

AXIOM5-CLE NATIONAL ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION

In Collaboration With

**CHANDHIOK & MAHAJAN
ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS**

Organised By:

**Centre for Law and
Economics**

**Chanakya National Law
University, Patna**



ABOUT CNLU

Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) was founded under the Bihar Act No. 24 of 2006 by the Government of Bihar and is listed under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the U.G.C. Act, 1956. The university was incepted with the noble aim of benefiting society by offering quality legal education and promoting legal awareness. It is recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and approved by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and is accredited by the NAAC. CNLU has earned a national reputation as a distinguished institution for legal education and research. The university is committed to fostering academic excellence, practical legal skills, and professional development through structured coursework and dynamic student committees.

ABOUT CLE

The Centre for Law and Economics (CLE) is a centre for research and training in the discipline of law & economics (also referred to as the economic analysis of law). The Centre seeks to explain the relevance, uses, and application of the interdisciplinary approach of law and economics among the students and academicians in dealing with the contemporary socio-economic-legal issues in a more logical and scientific way. CLE aims to increase awareness about the interface between law and economics, useful for policy formulation for the academic community, government, corporations, and society. The Centre further strives to provide a forum where leading practitioners, academicians, scholars, and students can discuss and exchange views on contemporary issues of law and economic policy.

ABOUT AXIOM5

Founded in 2022, Axiom5 Law Chambers LLP is a leading boutique practice devoted entirely to competition law and policy in India, one of the country's only dedicated antitrust boutiques. Its name, drawn from Euclid's fifth axiom, captures a conviction this competition shares: that antitrust questions must be examined as part of a broader regulatory paradigm that includes issues of governance, market dynamics and economic policy. The firm's work spans litigation and enforcement, complex merger control, counselling and compliance, and competition policy and advocacy. Its lawyers have contributed to shaping Indian competition law from its inception, and are recognised for their strategic, solution-oriented approach to antitrust. Axiom5 is also a prolific voice in competition law commentary, writing regularly on the very questions this edition engages, from merger control to the shape of digital-market regulation. We are proud to have Axiom5 associated with the first edition of CLE's National Article Writing Competition as Title Partner and Assessment & Internship Partner, with a theme that sits squarely at the law-and-economics interface the firm was built around.

ABOUT CHANDHIOK & MAHAJAN

Chandhiok & Mahajan (C&M) is a leading full-service law firm in India with offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, advising some of the largest domestic and multinational corporations, financial institutions, and government organisations across a wide range of practice areas. The firm's Competition and Antitrust practice is an established market leader in India, having represented clients in some of the most high-profile and groundbreaking proceedings before the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), various High Courts, and the Supreme Court of India. The practice advises across the full spectrum of competition law, including merger control, abuse of dominance and vertical restraints, cartel investigations and leniency, and advisory, compliance and policy matters, with clients spanning sectors such as technology and digital markets, automotive, pharmaceuticals, private equity, steel, and financial services. C&M is consistently recognised across multiple leading legal publications and directories as a top-tier competition law practice in India, including by Chambers and Partners, Global Competition Review, Asian Legal Business, The Legal 500, Asialaw, and Benchmark Litigation, and has been awarded Competition Law Firm of the Year by BW Businessworld and Antitrust & Competition Law Firm of the Year by Asian Legal Business. As Internship Partner for the 1st CLE National Article Writing Competition, C&M brings both its distinction in the field and a tangible opportunity for the winning participant to engage with competition practice first-hand. We are delighted to be associated with an event whose concerns, from abuse of dominance to the frontiers of digital markets, mirror our own.

ABOUT AXIOM5-CLE NATIONAL ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION

Building on the essay-writing competition series, the Centre is introducing the 1st National Article Writing Competition in 2026, centred on the economics pertaining to antitrust & competition laws. Of all fields of legal practice, competition law is perhaps the one that cannot be argued at all without economics. A dominance case turns on how a market is defined and how substitutable two products really are, a merger review turns on whether a combination will actually raise prices, and a cartel case turns on inferring coordination from data that looks, on its face, like ordinary business behaviour. The legal test and the economic question are, in most instances, the same question asked twice. This makes competition law a natural extension of CLE's own founding discipline, and a fitting subject for an article writing competition run by a centre built around the law-economics interface. The area is also, at present, undergoing more structural change than almost any other field of Indian economic law. The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 brought in settlements and commitments, a deal value threshold for mergers, and penalties based on global turnover. The Draft Digital Competition Bill, India's answer to the EU's Digital Markets Act, has been paused for reconsideration rather than enacted, leaving the shape of any ex-ante regime an open question.

This year, the Competition will be accompanied by a virtual Panel Discussion built around the same theme, bringing together practitioners and academics to engage with the issues raised across the submitted articles.

THEMES

The competition is organised around four major themes, set within the broader inquiry of “Competition Law in a Changing Market Order.” A single question runs through all of them: *how far should competition law act in advance of harm, and how far should it wait and correct after the fact?*

Participants may write on any sub-theme listed below, or on a closely related question that fits within one of the four themes.

Theme 1: Regulating Digital Markets and Platform Power

How competition law grapples with large digital platforms, whether through the existing ex-post regime or a proposed ex-ante one, and how deals in the digital economy are reviewed.

- *Ex-ante versus ex-post regulation and the future of the Draft Digital Competition Bill*
- *Data as a parameter of competition*
- *Platform conduct*
- *Merger control in the digital economy*

Theme 2: Abuse of Dominance and the Shift to Effects-Based Analysis

When a dominant firm’s conduct crosses into abuse, and the move from form-based presumptions to proof of economic effect.

