

SECTORS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE



KEY M&A DEVELOPMENTS

 CCI approves combination of Zee Entertainment and Culver Max Entertainment with modifications

OTHER KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Standing Committee on Finance provides recommendations on amendments under the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022
- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance presents Report on the 'Anti-Competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies'

INSIDE

KEY ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

- MakeMyTrip and OYO's practices found anti-competitive; CCI imposes penalty of INR 392.36 crores
- CCI finds abuse of dominance by Google in Smartphones OS and related markets; imposes penalty of INR 1337 crores
- CCI finds Google Play Store payment policies abusive; imposes penalty of INR 936 crores
- NCLAT upholds CCI order penalizing Beer Companies for cartelization; limits leniency applicant's right to appeal on merits

A QUICK SNAPSHOT

Enforcement Matters



Mergers & Acquisitions

Total combinations filed:

Form II filing: 0

Green Channel filings:

Combinations approved:

Form I: 5

Combinations pending:



ENFORCEMENT ACTION

#1 CCI imposes a penalty of INR 392.36 crores on MakeMyTrip, OYO; directs modification of agreements with hotels/chains; MakeMyTrip, OYO appeal before the NCLAT and approach the Delhi High Court

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**), through an order dated October 19, 2022, found MakeMyTrip Pvt. Ltd. (**MMT**) and Oravel Stays Private Ltd. (**OYO**) in contravention of Section 3(4) and Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002 (**Act**) and imposed a monetary penalty of INR 223.48 crore on MMT and INR 168.88 crore on OYO respectively. The key issues addressed by the CCI pertained to parity obligations (price/rate and room availability parity), deep-discounting practices, and denial of market access (through delisting of OYO's competitors from MMT).

The CCI's key findings were:



Offline and online markets are separate and even in the online segment, online travel agencies (**OTAs**) are separate, therefore, the relevant market was delineated as the 'market for online intermediation services for booking of hotels in India' and MMT was found to be dominant in the relevant market for the period 2017-2020.

Practices such as deep-discounting, exclusivity conditions, parity conditions, reinforce MMT's dominant position in the market.

The parity obligations imposed by MMT, along with the imposition of exclusivity conditions, precluding hotels from listing on other platforms, is a contravention of Section 4(2)(a)(i) (imposition of unfair or discriminatory conditions) and Section 4(2)(c) (denial of market access) of the Act.

Delisting of FabHotels and Treebo from the MMT platform, pursuant to the agreement between MMT and OYO resulted in a denial of market access to FabHotels and Treebo and refusal to deal in contravention of the provisions of the Act.

The CCI also directed MMT to, *inter alia*, modify its agreements to remove price/ room parity clauses, remove exclusivity obligations, and provide fair and non-discriminatory access to its platform.

MMT and OYO filed their respective appeals before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (**NCLAT**) challenging CCI's findings and the appeals were admitted by NCLAT, subject to a 10% deposit of the penalty amount imposed by the CCI.

MMT filed a writ petition before the Delhi High Court (**HC**) against the NCLAT order making admission of its appeal conditional upon the deposit of 10% of the penalty amount, while not passing any directions in respect of the interim relief against the payment of the penalty imposed. The Delhi HC observed that the 10% deposit was not merely for admission of the appeal by the NCLAT and granted interim protection against payment of the remaining 90% of the penalty amount to the CCI. The appeals of MMT and OYO are pending before the NCLAT.

The orders of the CCI, NCLAT, and the Delhi HC, can be accessed <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> (with case details as CompetitionAppeal (AT) No. 57 of 2022), and <u>here</u> (with case details as W. P. (C) No. 16963 of 2022), respectively.

#2 The CCI directs an investigation against IREL (India) for abuse of dominant position

The CCI, through an order dated October 18, 2022, passed under Section 26(1) of the Act, directed an investigation into allegations of abuse of dominant position against IREL (India) Limited (IREL). The information filed by Beach Mineral Producers Association (BMPA), alleged that IREL had abused its dominant position by engaging in excessive pricing, inadequate/restricted supply of Ilmenite, and discriminatory pricing amongst domestic and foreign consumers.

