



CIRC National Essay Writing Contest 2015 on Competition Policy & Law and Economic Regulation in India

About CIRC:

CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) was established in 2008 by CUTS International (www.cuts-international.org). With the mission to *be a Centre of Excellence on Regulatory and Competition Issues*, CIRC primarily focuses on economic regulation in infrastructure sectors, and competition policy and law with an objective of reaching out to the target audience in India and other developing countries in Asia and Africa. CIRC offers practical focus on educational and training programmes on economic regulation, and competition policy and law. The Institute aims to facilitate research to enhance understanding and explore inter-disciplinary linkages among the identified subjects. CIRC is striving hard in its endeavour to generate and disseminate knowledge on its thrust areas. Further, since its inception CIRC has taken varied initiatives to impart knowledge and train various stakeholders on these areas with aim to build capacity of these stakeholders, thus contributing to the economy in this knowledge intensive era. For further details on our initiatives, please visit our website: www.circ.in

Backdrop:

Since the last decade of 20th century, there is a global surge in adoption of competition policy and economic regulation in developing economies. It is believed that effective competition and independent regulation together contribute to economic growth and welfare, while creating an atmosphere that favours change, innovation and improvement.

While an effective competition policy allows entry of non-state players into traditional state-dominated arenas and thus promotes economic democracy, economic regulation by specialised independent agencies seeks to balance between various interests and stated objectives through rational decision making regarding access, allocation, licensing and pricing. Moreover, independent regulation is expected to create an enabling environment to facilitate healthy competition. That way both competition and regulation are complementary to each other.

Indian economy is no different to these reforms. Being a vivid follower of global trends, India has adopted both the reform measures to boost its economy. In 2002, India enacted the Competition Act and has established an independent agency, i.e. the Competition Commission of India (CCI), in 2009 to execute the provisions under the Act. Simultaneously, beginning in mid-1990s, the country has been establishing independent sectoral regulators for key infrastructure sectors. While regulatory agencies for electricity and telecom sectors have been established since decade ago, the nation is contemplating regulatory agencies for coal, transport, oil & gas, etc.

Considering the technocratic nature of these reforms and their origin in the developed world, there is a huge gap of knowledge and awareness. It necessitates enhancing knowledge and strengthening capacity of various stakeholders including policy makers, private sector players, civil society representatives, consumers and students.

The Initiative:

Since its inception, CIRC has been making modest attempt to fill the knowledge and awareness gap through its various capacity building initiatives. The proposed initiative aims to sensitise the students on competition policy & law and economic regulation in India. By engaging students in an essay writing contest and thus raising their inquisitiveness, CIRC seeks to contribute in building future professional in these significant domains. Continuing our partnership with SILF, we propose second essay competition for students.

To promote creativity, the contest suggests following broad themes for essays rather than a specific topic. The essays shall have a policy focus, discuss empirical situations and focus on Indian context.

Competition Policy and Law	Economic Regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five years of Competition Law regime in India• Competitive Neutrality and the Competition Law• Need for a National Competition Policy in India• Devising effective strategies for combating Cartel behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerging Trends in Economic Regulation (<i>can be sector specific, e.g. Electricity, Telecom, Water, Transport, etc. or focused on any specific aspect or regulatory tool</i>)• Public Private Partnership for Infrastructure Development• Land & Environmental Regulation• Interface between sectoral regulators and other agencies

Eligibility:

- The contest is open to post-graduate students from any discipline of social science.
- The participants must hold an undergraduate degree
- Students currently enrolled in a recognised university
- Students who are undergoing five year integrated LLB degree and have successfully completed three years are also eligible to participate.
- Joint submission is allowed. But all the participants must meet the above eligibility criteria.
- Each participant can submit only one entry.

Format:

The essays submitted by the participants must be in 'English' language only. The essay must be typed in Microsoft Word with Times New Roman, Font size 12, 1.5 linear spacing, on A4 size paper with 2.56 CM margin on each side. The essays must be accompanied with a small abstract of not more than 300 words. Maximum size of the essay is limited to 4,000 words excluding footnotes. Citations/references should be provided in the footnotes and all footnotes shall be in OSCOLA Format: www.law.ox.ac.uk/published/OSCOLA_4th_edn_Hart_2012QuickReferenceGuide.pdf

Submission Procedure:

Each submission must include two cover pages. The first should include the paper's title and the participant's name, school/university, year of study, mail and email address, and phone number. The second page should include only the title of the essay and abstract.

Participants must email an electronic copy of their submission in Word format to essay2015@circ.in. Entries must be received by 31st January, 2015.

The participants submitting an entry in this essay contest need to affirm that the entry is his/her own work. Plagiarism can lead to outright rejection of submission and legal action.

Evaluation:

All the entries will be evaluated anonymously by fellows and faculties of the CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) and some eminent external experts. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Originality and clarity of the content
- Title and structure of the essay
- Quality of the analysis and research
- Grammar, syntax and form

Notification of Winners & Prizes:

The winners of the essay writing competition shall be intimated through their contact details submitted by them as well as published on the CIRC Website. Selected essay writers will be presented with a commendation certificate and cash prize, in a specially organised event. The selected essays shall be published by CIRC in an appropriate format.

There are total five prizes, as described below.

- First Prize (01 nos): Commendation certificate and a cash prize of Rs 20,000
- Second Prize (02 nos): Commendation certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10,000 (each)
- Third Prize (02 nos): Commendation certificate and a cash prize of Rs 5,000 (each)

Terms and Conditions:

All the participants interested to submit their essay, accept all the terms and conditions mentioned in entirety and shall abide by the same throughout the essay competition. CIRC will hold the copyright of the awarded essays and may reproduce them in any appropriate format, with due credit to the authors.

For any further query, please contact at essay2015@circ.in or +91 11 26463021/22/23.

Partners:

The essay competition will be collaborative effort of various partners, coordinated by CIRC. List of potential partners and their responsibilities and roles are provided below. All the partners will be duly acknowledged in all publicity related to the event and they will publicise the initiative through their websites and other relevant portals.

1. Organiser: CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC)

CIRC will be the organiser. The key responsibilities include:

- Coordination with partners, participants and the jury;
- Timely announcement, collection of entries and fair evaluation;
- Organisation of the prize distribution event.

2. Principal Partner (Sponsorer): Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)

The key responsibilities of the sponsoring partner include:

- Sponsor a mutually agreed (major) portion of the cost of the competition;
- Participation in evaluation of the entries;
- Signing certificates jointly with CIRC;
- Active participation in the prize distribution event.

3. Institutional Partner(s): Amity Law School

Responsibilities of event partner(s) include:

- Contribution to management of prize distribution event;
- Offer the venue for the event;
- Participation in evaluation of the entries;
- Active participation in the prize distribution event.

4. Publicity Partner(s): Lex Witness

Responsibilities of publicity partner(s) include:

- Publicity of the essay competition and the prize distribution event;
- Participation in the prize distribution event.