



# CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation

## Publications Digest • 2023

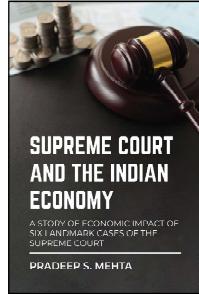
*CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders its major publications in 2023*



## REPORTS

### Supreme Court and the Indian Economy A Story of Economic Impact of Six Landmark Cases of the Supreme Court

This Book innovatively analyses the impact of key decisions made by the Indian Supreme Court on economic matters. It assesses the direct effects of these rulings on relevant sectors and suggests that the Courts could have achieved comparable outcomes with less cost to both society and the economy.



Highlighting a positive stance, the book acknowledges the Supreme Court's forward-looking interpretation of the law. It initiates crucial research, prompting a reevaluation of the judiciary's role and legitimacy within society.

This book serves as a valuable resource for lawyers and academics who have an interest in the field of adjudication on economic matters.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/book-supreme-court-and-the-indian-economy.pdf>

### Competition and Regulation in India Regulatory Deficit in Access to Equitable Healthcare

Every two years, CUTS publishes a report on the Competition and Regulation situation in the country since 2007. One chapter in it is on the perception of people on the state of competition and regulation in the country.

While it has been reiterated several times that more investments in modernising the health infrastructure and improvements in health systems are needed, the role of regulations and competition in enhancing access to affordable healthcare has not been much talked about. This edition of the ICRR endeavours to fill this gap.

In its 22 chapters, the publication covers some contemporary regulatory issues from a wide range of segments in the healthcare sector, which includes healthcare services (including digital health), pharmaceuticals, medical devices, pathological labs, medical education, medical insurance and also issues related with road safety and food & nutrition safety.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/report-icrr2023.pdf>

### Examining Wi-Fi 6E for India An International Perspective

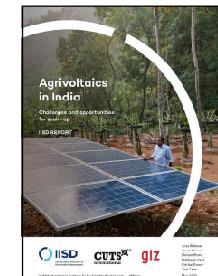
Wi-Fi provides high-speed connectivity across different use cases and is essential for the new universal and meaningful connectivity standard. While in India, Wi-Fi primarily operates on the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, several countries have also started making the 6 GHz band available for license-exempt use in their jurisdictions paving the way for Wi-Fi 6E.

This Report highlights some of the factors these countries consider while making the 6 GHz band available and presents the suitability of license-exempt use of 6 GHz in the Indian context.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/research-report-examining-wi-fi-6e-for-india.pdf>

### Agrivoltaics in India Challenges and Opportunities for Scale-up

This Guidebook provides recommendations to state policymakers on how they can implement solar irrigation models effectively and sustainably by setting up small-scale solar power plants at the substation level to power rural feeders.



Solarising agricultural feeders can improve the quality, timing, duration, and predictability of power supply for farmers. It can also reduce power purchase costs for states and distribution companies, help create green jobs, and improve power grid stability in the long term.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/agrivoltaics-in-india.pdf>

## **Understanding Consumer Perspectives on the 6 GHz Band: Key Findings and Recommendations for the Way Forward**

Wi-Fi has emerged as the preferred mode of connectivity, even in Tier-III and rural areas. However, there is room for improvement in Wi-Fi services' quality of experience through competition, standards, and consumer grievance resolution. To seize the future of Wi-Fi, a supportive ecosystem involving compatible devices and early adoption are vital. Enhancing awareness and security for public Wi-Fi and for the PM-Wani scheme is also important.

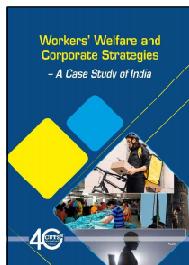
CUTS findings from the nationwide in-depth interaction-based study from the project 'Understanding Consumer Perspectives on the 6 GHz Band' aimed to comprehend consumer perspectives, challenges and concerns regarding the current state of internet connectivity as well as their expectations for future technologies.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/findings-recommendations-understanding-consumer-perspectives-on-6ghz-band.pdf>



## **Workers Welfare and Corporate Strategies: A Case Study of India**

India is at a critical juncture in its development path, which is expected to take the country from low to upper middle-income bracket over the next couple of decades. While we are experiencing favourable demography, will it lead to good and better jobs, thus keeping income inequality at a manageable level?