The CCI made the following *prima facie* observations:



IREL is an 'enterprise' as it is engaged in the commercial activity of sale of Ilmenite and is dominant in the 'relevant market' for 'mining and supply of beach sand ilmenite in India';

IREL refused supply and denied market access to BMPA's members in contravention of Section 4(2)(c) of the Act;

IREL's prices had increased substantially compared to its production costs and consumers were constrained to accept extraneous conditions in the standard quality sales contract of IREL; and

IREL imposed unfair/discriminatory conditions as well as pricing for domestic consumers in contravention of Sections 4(2)(a)(i) and 4(2)(a)(ii) of the Act.



#3 CCI exonerates 11 pulse traders from allegations of cartelization after investigation by the DG

The CCI, through an order dated October 13, 2022, closed a case against certain pulse traders for alleged cartelization leading to an abnormal increase in the price of pulses during 2015–2016.

The CCI initiated a *suo motu* case directing an investigation, and the Director General (**DG**) found that there was an abnormal increase in the price of certain pulses and certain pulse traders were found to be sharing price sensitive information, leading to price hike. The DG also noted that closing stocks of some pulse traders were higher than that of previous years possibly due to hoarding. The DG found a contravention of the Act by 7 pulse traders.

The CCI disagreed with the DG's findings and noted the following:



The DG had failed to show existence of an 'agreement' amongst the pulse traders and could not show price parallelism among the pulse traders;

The DG failed to examine the role of global prices in determining domestic prices, the nuances of the industry, and prevalent market dynamics; and

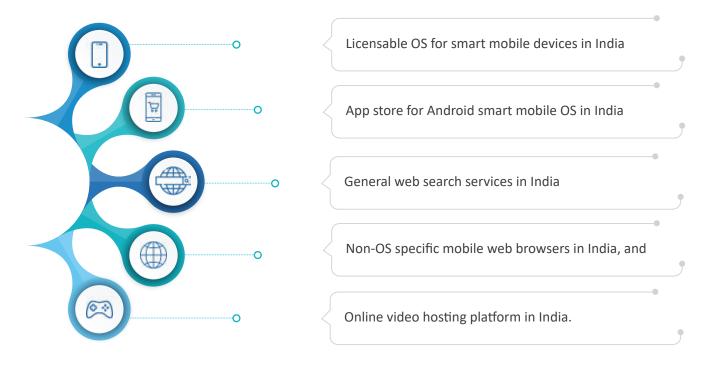
The multifaceted relationship between the pulse traders sufficiently rebutted the DG's findings.



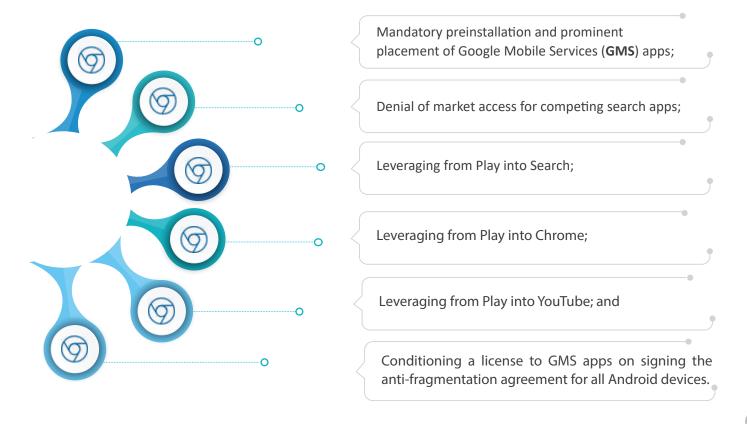
#4 CCI imposes penalty and passes remedies on Google for abusing its dominant position

The CCI, through an order dated October 20, 2022, found business practices of Google LLC and Google India Private Limited (collectively, **Google**) concerning licensing of its apps to original equipment manufacturers (**OEMs**) and the operation of Android operating system (**OS**) for smartphones/ tablets to be an abuse of dominant position by Google in contravention of Section 4 of the Act.

