

Press note

GNLU Hosts Regional Workshop on Competition Law in Collaboration with the Competition Commission of India

Gandhinagar, 13 March 2026:

The GNLU Centre for Trade and Competition Law (GCTCL) at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) organised a Regional Workshop on Competition Law in collaboration with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on 13 March 2026 at the University campus in Gandhinagar. The workshop brought together senior officials of the Competition Commission of India and members of the GNLU academic community for discussions on contemporary developments in competition law and enforcement in India.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Smt. Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson, Competition Commission of India, emphasised the importance of competition in the functioning of modern markets. She noted, *“competition is the bedrock of a market economy. It’s from competition that you will be able to get people succeeding as entrepreneurs who will be then providing better quality at lower prices and will always be innovating and developing and evolving themselves. So their success will be based on merit. It will not be based on the use of some underhanded, exclusionary or exploitative practices.”*

Highlighting the transformation of markets, she observed that digitalisation has led to a transformative shift in markets, resulting in rapidly evolving and dynamic market structures. She noted that large digital firms often benefit from network effects and access to vast datasets, which may create competitive advantages but may also raise concerns where such advantages are used for practices such as self-preferencing, anti-steering behaviour, or creating barriers to entry for new market participants.

She further discussed the growing role of artificial intelligence in economic activity, noting that the increasing adoption of AI across sectors has accelerated innovation and efficiency. At the same time, she cautioned that AI systems capable of processing large volumes of data may also facilitate practices such as algorithmic collusion or targeted price discrimination, thereby raising new regulatory challenges for competition authorities.

Referring to the Competition Commission of India’s recent market study on competition in AI, she highlighted that while AI adoption can create efficiency gains and expand opportunities for smaller firms to reach markets, the opacity of algorithmic systems and the concentration of data may pose risks that require careful regulatory attention and responsible governance.

The workshop featured Technical Session I on “Cartels and Leniency” delivered by Shri Anil Agrawal, Member, Competition Commission of India, who discussed the nature and impact of cartels on markets and consumer welfare. He explained that cartels involve coordination among competing firms to restrict competition through practices such as price fixing, bid rigging, market allocation, and output restriction, which undermine market efficiency and harm consumers.

Shri Agrawal also elaborated on the leniency regime under the Competition Act, which encourages cartel participants to disclose anti-competitive conduct in exchange for reduced

penalties. Such programmes play an important role in detecting cartels, which are often secretive and difficult to uncover through traditional investigative methods.

Technical Session II on “Competition Compliance” was delivered by Shri Rajinder Kumar, Director (Economics), Competition Commission of India, who highlighted the importance of voluntary compliance with competition law within businesses. He emphasised that penalties alone cannot ensure fair markets and that enterprises must develop internal compliance mechanisms to prevent violations of competition law.

He further explained that Competition Compliance Programmes (CCPs) enable enterprises to establish internal frameworks that promote responsible business conduct, mitigate legal risks, and encourage adherence to competition law principles. Such programmes help create a culture of compliance and transparency within organisations and strengthen market credibility.

The sessions were followed by interactive discussions with students and faculty members, providing participants with an opportunity to engage directly with regulators and gain insights into the practical functioning of competition law enforcement in India.

Dr. Harsha Rajwanshi, Centre Head, GCTCL noted that the workshop was part of the Competition Commission of India’s continued commitment to competition advocacy and such workshops foster dialogue between academia and regulatory institutions in advancing scholarship and awareness in the field of competition law.

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