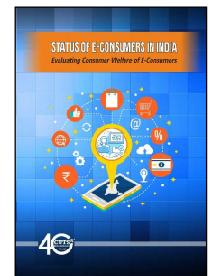
As per the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the share of informal employment in India was 88.1 percent in 2019. From this data, one may infer that India's problem is the absence of institutions required for improving working conditions and that is largely reflected in low wages.

Against this background, CUTS International conducted a study that aims to generate new knowledge regarding conditions necessary for institutionalising good and better jobs in India.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/case-study-workers-welfare-and-corporate-strategies.pdf>

## **Status of E-Consumers in India: Evaluating Consumer Welfare of E-Consumers**

The study assesses the welfare quotient of online consumers considering five parameters or factors, namely cost-effectiveness, convenience, consumer confidence, grievance redressal and competition. This study involved extensive consumer surveys carried out in both 2021 and 2022, each constituting perception of 2,000 respondents from all over India.



While the year-on-year changes might appear subtle, it is of crucial importance to sustain ongoing efforts to cultivate a nuanced understanding of consumer welfare. It involves the continual monitoring of trends across all identified parameters over time.

This includes the development of a robust consumer welfare index for India, which serves as a comprehensive assessment tool in order to safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, with a particular focus on consumers.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/seci-evaluating-consumer-welfare-of-e-consumers-full.pdf>

## DISCUSSION PAPERS

### Analysing the effect of regulation of Over-the-Top (OTT) Services on consumer interest and comparing international perspectives

While the rise of OTT services has revolutionised various aspects of a consumer's life, a debate has also been ongoing on this regulation of OTTs and a mandatory revenue-sharing framework. Herein, a crucial missing element is the voice of the consumers and the implications over the consumer interest.

This Discussion Paper highlights several issues from a consumer perspective that may arise with the proposed regulatory framework for OTT services. Further, it analyses similar regulatory frameworks and their implications when they were considered and/or implemented in other jurisdictions.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/dp-analysing-effect-of-regulation-of-over-the-top-ott-services.pdf>

### Snapshot of Findings Plugging in the Consumer in the 6 GHz Discussion

CUTS International carried out a comprehensive nationwide interaction-based study for the project "Understanding Consumer Perspectives on the 6 GHz Band." The primary goal was to gain insights into consumer perspectives, challenges, and concerns related to the present state of internet connectivity and their anticipations for upcoming Wi-Fi technologies.

This Snapshot of Findings highlights consumer viewpoints on Wi-Fi and its accessibility within the wireless spectrum band, the 6 GHz band, which is not currently available for licence-exempt use in India.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/snapshot-of-findings-understanding-consumer-perspectives-on-6ghz-band.pdf>



## BRIEFS

### Competition Issues in the Cloud Service Sector

Cloud services, which facilitate cloud computing services, essentially refer to a model of providing remote access to a multitude of computing resources on demand to customers. A large part of the global economy now relies on cloud computing for a wide range of services. Cloud spending worldwide is expected to grow 18.5 percent in 2023 to US\$576.5bn.<sup>1</sup>



This Briefing Paper provides an overview of the nature of the cloud services industry, various models of cloud computing and the state of play of competition in the industry. It also examines the possible competition law concerns that could arise and provides an update on the regulatory investigations presently being conducted by competition authorities in the cloud services industry.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/bp-competition-issues-in-cloud-service-sector.pdf>

### Interaction between Competition and Industrial Policies

Industrial policy has gained renewed attention worldwide, with many nations adopting protectionist measures. It is imperative to challenge the conventional belief that industrial policy and competition policy are at odds. Governments should instead strive for the harmonious coexistence of these policies to promote a strong global economy.