The CCI found Google to be dominant in five defined markets:

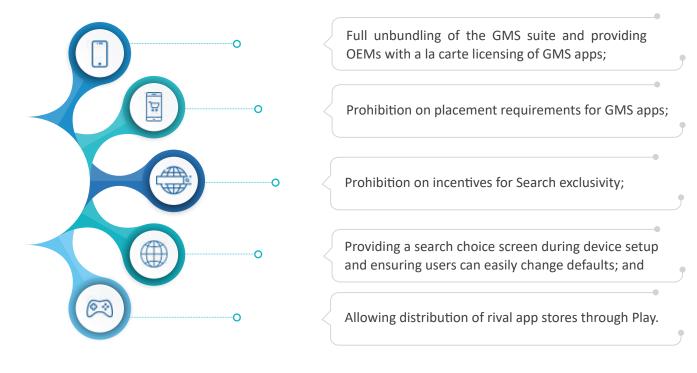


CCI noted that Google had engaged in the following conduct in contravention of the Act:



The CCI provisionally ordered Google to pay a fine of INR ~1337 crore amounting to 10% of Google's entire turnover in India, deviating from the principle of relevant turnover as laid down by the Supreme Court (SC) in the Excel Crop Care judgement.

The key remedies directed by the CCI are:



The order of the CCI can be found *here*.



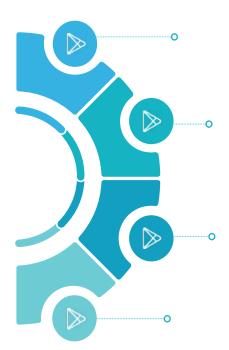
#5 CCI penalizes Google for its anti-competitive Play Store payment policies

The CCI, through an order dated October 25, 2022, the CCI found Alphabet Inc., Google LLC, Google Ireland Limited., Google India Private Limited, and Google India Digital Services Private Limited (collectively, **Google**) to be abusing its dominant position. The CCI found the Google Play Store payment policies to be in contravention of Section 4 of the Act.

The CCI found Google dominant in the relevant markets for:

- (i) licensable operating systems for smart mobile devices in India; and
- (ii) app store for Android smart mobile OS in India.

The CCI, inter alia, noted that:



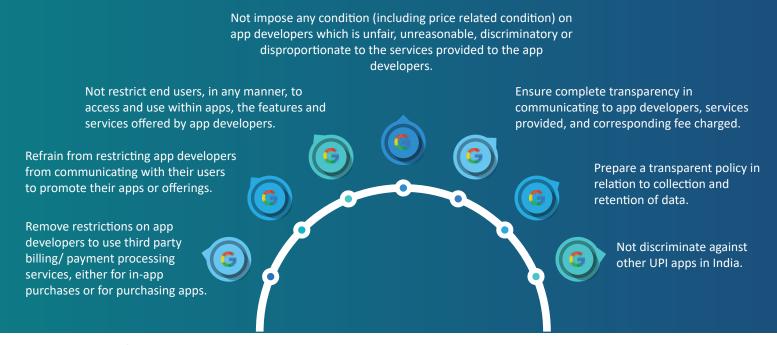
Exclusion of other UPI apps/mobile wallets as effective payment options on the Google Play Store in favour of Google Pay is discriminatory and resulted in denial of market access to competing UPI apps.

Google mandated the use of Google Play's Billing System (GBPS) for in–app purchases and failure to use GBPS by the app developers for in-app purchases on their apps resulted in their delisting from the Google Play Store, thereby, amounting to a denial of market access to app developers.

Google's anti-steering provisions forbade app developers from redirecting users to websites for payment outside the app environment.

The 15-30% service fee charged by Google, for paid apps and in–app purchases, was unfair and discriminatory.

Based on these findings, the CCI imposed a penalty of INR 936 crores on Google and passed a cease-and-desist order. The CCI directed Google to:



#6 CCI finds axle-bearings manufacturers guilty of cartelization; passes a cease and desist order

The CCI, through an order dated October 11, 2022, found certain axle-bearings manufacturers to have cartelized in contravention of Section 3 of the Act, in relation to allegations of bid-rigging by the manufacturers.

During the DG's investigation, two manufacturers also filed lesser penalty applications with the CCI. Relying on evidence of telephonic conversations amongst the manufacturers, the DG found the manufacturers to have cartelized and rigged tenders floated for the procurement of axle bearings by Eastern Railway from 2012 to 2019. The CCI held that these manufacturers had indulged in anticompetitive conduct and contravened Sections 3(3)(a) and 3(3)(d) of the Act. The CCI directed the manufacturers to cease and desist from the anti-competitive behaviour but did not impose any monetary penalty as the manufacturers were micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), who had filed leniency applications and cooperated during the DG's investigation.



