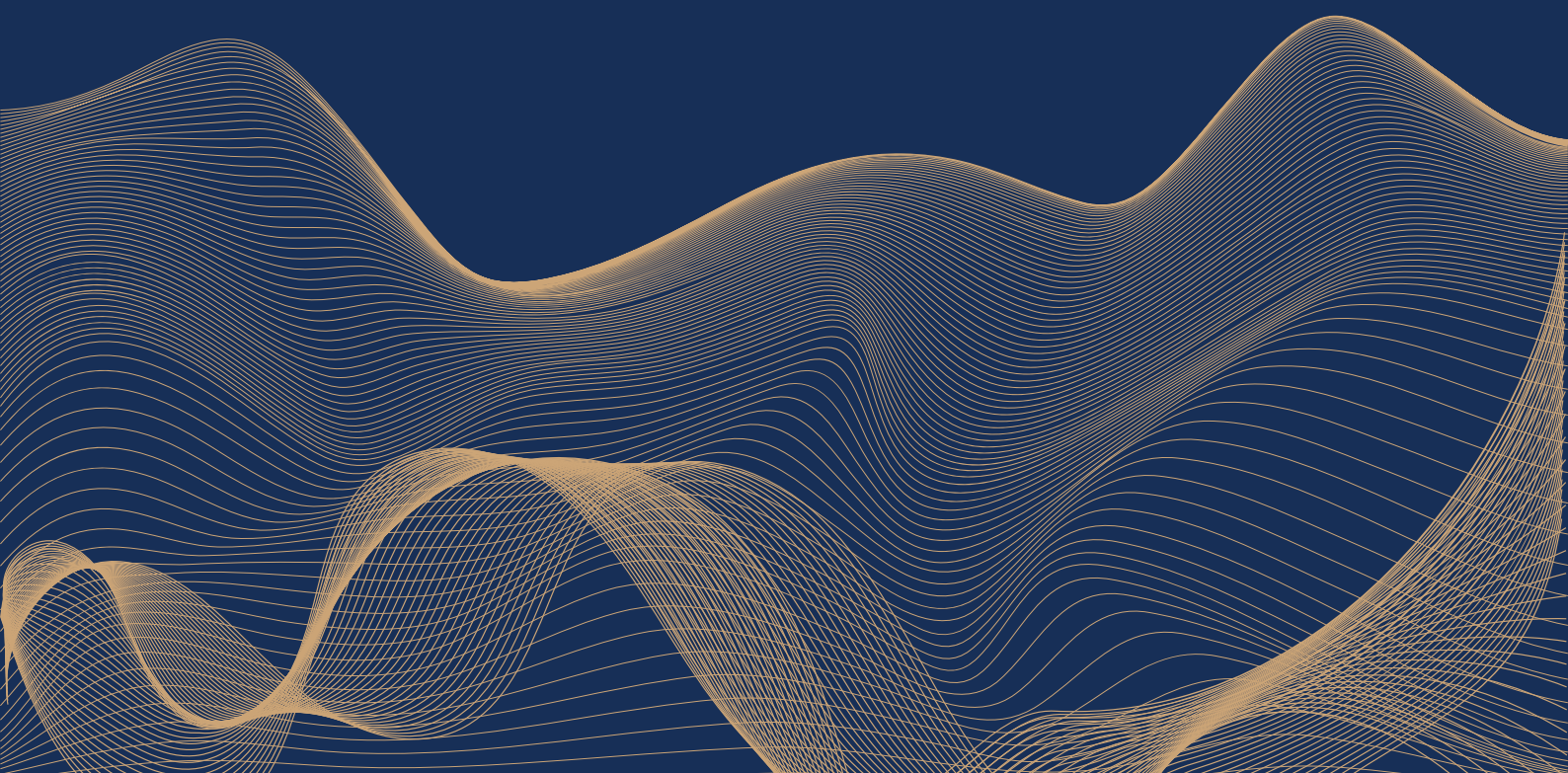


# Practice Profile

2025-26



# About us

Our approach to antitrust issues is comprehensive and thorough, reflecting the principle behind our name – Euclid's 5th axiom, "the whole is greater than the part." We believe that a successful strategy requires a deep understanding of the interplay between regulations, governance, market dynamics, and economic policy.

Our clients receive holistic, strategic, and tailored advice on competition law, guiding them through the complexities of Indian competition law and regulations.

With team members located in Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, we embrace a flexible, tech-driven, and collaborative work environment.

We value trust and respect and are committed to building strong relationships with our clients.

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Ranked by

**Chambers**  
AND PARTNERS

**LAW**  
dot  
**ASIA**

**WWL**

**B** BENCHMARK  
LITIGATION

**GCR 100**  
**100**

**RE** <sup>100</sup>  
Law Firm  
**SIGHT**  
India

# What we do

## Litigation & Enforcement

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

## Counselling & Compliance

We provide tailored guidance to support informed decision-making, aid in understanding the impact of competition law, create effective compliance and training, and develop policies to minimise infringement risk.

## Pro Bono

Financial constraints and information asymmetry often limit access to competition law enforcement. We dedicate a third of our time to addressing these limitations by representing clients with limited ability to pay and by 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 develop evidence-based policy solutions by leveraging our diverse expertise in law, economics, and policymaking. Our contributions include regulatory consultations, research papers, studies, and policy recommendations.



