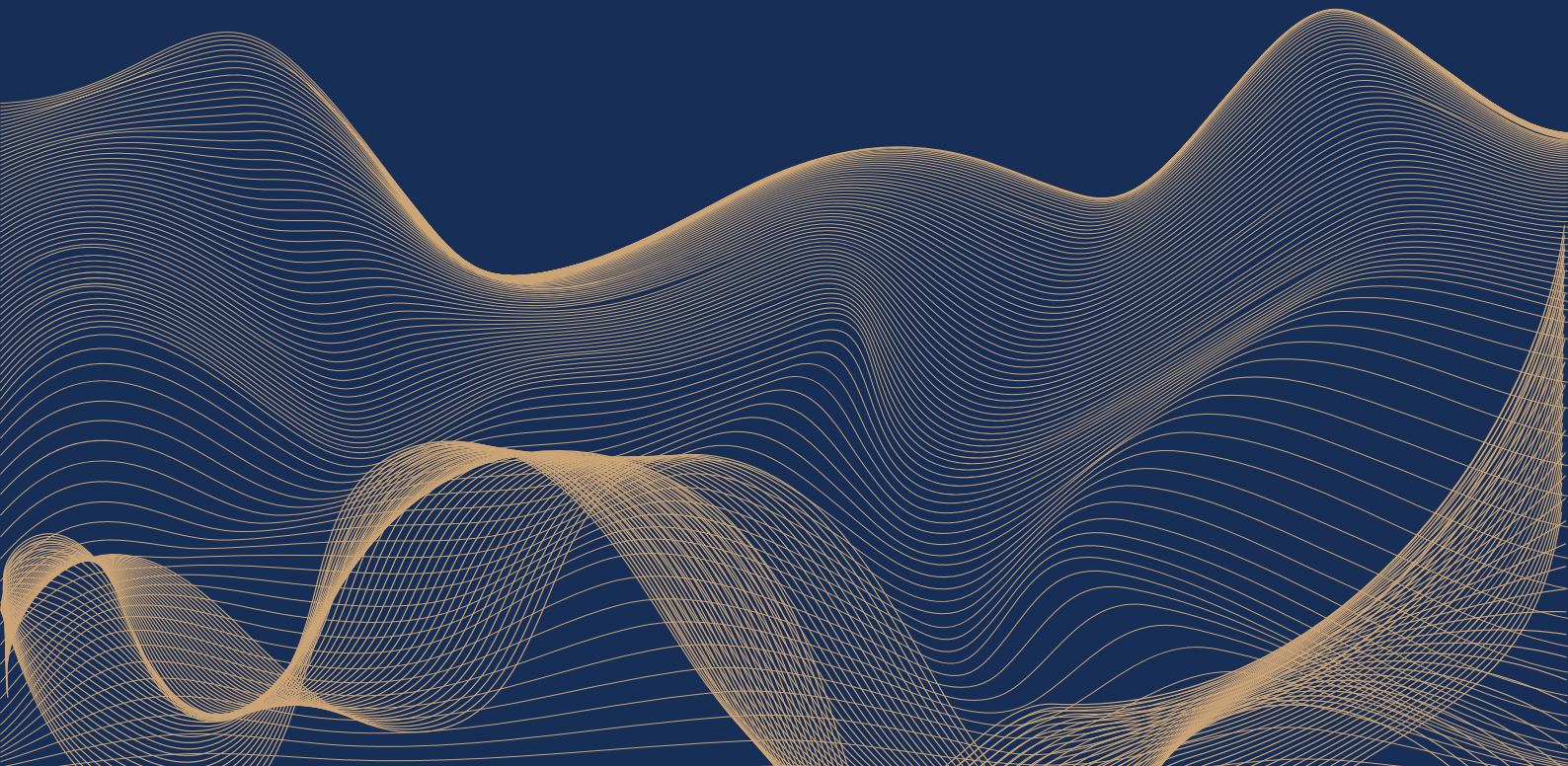




# Practice Profile

*2026-27*



# 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 NCR, 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**

**W|W|W**

**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 portion 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 deal teams and in-house counsel starting from transaction structuring and filing assessments. We also prepare merger filings, engage with regulators, and advise on how to avoid and mitigate risks.

## 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 Google in abuse of dominance proceedings before the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**), also marking one of the first instances of negotiating commitments at the pre-investigation stage.
- Representing a leading global FMCG company in an ongoing cartel inquiry.
- Representing a leading global alcoholic beverage manufacturing company in an ongoing cartel inquiry.
- Representing a global advertising services company in an ongoing cartel inquiry.
- 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 multiple abuse of dominance proceedings before the CCI and the appellate body, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (**NCLAT**).
- Representing Super Cassettes (T-Series) in its ongoing appeal before the NCLAT.
- Representing Warner Bros. before the Supreme Court of India (**Supreme Court**) in proceedings arising from a CCI investigation into allegations of abuse of dominance and cartelization.
- Representing Toyota Kirloskar Motors in an appeal before the Supreme Court in proceedings arising from a CCI order relating to abuse of dominance and anti-competitive vertical restraints in the auto-parts sector.