#7 The CCI finds 115 paper manufacturers and their associations engaging in anticompetitive conduct; passes a cease and desist order

The CCI, through an order dated October 12, 2022, found 115 kraft paper mills to have indulged in collectively fixing and raising prices of kraft paper and limiting the supply of kraft paper to corrugated box manufacturers. The CCI directed the paper mills and their associations to cease and desist from the anti-competitive practices.

The CCI also noted that during 2009 to 2018, the associations and their members had exchanged information through circulars, messages, meetings etc. aimed at increasing the prices of kraft paper. The CCI also noted that during 2017 and 2018, the paper mills withheld supplies of kraft paper, on the directions from the respective associations.

Even though CCI found a contravention, it refrained from imposing any monetary penalty, as several mills were MSMEs, first time offenders under the Act, and had approached the CCI by filing lesser penalty applications. The CCI also noted that operations of many of these mills were severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



#8 NCLAT holds that a leniency applicant cannot appeal the CCI's order on merits

On December 23, 2022, NCLAT dismissed appeals by United Breweries Limited (**UBL**), four officers of UBL, and All India Brewers Association (**AIBA**) in addition to certain other individuals from other beer companies (**Appellants**). The order challenged by the Appellants before the NCLAT had found UBL, Carlsberg India Pvt. Limited, and SAB Miller India Ltd., along with AIBA, to have cartelised in the beer markets in India. A cumulative penalty of around INR 870 crores was imposed by CCI on the Appellants. UBL was granted a reduction by 40% from the penalty imposed on it, pursuant to a lesser penalty application and accounting for the cooperation extended by it during the investigation.

The NCLAT, while dismissing the submissions of the Appellants, made the following key observations:



Based on the above findings, the NCLAT dismissed the appeals.

The order of the NCLAT can be accessed here with case details as Competition Appeal (AT) No. 23 of

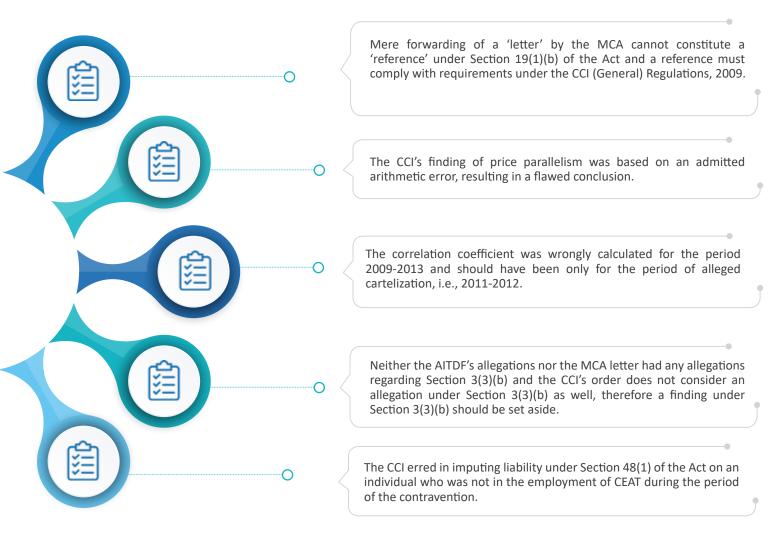


#9 NCLAT sets aside CCI's order penalizing tyre manufacturers for cartelization; remands the matter to CCI for fresh consideration

The NCLAT, through an order dated December 1, 2022, set aside an order passed by the CCI under Section 27 of the Act against MRF Limited (MRF), Apollo Tyres Limited, CEAT Limited (CEAT), JK Tyre & Industries Limited, Birla Tyres Limited (Tyre Companies), and the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), finding a contravention under Section 3 of the Act, and imputing liability on some of their officials/individuals, and remanded the matter back to the CCI.

