

B-Ready Case Studies
Topic: Market Competition (Competition)
Competition Commission of India

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, established under the **Competition Act, 2002**, is a statutory body tasked with enforcing competition law in India. The primary responsibility of the CCI is to prevent practices that have an adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain fair competition, protect consumer interests, and ensure the freedom of trade in Indian markets.

The provisions of the Competition Act, 2002 are applicable upon ‘enterprises’ which means a person or a department of the Government including units, divisions, subsidiaries, who or which is or has been engaged in any economic activity, excl. sovereign functions of the government.

CCI has taken several measures for lessening/ moderating compliances and for facilitating ease of doing business. The Competition Amendment Act 2023 (Amendment Act) introduced significant changes aimed at balancing regulatory oversight with promoting ease of business, such as:

M&A Regulation

- **Green Channel Approval:** Automatic approval for qualifying mergers and acquisitions on the day of filing—first of its kind globally—ensuring speed, transparency, and reduced costs.
- **Faster Review Timelines:** Overall review period cut to 150 days (from 210), with a 30-day limit for prima facie opinion; failure to meet this results in deemed approval.
- **Open Market Acquisitions:** Exemption from mandatory pre-transaction notification for open offers or stock exchange purchases.
- **Exemptions & De Minimis Thresholds:** Certain transactions and small-value deals exempted from CCI notification.
- **New Combination Regulations (Sept 2024):** Following Competition Amendment Act changes, CCI replaced old regulations with a new framework to ensure regulatory certainty, trust-based environment, and ease of doing business.

Anti-trust Matters

- **Settlement & Commitment (Secs. 48A, 48B):** Introduced for abuse of dominance (Sec. 4) and certain anti-competitive agreements (Sec. 3(4)). Commitments to be filed after investigation begins, before DG’s report. Settlements to be filed after DG’s report, before CCI’s final order.
- **Leniency Plus (Sec. 46(4)):** Allows additional penalty reduction for an existing leniency applicant who discloses another cartel. Encourages more cartel disclosures during investigations.
- **Relaxed Filing Rules:** Under CCI (General) Regulations, 2024, any authorized employee (not just MD/Director or partner) can authenticate pleadings for companies or firms.

Pursuant to the **Competition Amendment Act, 2023**, CCI also has notified the following regulations:

Regulation / Guideline	Date
CCI (Lesser Penalty) Regulations, 2024	20.02.2024
CCI (Commitment) Regulations, 2024	06.03.2024
CCI (Settlement) Regulations, 2024	06.03.2024
CCI (Determination of Turnover or Income) Regulations, 2024	06.03.2024
CCI Guidelines for Quantum of Monetary Penalty, 2024	06.03.2024
CCI (Combination) Regulations, 2024	09.09.2024
CCI (General) Regulations, 2024	17.09.2024
CCI (Recovery of Monetary Penalty) Regulations, 2025	27.02.2025