# 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 an industry body of digital cinema service providers in an ongoing CCI inquiry on price-setting.
- 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 initiating an investigation into allegations of abuse of dominance and cartelization.
- 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 TVS Holdings & Srinivasan Trading in their acquisition of shares in Home Credit India Finance.
- 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 2 decades at various law firms. Most recently, he served as Senior Partner and head of the competition law practice at AZB & Partners. He has been deeply involved in shaping competition policy in India since its inception. Samir's practice centers on advising clients on all aspects of competition law. He has represented clients 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 over 15 years at top Indian law firms and senior counsel chambers. From 2012 to 2019, he was the competition law team leader at AZB & Partners, Mumbai. He was also a counsel with the Chambers of Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, ex-Solicitor General of India, for 3 years. Rahul's practice is focused on antitrust investigations, competition litigation, merger control, and competition policy advocacy. He was a member of the Committee on Digital Competition Law in 2024.

## Shivanghi Sukumar, Partner

*shivanghi.sukumar@axiom5.in*

Shivanghi has over 11 years of experience practicing competition law at top law firms. Her expertise includes antitrust investigations before the CCI, complex competition litigation before various fora, and advising on competition policy and representations to various ministries, including on the proposed Digital Competition Bill. She has led several significant writ challenges against CCI orders before various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.





## Pramod Singh, Senior Advisor

*pramod.singh@axiom5.in*

Pramod has spent over 3 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.



## Shivam Jha, Counsel

*shivam.jha@axiom5.in*

Shivam, a competition lawyer with over 7 years of experience, has worked at a top Indian law firm in Mumbai. His expertise covers all aspects of antitrust law, including merger control, competition litigation, investigations, and counselling. He has also aided various industry stakeholders in preparing policy representations to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

## Nitin Nair, Counsel

*nitin.nair@axiom5.in*

Nitin advises clients on all aspects of competition law, including merger control, investigations, and litigation. He has expertise in analyzing competition issues and advocacy before the CCI, NCLAT, and the Supreme Court. He has represented companies in CCI investigations, leniency proceedings, steered complex transactions through the CCI's merger review process and defended companies in gun-jumping proceedings.



## Shruti Aji Murali, Counsel

*shruti.murali@axiom5.in*

Shruti has over 10 years' experience in competition law, specializing in merger control and compliance. She has worked at top Indian law firms, contributed to policy advocacy on the Competition Act amendments, and the Digital Competition Bil. Shruti currently focuses on leveraging technology solutions to optimise Axiom5's knowledge management practices.



## Nikhil Pillai, Of Counsel

*nikhil.pillai@axiom5.in*

Nikhil is an advocate with over a decade of experience, working in chambers and at a leading law firm specialising in competition law. His practice is centred around white-collar criminal defence and trials, with extensive experience in conducting internal investigations, defending companies and individuals in criminal and regulatory proceedings, and advising clients on compliance matters.

## Vinayak Mehrotra, Of Counsel

*vinayak.mehrotra@axiom5.in*

Vinayak has worked as a counsel for 10 years, first in the chambers of senior counsel and later as an independent litigator specializing in various civil and commercial litigation matters. He has represented both private parties and the CCI in proceedings before the Supreme Court of India, various High Courts, and the NCLAT.



## Shashank Sharma, Policy Lead

*shashank.sharma@axiom5.in*

Shashank has over a decade of experience and specialises in the economic analysis of laws, particularly competition law. He offers clients precise and practical advice, actively contributes to competition policy, notably in the Working Group on Big Data and New Age Markets, and advising a sovereign nation-state on an overhaul of its competition law regime. His doctoral research related to competition law enforcement in multi-sided platforms, with a focus on optimal damages and remedies.



## Ravi Gangal, Senior Associate

*ravi.gangal@axiom5.in*

Ravi has worked with two top Indian law firms and has over 6 years of experience in competition law. He has represented clients before the CCI, the NCLAT, various High Courts, and the Supreme Court. He also advises clients on merger control, competition litigation, leniency applications, compliance programmes, and stakeholder consultations in relation to competition regulations.

## Anicham Tamilmani, Associate

*anicham.tamilmani@axiom5.in*

Anicham is interested in the interplay between economics and competition law. Before joining Axiom5, she worked at a top consulting firm where they advised on international trade law. Anicham has experience in antitrust litigation, merger control, compliance strategies, and policy development.



## Divyanshu Dembi, Associate

*divyanshu.dembi@axiom5.in*

Divyanshu advises domestic and international enterprises on a range of competition law matters, including merger control, antitrust enforcement, and complex litigation before various High Courts and the Supreme Court. He has assisted on matters involving a number of sectors, such as FMCG, food delivery platforms, e-commerce platforms, railways, pharmaceuticals, financial services etc.



## Aarathi Menon, Associate

*aarathi.menon@axiom5.in*

Aarathi is interested in the intersection of competition and intellectual property law. She is gaining experience advising clients, developing compliance programs, and notifying transactions before the CCI. She tracks global competition law developments and researches the theories behind Indian competition law decisions.







# axiom5

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