In 2014, based on a letter received from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), forwarding allegations raised by the All-India Tyre Dealer Federation (AITDF), the CCI directed the DG to conduct an investigation against the Tyre Companies. MRF filed a writ petition against the CCI's *prima facie* order before the Madras HC and while the writ was pending, the CCI passed its final order in 2018, which was kept in a sealed cover as per the Madras HC's directions. In 2022, upon dismissal of the writ petition by the Madras HC and subsequent dismissal by the SC, the CCI published the final order penalizing the Tyre Companies for cartelization under Section 3 of the Act. The Tyre Companies, ATMA, and their respective individual officers filed appeals before the NCLAT against the CCI's final order.

The NCLAT's key observations include:



The NCLAT remanded the matter back to the CCI for fresh consideration of the penalty imposed and to rectify errors mentioned above. The NCLAT emphasized that while entities must be penalized for contraventions, they must also be given opportunity for reformation instead of the entity having to face poor financial health nothing that one of the Tyre Companies, Birla Tyre, was already undergoing an insolvency resolution process.

The decision of the NCLAT can be accessed *here* with case details as Competition Appeal (AT) No. 05 of 2022.

#10 NCLAT remits a matter to CCI to lower the penalty levied on a proprietorship firm

On November 14, 2022, the NCLAT, while upholding the findings of the CCI, disposed of an appeal filed by M/s. Saraswati Sales Corporation (Saraswati Sales) and remitted the matter back to the CCI for reconsideration of the penalty to be imposed.



The CCI found Saraswati Sales to have engaged in bid-rigging and contravention of Section 3(3)(c) (sharing or allocation of market) of the Act. The CCI directed Saraswati Sales to cease and desist from engaging in bid-rigging and levied a penalty of INR 6,66,975 (which was 5% of its turnover).

While the NCLAT upheld findings of the CCI, it remitted the matter back to CCI to reconsider the quantum of penalty levied on Saraswati Sales since it was a proprietorship firm.

The decision of the NCLAT can be accessed <u>here</u> with case details as Competition Appeal (AT) No. 31 of 2022.



#11 Supreme Court dismisses challenge to the CCI's order directing investigation into WhatsApp's 2021 Policy Update

On October 14, 2022, the SC dismissed appeals filed by Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook) and WhatsApp LLC (WhatsApp), against the judgement of the Delhi HC, refusing to set aside the CCI's order directing investigation into WhatsApp's 2021 terms of service and privacy policy update. The judgement of the Delhi HC upheld the decision of the Single Judge of the HC, refusing to set aside the CCI's order directing investigation. The judgement of the Delhi HC was covered in our previous newsletter here. (Link to the previous newsletter summary titled "#2 Delhi High Court dismisses appeals filed by WhatsApp and Facebook challenging the CCI's order of investigation into WhatsApp's 2021 Policy update')

The SC observed that once proceedings are initiated by the CCI based on the basis of a prima facie finding of contravention, such proceedings cannot be considered to be completely without jurisdiction. The SC also observed that CCI proceedings need to be disposed of expeditiously and there must not be any restraints on CCI with respect to proceedings under the Act.

The decision of the SC can be accessed <u>here</u> with case details as SLP/17121/2022P.



#12 Telangana High Court dismisses writ filed against CCI's order directing an investigation

On October 12, 2022, Telangana HC dismissed a writ petition filed by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GMR) against a prima facie order of the CCI directing an investigation into the alleged abuse of dominance by GMR. As per the information filed with the CCI, the conduct of GMR resulted in denial of use of Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad (RGIA) premises to a line maintenance services provider (the informant), leading to its exclusion from the market for provision of line maintenance services at RGIA.

The Telangana HC dismissed the writ and noted that:



A *prima facie* order passed by the CCI is an administrative order directing an investigation and the CCI does not determine merits of the case at that stage;

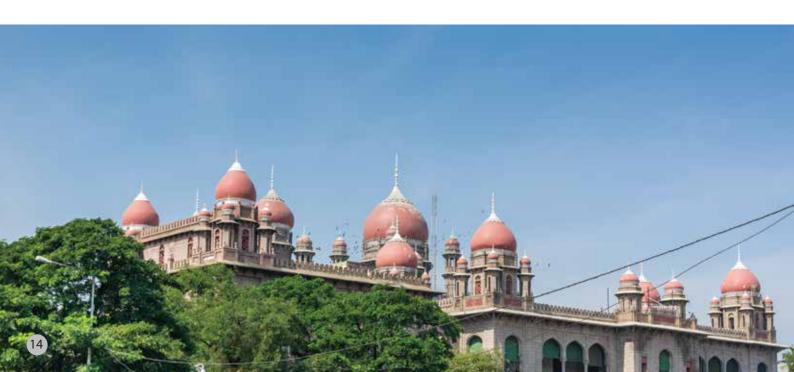
High Courts can interfere with a *prima facie* order only in case of abuse of process or *mala fides*;

As held by the SC in CCI v. SAIL, at the *prima facie* stage (when an investigation is initiated), parties do not have right to notice or hearing; and

The *prima facie* order was well reasoned and provided only a *prima facie* opinion.

