillai@axiom5.in

Nikhil has spent over a decade as an advocate working in chambers and a leading law firm as part of its competition law practice. His practice focuses on white-collar criminal defence and trials, and has deep experience conducting internal investigations, defending companies and individuals in criminal and regulatory proceedings, and counselling clients on compliance issues.

Vinayak Mehrotra, Of Counsel

vinayak.mehrotra@axiom5.in

Vinayak has spent a decade working as counsel first in the chambers of senior counsel and then as an independent litigator where he deals with a variety of civil and commercial litigation. He has represented both private parties and the CCI as its counsel in proceedings before the Supreme Court of India, various High Courts, and the NCLAT.



Ravi Gangal, Senior Associate

ravi.gangal@axiom5.in

Ravi has over six years of experience in competition law and has been associated with two leading Indian law firms. He advises clients on merger control, competition litigation, leniency applications, compliance programmes, and stakeholder consultations in relation to competition regulations. He has also represented clients before the CCI, the NCLAT, various High Courts, and the Supreme Court.



Anicham Tamilmani, Associate

anicham.tamilmani@axiom5.in

Anicham has experience in antitrust litigation, merger control, developing compliance strategies, and policy development. Prior to joining Axiom5, Anicham worked at a leading consulting firm advising on international trade law. Anicham's interest lies in the interplay of economics and competition law.

Binit Agrawal, Associate

binit.agrawal@axiom5.in

Binit has experience in merger control, behavioural litigation, digital competition law advisory, as well as counselling and compliance. Before joining Axiom5, Binit gained experience at renowned law firms in India and South Korea. Binit's primary interest is in the interplay between law, economics, and technology.





axiom5
LAW CHAMBERS

19 Annex, Sundar Nagar
New Delhi 110003

www.axiom5.in