



THE DIALOGUE'S 4TH ANNUAL  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Competition, Innovation, and Growth

## Building India's Digital Economy

DISTINGUISHED PERSPECTIVES.  
CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS.



**22 OCTOBER 2026**  
THURSDAY



**12:00 PM (IST)**



**Inspire, Le Méridien**  
NEW DELHI

#### CONFERENCE PARTNERS

International  
Center for  
Law & Economics



SCOPE Global Exchange  
a Space for Conversation on Policy & Economics



**CoRE-AI**  
Coalition for Responsible Evolution of AI



**CCLE**  
Competition for Good

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

# A forum for critical conversations on competition, innovation and growth

The Dialogue's 4th Annual International Conference brings together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, academics and civil society for a day of in-depth discussions on the forces shaping competition and innovation in the digital economy.

## KEY THEMES

## 01 | Enabling MSME Growth in the Digital Economy

The panel will explore how digital platforms expand market access, improve productivity and enable MSMEs to scale, while examining challenges around visibility, data access, commercial terms and bargaining power. It will consider how competition policy can balance market fairness with the efficiencies offered by digital platforms.



## 02 | Building a Competitive and Innovative AI Ecosystem in India

The discussion will examine how access to compute, data, infrastructure, talent and capital can strengthen India's AI ecosystem. It will also explore open-source models, interoperability, market entry and the role of competition policy in supporting innovation and investment.



## 03 | Competition Policy in a Changing Global Economy

The panel will examine the intersection of competition policy, global trade, investment and economic security. It will explore how regulatory predictability, international approaches and market openness can support innovation, resilience and economic growth.



DISTINGUISHED ADDRESSES

# Leadership Perspectives for India's Digital Future

The conference will feature distinguished addresses from senior government leaders, offering insights on the policy priorities and institutional approaches needed to strengthen India's digital economy while fostering innovation, competitiveness and inclusive growth.

01 |



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Shri Manish Chadha**

Joint Secretary,  
Department of Commerce,  
Government of India

02 |



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Shri Mahendra Kumar**

Director,  
Ministry of Corporate Affairs,  
Government of India

03 |



CLOSING ADDRESS

**Shri T. Krishna Prasad,  
IPS (Retd.)**

Hon'ble Member of Parliament  
(Lok Sabha)

# In Conversation with Global and Indian Experts

01

## Enabling MSME Growth in the Digital Economy



**Kazim Rizvi**  
Founding Director  
The Dialogue



**Prof. Reiko Aoki**  
Former Commissioner  
Japan Fair Trade  
Commission (JFTC)



**Rahul Rai**  
Partner and Co-founder  
Axiom5



**Dr. Arpita Mukherjee**  
Professor  
Indian Council for Research  
on International Economic  
Relations (ICRIER)



**Debdatta Saha**  
Associate Dean  
Faculty of Economics  
South Asian University

02

## Building a Competitive and Innovative AI Ecosystem in India



**Sumit Jain**  
Founding Director  
Centre for Competition  
Law and Economics



**Rama Vedashree**  
Former Chief Executive Officer  
Data Security Council  
of India (DSCI)



**Prof. Sangeeta Bhardwaj**  
Professor  
(Information Management)  
MDI Gurgaon



**Elisa Ramundo**  
Founder and Director  
SCOPE Global Exchange



**Abir Roy**  
Co-founder and Practice Head  
Competition Law  
Sarvada Legal



**Shatakratu Sahu**  
Associate Director  
Technology  
US-India Strategic  
Partnership Forum

03

## Competition Policy in a Changing Global Economy



**Dr. Lazar Radic**  
Assistant Professor of Law,  
IE Law School and  
Senior Scholar for  
Competition Policy, ICLE



**Shanker A. Singham**  
President and Chairman  
of the Board  
Competere Group



**Dr. Nishant Chadha**  
Director - Policy and Research  
Indian School of Business  
Hyderabad



**Rahul Batra**  
Independent Consultant  
Observer Research  
Foundation



**Francesco Guarascio**  
First Secretary (Economic and  
Innovation Department),  
Embassy of Italy, New Delhi



**Col Ali Akhtar Jafri (Retd.)**  
Director Government Affairs,  
Dell Technologies

# Event Flow

12:00 – 12:30 PM

IST



## Registrations

Arrival and networking

12:30 – 1:30 PM

IST



## Lunch

Networking

1:30 – 1:40 PM

IST



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### Shri Manish Chadha

Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce,  
Government of India

1:40 – 1:50 PM

IST



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### Shri Mahendra Kumar

Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,  
Government of India

2:00 – 3:00 PM

IST

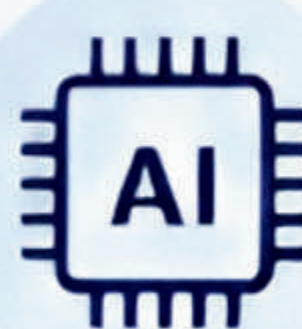


## Panel 1

Enabling MSME Growth in the Digital Economy

3:00 – 4:00 PM

IST



## Panel 2

Building a Competitive and Innovative AI Ecosystem in India

4:00 – 5:00 PM

IST



## Panel 3

Competition Policy in a Changing Global Economy

5:00 – 5:15 PM

IST



## Closing Address

### Shri T. Krishna Prasad, IPS (Retd.)

Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

5:15 – 5:30 PM

IST



## Vote of Thanks

5:30 PM onwards

IST



## High Tea

Networking

# Our Conference Partners

01



## Centre for Competition Law and Economics (CCLE)

The Centre for Competition Law and Economics (CCLE) is a leading research and advocacy institution based in New Delhi. CCLE works at the intersection of law, economics and public policy to promote competitive markets and evidence-based regulation. It undertakes research, policy engagement, capacity building and outreach on competition law, regulation and market policy, with a focus on contemporary challenges in the digital and global economy.

02

## International Center for Law & Economics International Center for Law & Economics (ICLE)

The International Center for Law & Economics (ICLE) is a global, non-profit organisation that conducts research, provides policy analysis and advances the application of law and economics across a wide range of policy areas. ICLE's work informs smarter regulation through economic analysis, centred on the principles of open markets, limited government and the rule of law. It engages with policymakers, academics and practitioners worldwide to promote sound, evidence-based policy.

03



SCOPE Global Exchange  
a Space for Conversation on Policy & Economics

## SCOPE Global Exchange

SCOPE Global Exchange is a global platform that brings together diverse perspectives to shape policies for a more open, inclusive and competitive economy. It facilitates dialogue among business leaders, policymakers, academics and other stakeholders through research, convenings and thought leadership. SCOPE seeks to foster collaboration and exchange across geographies to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the global economic landscape.

04



CoRE-AI<sup>TM</sup>  
Coalition for Responsible Evolution of AI

## Coalition for Responsible Evolution of AI (CoRE-AI)

The Coalition for Responsible Evolution of AI (CoRE-AI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative convened by The Dialogue to advance the responsible development, adoption and governance of artificial intelligence in India. CoRE-AI brings together industry, academia, civil society and other stakeholders to foster dialogue, develop practical policy inputs and support an innovation-friendly and trustworthy AI ecosystem.



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