The dismissal of the writ against the CCI's *prima facie* order by the Telangana HC follows the trend of High Courts refusing to interfere with the CCI's *prima facie* orders directing investigation, unless such an order is arbitrary or unfair.

The decision of Telangana HC can be accessed here.



#13 Kerala High Court grants interim protection in proceedings before CCI; Star, Asianet, and Disney directed to cooperate in the investigation

On October 6, 2022, the Kerala HC granted interim protection in three separate writ petitions filed by Disney Broadcasting (India) Private Limited, Asianet Star Communications Private Limited and Star India Private Limited (**Petitioners**) and stayed a *prima facie* order passed by the CCI directing an investigation into the allegations of alleged abuse of dominant position. Writs challenging the same order of the CCI had previously been dismissed by the Bombay HC due to absence of territorial jurisdiction. However, before dismissal, the Bombay HC granted interim relief to the Petitioners till the pendency of the writs by directing CCI not to take any coercive steps or adjudicate the matter. (*Link to the previous newsletter summary titled "#5 Bombay High Court dismisses writs filed by Asianet Star, Star India Pvt. Ltd., and Disney Broadcasting (I) Pvt. Ltd., against CCI's order initiating an investigation)*

The Petitioners contended that in view of the interim relief granted by the Bombay HC, the Kerala HC must also stay the CCI's proceedings to maintain judicial propriety. Following suit, the Kerala HC issued interim protection without granting a stay on the investigation. The Petitioners were directed to cooperate with the DG's investigation and the CCI was directed not to take any coercive action against the Petitioners and the CCI was restrained from passing any further orders till disposal of the writs.

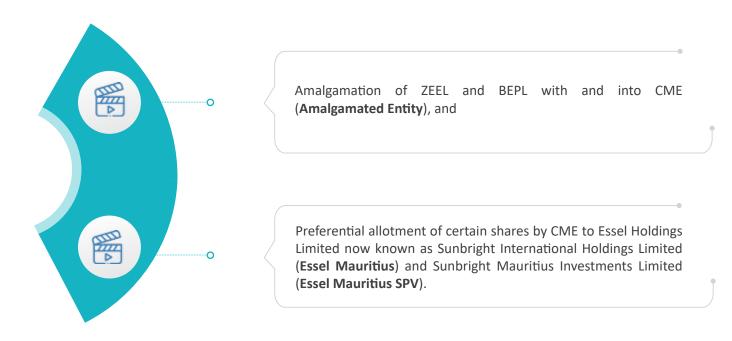
The decision of the Kerala HC can be accessed *here*.



MERGER CONTROL

CCI approves combination of Zee Entertainment and Culver Max Entertainment with modifications

On October 4, 2022, the CCI approved, with modifications, a proposed transaction amongst Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME), Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) Bangla Entertainment Private Limited (BEPL), and Essel Group Participants (collectively referred to as Notifying Parties). The proposed transaction, *inter alia*, entailed -



The post-transaction shareholding of the Amalgamated Entity was proposed to be 50.86% being indirectly held by Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., 3.99% held by the promoters of ZEEL, and 45.15% held by other public shareholders of ZEEL.

The CCI observed that the Amalgamated Entity would be the largest broadcasting house in India with considerable number of TV channels, vast content, and higher market shares in Hindi (including films), Marathi and Bengali general entertainment channels (**GEC**). The CCI noted that the strengthened position of the Amalgamated Entity could allow it to affect prices of the high market share TV channels for the advertisers, viewers, and the distribution platform operators.