This is essential not only for a country's economic growth but also for the well-being of consumers in a globalised world. It is important to recognise that the effectiveness of industrial policies hinges on the level of competition in the market. A balanced degree of competition is necessary for a successful industrial policy.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/bp-interaction-between-competition-and-industrial-policies.pdf>

## Innovative Finance for Climate and The Planet: Delivering on Commitments to Mother Nature

This Policy Brief sheds light on the prevailing divergence between the availability and requirements of finance to realise global targets on climate and biodiversity. It highlights the disproportionate impact of such crises on the most vulnerable regions/countries and the loss and damage suffered.

The Brief further talks about how Innovative Financial Instruments could be utilised to catalyse much-needed investment to bridge the existing gap in environmental finance. It proposes a set of recommendations for the consideration of the international community along with a global architecture that can facilitate the effective channelisation and utilisation of finance towards the most vulnerable countries.

<https://cuts-international.org/PDF/policy-brief-innovative-finance-for-climate-and-the-planet.pdf>



## Mining for an Inclusive Future: Impact of Judicial Decisions on India's Mining Sector

This Briefing Paper discusses the challenges faced by the mining sector in India, which include problems in the allotment of mining leases and illegal mining. The judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court of India, has intervened to direct mining companies to set things right and started imposing penalties on them. However, the suspension of mining activities has adversely affected the livelihoods of workers and communities dependent on mining, which raises concerns about the sustainability and inclusivity of judicial decisions.

It argues that a balanced approach is necessary to manage the conflicts between various stakeholders and suggests that economic analysis and distributive justice be applied to judicial decisions. It also highlights the need for a more nuanced approach to judicial decision-making and recommends seeking expert assistance to incorporate diverse perspectives.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/bp-mining-for-an-inclusive-future-impact-of-judicial-decisions-on-indias-miningsector.pdf>

## NEWSLETTERS

### Spotlight

Spotlight provides a snap analysis on topical policy issues of general interest, with the objective of keeping the readers informed and igniting conversation. It covers a wide and crosscutting range of subjects including competition law and policy, economic regulation, data governance, future of jobs, energy, and urban mobility, among others.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/spotlight/>



### CUTS CCIER Activity Report

This quarterly report summarises major activities undertaken by the Centre during the period. It provides a quick overview of various operations of the Centre and corresponding outputs.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/ccier-activity-reports/>



### InnovTech@CUTS

This quarterly newsletter covers CUTS' work on the digital economy, technology policy and innovation including research reports, papers, comments, and events, among other things.

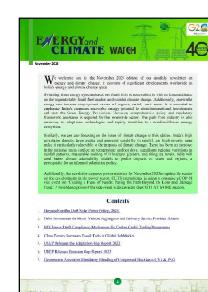
<https://cuts-ccier.org/innovtechcuts/>



### Energy and Climate Watch

This monthly newsletter consists of some significant development in India's energy and climate change field and worldwide. It also captures monthly power statistics to update the reader on the developments in the power sector.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/energy-and-climate-watch/>



## DOSSIERS

### Competition Distortions in India

This quarterly dossier looks at the interface of policy issues which have an impact on competition in India and which can be both negative and positive. The purpose is to flag issues to the layman as well as to the policymakers and regulators, rather than being judgmental.

[www.cuts-ccier.org/Competition\\_Distortions\\_India.htm](https://cuts-ccier.org/Competition_Distortions_India.htm)



### Future of Jobs in India

This quarterly dossier provides readers with important information and trends on the topic through carefully selected news reports, articles, op-eds, reports and other relevant content. The need for this dossier has risen in the wake of challenges in jobless growth and the imminent threat of increased automation and digitisation on job creation. Therefore, it is imperative for us to not only take stock of the situation but also act accordingly

<https://cuts-ccier.org/future-of-jobs-in-india-resources/>



## E-FORUMS

### Funcomp Forum

The forum serves as a platform to exchange and communicate news and views, focussing on Competition & Economic Regulation in India.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/towards-a-functional-national-competition-policy-for-india-funcomp/>

### CompetitionOnlineForum

The forum serves as a platform to exchange and communicate news and views on Competition & Economic Regulation at international level.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/competitiononlineforum/>

## WEBINARS

In 2023, CUTS International successfully organised a series of webinars that provided a dynamic, engaging and informative platform for discussions and deliberations by experts on topical and thought-provoking issues.

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