***Axiom5** were very experienced in various industries. They had a good grasp of the business and were very agile.*

*The team's combination of deep technical expertise and strategic acumen enables it to effectively synthesise complex issues into a clear, big picture direction for clients.*

*~ Chambers & Partners*

# Merger control

- Advised Fitness First Luxembourg (Oaktree group) in securing CCI approval for its multi-stage investment of \$800 million in Curefit Healthcare Private Limited.
- Advised Brookfield in its acquisition of American Towers Corporation (ATC) India in a \$2.5 billion deal, securing unconditional CCI approval.
- Advised Manipal Group in securing CCI approval for their acquisition of shareholding in Aakash Institute in a \$300 million deal.
- Advised Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, a Canadian sovereign investment fund, in securing approval for its joint investment with Temasek into real estate holdings in India.
- Advised TVS Holdings & Srinivasan Trading in their acquisition of shares in Home Credit India Finance.
- Advised Clicktech Retail Private Limited in its acquisition of Appario Retail's entire business, and its sale of certain shareholding to Amazon Inc.
- Advised Slice, a fintech company, in its merger with NESFB, a bank.
- Advised India-Japan Fund in its \$48 million investment in Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited and its \$65 million investment in Aether Energy Limited.
- 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 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 pharmaceutical company on competition compliance issues.
- 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.



**Samir R Gandhi** "...continues to set the standard for excellence in antitrust practice..." "...what sets him apart is his approach to problems; his solutions are always geared towards what will be effective for the client."

~ Chambers & Partners

# 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 the need and drafting an ex-ante law to address competition issues in the digital economy.
- Samir R Gandhi was a member of the working group for the introduction of merger control regulations in 2011, 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).



***Rahul Rai** is highly respected for advising on the full spectrum of competition law matters and adeptly handles both investigations and merger control issues, as well as compliance advice.*

*~ Chambers & Partners*

***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*



# 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.

## Pramod K Singh, Senior Advisor

*pramod.singh@axiom5.in*

Pramod has spent over 4 decades practising law: first as a civil judge, and more recently as a regulator in the CCI. At the CCI, he held various senior positions including in the Antitrust Division, the Legal Division, and finally, Secretary of the CCI in 2019. During his tenure at the regulator, he provided crucial analysis on ongoing cases, and was instrumental in strengthening the CCI's leniency programme.





## 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.

## Mohith Gauri, Counsel

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Mohith has extensive experience in strategic antitrust litigation in digital markets and merger control. He has represented a diverse range of clients before the CCI, appellate forums, and constitutional courts in some of the most significant competition cases in recent years. He combines high-stakes litigation strategy with agile commercial and compliance advisory, helping clients navigate complex regulatory risks in innovation-driven markets.



## Ravi Gangal, Counsel

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Ravi has worked with two top Indian law firms and has over 8 years' 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 has contributed to stakeholder consultations in relation to competition regulations.



## Shivam Jha, Of Counsel

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With 10 years of experience, Shivam brings technical rigor and operational leadership to Axiom5. He represents clients in all areas of antitrust law, including merger control, litigation, and compliance, specializing in Indian and cross-border M&A. His experience spans a range of sectors, including media, aviation, electric vehicles, financial services, and real estate. Prior to his current Of Counsel role, Shivam served as Counsel at the firm for two years and as a Senior Associate at AZB & Partners. Splitting his time between London and India, Shivam offers a unique global regulatory perspective.



## Vinayak Mehrotra, Of Counsel

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Vinayak has worked as a counsel for 12 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.

## Nikhil Pillai, Of Counsel

*nikhil.pillai@axiom5.in*

Nikhil is an advocate with 15 years 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.



## Shruti Aji Murali, Knowledge Management

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Shruti has over 13 years' experience in competition law, specialising in merger control, strategic antitrust litigation, compliance and policy advocacy on the Competition Act amendments, and the Digital Competition Bill. At Axiom5, she focuses on leveraging technology solutions to optimise Axiom5's knowledge management practices.



## Shashank Sharma, Policy Lead

*shashank.sharma@axiom5.in*

With over a decade of experience, Shashank specialises in the economic analysis of 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 in 2019, and advising a sovereign nation-state on an overhaul of its competition law regime. His doctoral research is on competition law enforcement in multi-sided platforms, with a focus on optimal damages and remedies.

## Anicham Tamilmani, Senior Associate

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Anicham has over six years of experience in Indian economic laws, with a focus on the intersection of economics and competition law. She has represented clients before the CCI, appellate forums, and constitutional courts, advising on investigations, enforcement actions, merger notifications, and competition compliance across sectors including pharmaceuticals, FMCG, automobiles, airlines, and technology.



## Divyanshu Dembi, Associate

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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 and financial services.



## Tejaswini Kaushal, Associate

*tejaswini.kaushal@axiom5.in*

Tejaswini is interested in the intersection of competition law, intellectual property law, transactional laws, and technology regulation. She is gaining experience in researching digital market regulation, consumer protection, privacy and competition concerns, and the interface between innovation and antitrust enforcement





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