In order to alleviate the CCI's concerns, the Parties proposed to divest their interests in three TV channels i.e., Big Magic (a Hindi GEC), Zee Action (a Hindi film channel), and Zee Classic (a Hindi film channel). The CCI accepted the proposal and approved the transaction with a direction that the above channels must be divested as going concerns to a purchaser approved by the CCI. It is of note that CCI approved this transaction in Phase I as provided under the CCI (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations), 2011 (Combination Regulations), during which the law does not contemplate structural/behavioural remedies being directed by the CCI. In its prior decisional practice, structural/behavioural remedies have been directed by the CCI during or after Phase II, as provided under the Combination Regulations.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

#1 Standing Committee on Finance issues Report on the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022

On August 5, 2022, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill) was introduced in the Parliament and referred to the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance (Committee) on August 16, 2022, for a report on the Bill. The Committee's report on the Bill (Report) was adopted on December 8, 2022 and issued on December 14, 2022. Taking into consideration the views and comments from various representatives, the Report provided recommendations/comments/ clarifications on certain amendments proposed under the Bill.

The key recommendations of the Committee are:

SETTLEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

- Cartels (along with vertical anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance cases) should be included within the scope of the proposed settlement provisions.
- It should not be mandatory for the CCI to seek objections from a third-party before passing a settlement/commitment order.
- Parties should be allowed to withdraw their application before the CCI makes an order of settlement and for the inquiry to continue without prejudice to the offer of settlement.
- An enabling provision should allow for the settlement/commitment order of the CCI to be revisited by the parties.
- A compensation claim may lie against an order for settlement.

EFFECTS-BASED TEST UNDER SECTION 4

 A provision under Section 4 of the Act enabling the CCI to assess the effects of an alleged abuse of dominance conduct should be included.

DEAL VALUE THRESHOLD

- The 'deal value' should be determined under applicable regulations, to reduce ambiguity and offset the
 possibility that transactions unlikely to cause appreciable adverse effect on competition (AAEC) are required to
 be notified to the CCI.
- 'Deal value threshold' would be applicable only if the target has 'substantial business operations' in India. This should be clarified as the present provision does not specify that it is the party whose shares/voting rights/assets are being acquired.
- The applicable thresholds (turnover, value of assets, value of transactions) for notifiability of a transaction must be revised every year.

IPR DEFENCE

• The exercise of intellectual property rights (IPRs) by a party as a defence should be permitted under Section 4 of the Act, similar to the defence already available under Section 3(5) of the Act.

■ HUB AND SPOKE CARTELS

• The scope of 'active participation' should be clarified to avoid entities providing digital intermediation services or associations/unions etc. to be considered as a part of an anti-competitive agreement. 'Active participation' as a legal standard would have to be proved to attract the presumption of contravention of Section 3(3) of the Act

The Report did not comment on the appointment of a judicial member to the CCI since that is a matter pending before the SC. The Report can be accessed $\underline{here.}$



#2 Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance presents Report on 'Anti-Competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies'

On December 22, 2022, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance presented its Report on the 'Anti-Competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies' (**Big Tech Report**) in the Lok Sabha, focusing on anti-competitive practices in the digital space. The Big Tech Report also made certain recommendations on the regulation of digital markets. The MCA can either accept the recommendations under the Big Tech Report and introduce legislation (as part of the Bill or otherwise) or reject these and continue with the existing framework of regulating digital markets under the Act.

The key recommendations in the Big Tech Report are:

■ RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE REGULATORY/LEGISLATIVE REGIME

- Behaviour in digital markets should be evaluated ex-ante instead of the present ex-post evaluation.
- Systemically Important Digital Intermediaries (SIDIs), categorized based on their revenues, market
 capitalization, number of active business, and end users to be subjected to ex-ante regulation and annual
 reporting requirements.
- Introduction of a digital competition act to ensure fair and transparent digital ecosystem.
- Setting up of a specialised Digital Markets Unit within the CCI with relevant experts to monitor digital markets and make recommendations to the central government to counter the anti-competitive practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

