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Supreme Court dismisses Asian Paints' plea against Competition Commission of India ("CCI")'s investigation:

The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea by Asian Paints Limited challenging the CCI's order directing an investigation against it for alleged abuse of dominant position in the decorative paints market.

A complaint was filed by Grasim Industries (Birla Opus Paints Division), which accused Asian Paints of engaging in exclusionary practices by pressuring dealers to avoid stocking Birla Opus products. The allegations included threats of reduced credit limits, withdrawal of benefits, curtailed support, returning of Grasim's tinting machines and obstructing access to suppliers, transporters and warehouse facilities. The CCI found a prima facie case of contravention of provisions relating to abuse of dominant position under Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002 ("Act") and directed the Director General to investigate the matter. Asian Paints challenged this order before the Bombay High Court, which upheld the CCI's decision. The Bombay High Court held that the CCI's order under Section 26(1) of the Act is administrative in nature and does not require a pre-hearing. The Supreme Court upheld this view, allowing the investigation to proceed. As the Supreme Court was not inclined to entertain the matter, the matter was dismissed as withdrawn.

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National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (“NCLAT”)'s Meta Ruling in Digital Competition Enforcement:

The NCLAT granted partial relief to Meta Platforms Inc. and Whatsapp LLC by upholding the INR 213.14 crore penalty imposed by CCI, however it dismissed the CCI's finding of abuse of dominant position &

lifted the five year ban on the data sharing between the two platforms. The NCLAT found no evidence that the integration between the two platforms was exploitative or exclusionary.



CCI cannot levy or recover interest retrospectively without valid demand notice:

The Delhi High Court held that in the absence of a valid demand notice issued under Regulation 3 of the Competition Commission of India (Manner of Recovery of Monetary Penalty) Regulation 2011, the CCI cannot levy or recover interest. The dispute arose after the CCI imposed monetary penalties under Section 27 of the Act. When the companies did not make the payment immediately, the CCI issued communications claiming that interest would accrue on the unpaid penalty amount. The Petitioners alleged that these communications did not qualify as demand notice since it lacked

the necessary details including computation of dues, timelines and clear demand for payment. The Delhi High Court absolve that Regulation 3 was not procedural but a condition precedent that ensures compliance with principles of natural justice. Further, it observed that the Regulations were replaced by the Competition Commission of India (Manner of Recovery of Monetary Penalty) Regulation 2025 and that the provisions were identical. The Delhi High Court held that the levy of interest was contrary to statutory framework and the petitions were allowed.



NCLAT held that CCI has no jurisdiction over Patent Act, 1970 (“Patent Act”):

The NCLAT held that the Patent Act as a special statute, prevails over the Act and that the CCI lacks jurisdiction to examine the disputes concerning the alleged abuse of

patent rights. NCLAT observed that the subject matter of the dispute was the exercise of patent rights by Vifor, a domain exclusively governed by the Patent Act.



CCI dismisses the complaint filed by Liberty Infospace Private Limited against Alphabet Inc and Google LLC:

An information was filed by Liberty Infospace Private Limited under Section 19(1)(a) of the Act against Alphabet Inc, Google LLC and Google India Private Limited alleging contravention of the provisions of Section 4 the Act. Liberty Infospace Private Limited had alleged abuse of dominance by Google in unilateral termination of its developer account in the HRMS App, without assigning any specific reasons. The opposite parties submitted that the information is essentially an individual developer grievance for the violation of the Play Store policies and that Liberty

Infospace Private Limited had already availed the appropriate remedies established by Google. The CCI observed that the contracts are standard form contracts that have to be entered into by all developers wanting to list their apps on Google Play Store, which appears to be a standard industry practice. The CCI found that there was no contravention under Section 4 of the Act since there was no abusive or discriminatory conduct indulged into by Google in the case of termination of Liberty Infospace Private Limited’s developer account and disposal of appeals against the termination.



CCI dismissed case against Karate India Organization:

An information has been filed by Mr. Adikessavaperoumal Baskar Sinouvassane under Section 19(1)(a) of the Act against Karate India Organisation. It has been alleged that the Organisation was registered with the word “India” in its name without requisite approval in the

form of “No Objection Certificate” from the Government of India, in violation of Section 4(3) of the Companies Act and directives of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The CCI noted that none of the allegations pertained to violation of the provisions of the Act and closed the matter.



Match Group Urges CCI to Impose a Heavy Fine on Apple Over 30% App Store Fee:

Tinder’s parent company, Match Group has been locked in an antitrust dispute with Apple pursuant to the complaint before the CCI since 2022. In a response to the CCI,

Match Group had requested the CCI impose substantial fines on Apple since the fees upto 30% will over time damage revenue streams and growth prospects in India.

CCI reviews Microsoft and Google for anticompetitive bundling practices:

The CCI is reviewing whether Microsoft and Google are in violation of the Act and rules by bundling artificial intelligence features to their respective office software

packages, since such bundling may have an adverse impact on companies offering standalone services, productivity and customer relationship management tools.



Combination Orders:

- CCI approved the proposed acquisition of 43.46% shares of Samaan Capital Limited by Avenir Investment RSC Limited
- CCI approved the acquisition of majority stake in JB Chemicals by Torrent Pharmaceuticals, provided the parties comply with the voluntary modifications.
- CCI approved the proposed acquisition of insolvent Jaiprakash Associates Limited by Vendata Limited under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- CCI approved the acquisition of up to 15% shareholding in Edelweiss Asset Management Limited (EAML) and Edelweiss Trusteeship Company Limited (ETCL) by Setu AIF Trust, Konark Trust, and MMPL Trust. The proposed combination comprises certain interconnected steps resulting in the acquisition of up to 15% shareholding of Edelweiss Asset Management Limited (EAML) and Edelweiss Trusteeship Company Limited (ETCL) by Setu AIF Trust, Konark Trust and MMPL Trust.
- CCI approved the acquisition by Capgemini SE of 100% shareholding of Cloud4C Services Pte. Ltd and Cloud4C Services Private Limited
- Under the Green Channel route, Siemens Energy AG proposes to acquire equity shares of Siemens Energy India Limited from Siemens Aktiengesellschaft





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