

## World Competition Day | 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Lecture Room-I ANNEXE, India International Centre (IIC), Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, India  
Theme 2018: "Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition"

### BACKGROUND

One of the important advocacy campaigns spearheaded by CUTS International since 2010 is the observance of the World Competition Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The aim of the campaign is to ensure that consumers from across the world realise the potential benefits from an effectively implemented competition regime, and also play their role in making competition regimes work worldwide. December 5<sup>th</sup> is the day when United Nations Conference on Restrictive Business Practices approved the UN Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices in 1980. Motivated by the interest and support of many competition agencies and other stakeholders to the cause, the International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition (INCSOC) announced the first World Competition Day (WCD) on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

### PURPOSE

Since then, celebrating WCD on 5<sup>th</sup> December has become one of the focussed advocacy campaigns spearheaded by CUTS International and CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC). The aim of the campaign is to ensure that consumers and other stakeholders from across the world realise the potential benefits from an effectively implemented competition regime, and also play their role in making competition regimes work worldwide.

Given the above, CUTS & CIRC propose to organise a seminar to celebrate WCD 2018, on the theme - [Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition](#).

### AGENDA

**18:00–18:45**      **Registration**

**18:45–19:00**      **Welcome Remarks**

**Dr. Arvind Mayaram, IAS(R)**, (Former Finance Secretary of India), Chairman, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC)

**19:00–20:30**      **Panel Discussion: “Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition”**

Digital Economy is a major driver of economic growth in the 21st century and is fuelled by the rapid emergence of digital innovations. Though digital markets are generally perceived to benefit consumers through more choices, lowered prices, increased transparency and improved product quality, they also present novel and complex competition concerns such as potential to disrupt established practices, pose entry barriers, exhibit market concentration etc. Being characterized by big data, platform-based business modes, multi-sided markets, network effects and tipping, user feedback loops, common institutional investments etc., it becomes pertinent to deliberate upon the contemporary competition law challenges faced by the innovation led digital economy.

These include identifying the role of competition policy/law and authorities in shaping the digital economy; ascertaining the suitability of the traditional competition law tools to deal with the digital economy and innovative disruption and most importantly advocating for optimal regulation, which adequately protects innovation, and simultaneously enhances competition and consumer welfare.



**Chair and Moderator: Arvind Mayaram**, Chairman, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition

**Panelists:**

- **Dhanendra Kumar**, Former Chairperson (2009-2011), Competition Commission of India
- **Geeta Gouri**, Former Competition Commission of India Member, Economics Division, (2009 – 2014)
- **Sanjeev Bikhchandani**, Executive Vice-Chairman, Infoedge (Naukri.com)
- **Mukund Kulashekar**, VP Business Development, UrbanClap

**20:30–22:00**

**Dinner**

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