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### Testimonial for Pradeep S. Mehta

अध्यक्ष  
प्रधानमंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद्  
विज्ञान भवन सौध 'ई' हाल  
मौलाना आज़ाद रोड  
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Over his long and distinguished career Pradeep S. Mehta, through his practical and scholarly work, has striven to highlight the importance of economic liberalisation coupled with safety nets such as protection of consumers and competition in the Indian context. He is responsible for pioneering an approach that maintains a correct and necessary balance between consumer interests and the need for competition as an incentive for producer participation, job creation and economic growth. Pradeep was the founder of Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) in 1984, which as a result of its bandwidth of engagement in several areas of public interest, has emerged as one of the most powerful think tanks and mobilising agent in India and arguably, the world, on the issues of liberalisation coupled with safety nets; he has been decisive in supporting and championing the cause of both consumer interests and business groups whenever that was in the best interests of the Indian economy and society. The head of a competition agency has to be fair to all groups of stakeholders that are affected by the agency's policy -- close enough to all of them to take their interests into account, yet distant enough to be able to weigh all considerations impartially. Through his work, Pradeep has demonstrated this quality amply and, therefore, I recommend him most without any reservation for the post of the Chairman, Competition Commission in India.

When Pradeep founded CUTS, 25 years ago, thinking on consumer and competition issues was still in its infancy; consumer activism was present but it lacked an analytical base. CUTS, through an emphasis on both scholarly work and advocacy measures, embarked on a mission to promote social justice and equality but not at the expense of economic growth and development. It is this vision of a dynamic egalitarian society which has driven Pradeep's work in the areas of several economic policy domains such as international trade, investment, development, competition and consumer protection.

He has combined his scholarly achievements with lasting contributions as a policy maker. Under his leadership, CUTS influenced the content and implementation of the new competition law and policy in India. Quite recently, he was a member of the Government of India's Advisory Committee on National Competition Policy set up to draft a Competition Policy Statement for India and also advised the Planning Commission as a member of a working group on National Competition Policy, which has since been captured as a recommendation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Policy Document.

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In the area of competition law and policy, Mehta has also been an Adviser and a Visiting Scholar to the University of Manchester and Loyola University, Chicago, where a wide spectrum of developed and developing country regimes are studied and policy responses emerge. Further, several intergovernmental organisations such as OECD, WTO, World Bank, UN ESCAP and UNCTAD have commissioned research to him, and he has spoken at their platforms on numerous occasions.

To conclude, I recommend Pradeep S. Mehta for appointment as Chairman, Competition Commission of India because through his work he has demonstrated a keen understanding of both legal and economic aspects of competition issues and an ability to undertake pioneering work on this subject. He has also demonstrated an unusual quality – the willingness as well as ability to balance the interests of diverse stakeholders while working towards his vision of a just and dynamic society.

C Rangarajan  
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