- *From form to effects*
- *Exploitative versus exclusionary abuse*
- *Rebates, discounts, and vertical restraints*
- *Defining dominance in digital and multi-sided markets*

THEMES

Theme 3: AI, Algorithms, and Antitrust

How competition law responds to pricing algorithms and machine-driven coordination.

- *Algorithmic collusion and the “agreement” problem*
- *Hub-and-spoke arrangements*
- *Information exchange and data pooling*
- *Designing enforcement*

Theme 4: Cartels and Collusion Beyond Product Markets

Collusion in markets for labour and in public procurement.

- *Labour-market cartels*
- *Employment restraints*
- *Bid-rigging in public procurement*
- *Detection and deterrence*

NOTE: THESE FOUR THEMES AND THEIR SUB-THEMES ARE INDICATIVE RATHER THAN EXHAUSTIVE. AN ARTICLE THAT ENGAGES SERIOUSLY WITH ONE OF THE FOUR THEMES WILL BE CONSIDERED EVEN IF IT DOES NOT MAP NEATLY ONTO A SPECIFIC SUB-HEADING.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Alongside the article writing competition, the Centre will host a virtual Panel Discussion built around the same theme, bringing together practitioners to discuss the issues raised across the four themes. The panel is currently being curated, and the details below will be updated and circulated as speakers are confirmed.

Mode: Virtual

Theme: “Competition Law in a Changing Market Order”

**Panelists: Mr. Avinash Amarnath (Partner, Chandhiok & Mahajan),
Mr. Pranjal Prateek (Partner, Khaitan & Co.),
Ms. Shruti Aji Murali (Knowledge Management Counsel, Axiom5)
[4th Panelist To be Declared]**

Moderator: Ms. Anicham Tamilmani (Senior Associate, Axiom5)

Date & Time: 10th January 2027, 2:00 pm

Participation: Open to all

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- a. The article must be the original, unpublished work of the author(s) and must not be under simultaneous consideration for publication, presentation, or submission at any other competition, journal, or platform.
- b. The article must be analytical and argumentative in nature. Purely descriptive submissions that summarise the law without engaging critically with it will be marked down accordingly.
- c. The language of the article shall be English.
- d. Word limit: 3,000 words, excluding footnotes, abstract and references. Submissions exceeding this limit by more than 10% will not be considered for evaluation.
- e. The body of the manuscript must be in Garamond, font size 12, justified, with 1.5-line spacing and a one-inch margin on all sides. Headings must be in font size 14 and bold.
- f. Footnotes must be in Garamond, font size 10, with single line spacing, and must conform to *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (20th ed.).
- g. Plagiarism: A similarity of not more than 10% will be accepted. Submissions exceeding this threshold will be rejected without further evaluation, and the decision of the Centre on this count shall be final.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- h. AI-generated content: The use of AI tools to draft, substantively edit, or generate any part of the article is strictly prohibited, and submissions will be screened for AI-generated content.
- i. The manuscript must not name the author(s), their institution, or contain any other identifying detail, whether in the visible text or in the file's properties and metadata. Entries will be reviewed anonymously and evaluated only by an allotted submission code.
- j. Each manuscript must contain an abstract of 250 words and a maximum of five keywords.
- k. Submissions found to contain offensive, defamatory, or derogatory content, or content that misrepresents facts or law, will be rejected at the sole discretion of the Centre.
- l. The Centre and the Organising Committee reserve the right to accept or reject any submission, and their decision on all matters relating to evaluation shall be final and binding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The Competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in a recognised law university, college, or institution in India.
- Co-authorship is permitted, with a maximum of two authors per entry.
- Cross-institutional teams are permitted.
- Each participant may be part of only one submission.
- There is no cap on the number of entries from any single college or university.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

CATEGORY	FEE
Single Authorship	INR 600/-
Co-Authorship (Two Authors)	INR 1,000/-

Note: The registration fee is non-refundable under all circumstances. No request for a refund will be entertained by the Organising Committee once payment has been made.

TIMELINE



PRIZES

1

INR 20,000/-
+
INTERNSHIP

2

INR 15,000/-
+
INTERNSHIP

3

INR 10,000/-
+
INTERNSHIP

*THE TOP TEN ENTRIES OVERALL WILL RECEIVE
A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, AND ALL
PARTICIPANTS WHO MAKE A VALID SUBMISSION
WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF
PARTICIPATION, ISSUED DIGITALLY.*

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

a. Registration is to be completed only through the Google Form circulated by the Centre, the link to which is provided in this brochure.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/zSnmPWDfXB68TuLTA>

b. Upon successful registration, participants will receive an official confirmation and further instructions for submission by e-mail from the Centre's official ID, cle@cnlu.ac.in.

c. Submissions made through any channel other than the designated Google Form, including e-mail, will not be considered.

d. Payment of the registration fee must be made through the account details below, and the payment receipt or transaction ID must be attached at the time of submitting the article.

ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT HOLDER NAME: CHANAKYA NATIONAL LAW
UNIVERSITY

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 40831092400

IFSC CODE: SBIN0015996

BANK NAME: STATE BANK OF INDIA

BRANCH: CNLU Branch, Mithapur, Patna

BRANCH CODE: 15996

TYPE: SAVINGS

MICR CODE: 800002539

VPA: CNLU40831092400@sbi

QR CODE FOR PAYMENT



CONTACT INFORMATION

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