- <u>Anti-steering provisions/restricting third party services:</u> Access by a SIDI to its platform should not be conditioned on purchase/use of other products/services offered by the SIDI that are not intrinsic to the platform.
- <u>Self-preferencing/platform neutrality:</u> SIDIs should not self-preference or favor their own offers over those of competitors in providing access to supply/sales markets.
- <u>Adjacency/bundling and tying:</u> Users should not be forced to subscribe to or register for any further services to be able to use any of the SIDI's core platform services.
- <u>Data usage:</u> SIDIs should not process personal data of end users for providing online advertising services. It should not combine or cross use personal data from the relevant core service of the platform with personal data from any other services provided by the platform or with personal data from third-party services.
- <u>Acquisitions/mergers:</u> the CCI should be informed of any intended acquisition by the SIDI prior to implementation and after conclusion of the agreement, public bid announcement, or acquisition of controlling interest, whether or not it meets the notifiability criteria under the Act.
- <u>Pricing/deep discounting and exclusive tie-ups:</u> Business users should not be limited from offering products/services on different terms and conditions on different platforms. Price-parity and other parity clauses should be removed from terms of use for platforms.
- <u>Advertising policies:</u> There must be regulatory provisions to ensure fair and reasonable contracts between SIDIs and news publishers.

The Report can be accessed *here*.

#3 CCI recommends adoption of self-regulatory measures by film distribution sector based on its market study

On October 14, 2022, CCI published its market study on the film distribution sector in India (**Study**). The main objectives of the Study were to evaluate the competition in the industry considering increased digitisation; and address issues through self-corrective measures with minimum interference from the CCI.

The Study identified the following key issues:

- Asymmetry in bargaining power between multiplexes and producers;
- Lack of transparency in box-office collections;
- Barriers to entry due to virtual print fee (VPF);
- Anti-competitive conduct by associations; and
- Exclusive dealing between theatres and digital cinema equipment (DCE) providers.

The Study "inter alia" recommended certain self-regulatory measures to be adopted to address concerns:

- Tailor-made arrangements between multiplexes and producers instead of standard templates.
- Sharing costs of promotion between multiplexes and producers.
- Adopting cost-effective box office monitoring systems to generate, record, and maintain ticket logs and reports.
- Collectively introduce a sunset date for VPF charges and the VPF paid to multiplexes must be phased out first, followed by single screen cinemas.
- Till the sunset date, DCE providers and producers must negotiate mutually acceptable charges.
- Bargaining power gaps in agreements between DCE providers and exhibitors/producers must be reduced and such agreements must not be long term or one-sided.
- Associations must refrain from bans, boycotts, and other anti-competitive conduct.
- Events must be organised to enhance awareness of competition law and need for compliance.

The Study of the CCI can be accessed <u>here</u>.



Links to Recent Publications by Competition Law Team

- CCI's market study on Competition and Regulatory issues in the Taxi and Cab Aggregator Industry
- CCI has ordered a probe into Zomato and Swiggy on a complaint from NRAI
- CCI updates its Confidentiality Regime
- Competition Update: CCI amends the Combination Regulations, 2011 to update and replace Form II for a combination filing
- ELP Quarterly Update Competition law & policy Q4 of 2021
- ELP Quarterly Update Competition law & policy Q3 of 2021
- CCI's Market Study on the Pharmaceutical Sector
- How Should the CCI Market Its 'Market Studies'? A Case for Incentivizing Industry Participation'
- Importance of Disclosures Before the CCI And Key Takeaways
- ELP Knowledge Series Part 2 of 2021
- ELP Quarterly Update Competition Law & Policy Q2 of 2021
- ELP Quarterly Update Competition law & policy Q3 of 2022

Awards





























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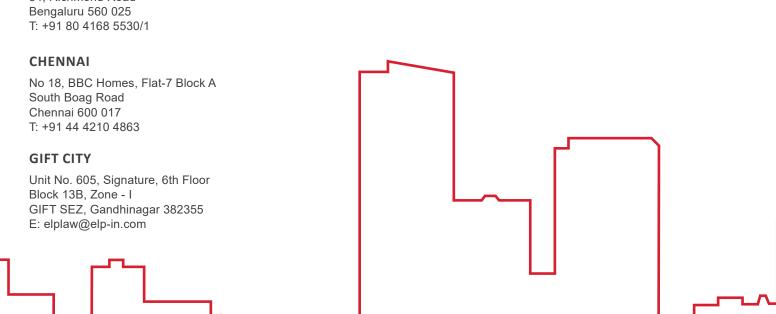
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