

CCI Watch

Edition 13th (January to March, 2014)

For earlier editions please visit: http://cuts-ccier.org/CCI_Watch.htm

The role of the Competition Commission of India is very crucial for effective competition amongst the market players. Since 2009, CCI has been very active in investigating anti-competitive practices. Thus, it is hard to find a day when CCI is not covered by the newspapers. Therefore, the objective behind CCI Watch as prepared by CUTS is to review and highlight the performance of CCI through the lens of media.

| Sr. No. | Date | News | Comments |
|----------------|----------|--|----------|
| January | | | |
| 1. | 03/01/14 | <p><u>CCI closed the matter against Petroleum & Natural gas regulator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to CCI the complainant "should approach an appropriate forum if he has grievance in respect of the scope of powers of the board (Petroleum and Natural Gas)" <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-03/news/45837116_1_gas-distribution-cgd-natural-gas-regulatory-board</p> | ☺ |
| 2. | 03/01/14 | <p><u>CCI dismissed allegation of abuse of dominance position against two realty companies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to CCI, SG Estates and SKI View Hotel were not in a dominant position as other well-known builders "have a substantial presence in the commercial property segment in Ghaziabad". <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-rules-out-abuse-of-dominant-position-by-two-realty-firms-114010301033_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 3. | 03/01/14 | <p><u>CCI rejects case against Shriram Chits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As per Competition Commission of India, "As opposition party (Shriram Chits) does not appear to be a dominant player in the relevant market, the question of abuse does not arise". <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-drops-case-against-shriram-chits-114010300855_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 4. | 02/01/14 | <p><u>CCI gives green light for Uttam Galva and Shree Uttam Steel merger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to competition watchdog the proposed combination is not likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-02/news/45799377_1_uttam-galva-steels-miglani-family-appreciable-adverse-effect</p> | ☺ |
| 5. | 07/01/14 | <p><u>Competition Commission of India against media anti-trust body</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has objected to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)'s proposal to create a parallel and conflicting competition regime for the media and broadcasting sector. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cci-against-media-anti-trust-body-114010600800_1.html</p> | ☺ |

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| 6. | 17/01/14 | <p><u>CCI finds no abuse of dominance by Intel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fair trade regulator concluded that Intel had "not restricted and limited the market by foreclosing the distribution network to its competitors". <p>http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-fair-trade-regulator-finds-no-violation-of-norms-by-intel-377903</p> | ☺ |
| 7. | 17/01/14 | <p><u>CCI has ordered an investigation against Ericsson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India has ordered an investigation against telecom equipment vendor Ericsson AB over allegations of "discriminatory practices" on the basis of a complaint filed by Intex Technologies Ltd, a New-Delhi based company. <p>http://www.livemint.com/Companies/5H6sKGrwu9FS00LHIP36Q0/Competition-Commission-to-now-probe-Ericsson-on-Intex-compla.html</p> | ☺ |
| 8. | 27/01/14 | <p><u>CCI rejects BSNL complaint against Airtel, Vodafone, Idea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fair trade watchdog rejected the complaint saying that it did not find any prima-facie evidence of cartelisation among the three private telecom players. <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-27/news/46684793_1_investigation-arm-director-general-3g-spectrum-circles</p> | ☺ |
| 9. | 27/01/14 | <p><u>Every regulatory authority feels it can function as an island: Ashok Chawla, Chairman, CCI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In an interview with ET's Shubham Batra, Chawla says that the commission is supposed to look at competition issues while the regulators look at technical issues. <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-27/news/46685056_1_competition-act-competition-commission-ashok-chawla</p> | ☺ |
| 10. | 28/01/14 | <p><u>CCI rejects complaint of abuse of dominance by Omaxe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The complaint by two individuals had alleged that Omaxe had abused its dominant market position by imposing one-sided and anti-competitive agreements on buyers of plots, among others. <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-28/news/46735298_1_cci-rules-omaxe-relevant-market</p> | ☺ |
| 11. | 30/01/14 | <p><u>The competition watchdog gives green signal to KKR-Gland Pharma deal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competition Commission of India has given nod to Global private equity player KKR's proposed deal, including stake purchase, with domestic drug maker Gland Pharma, saying the deal does not raise anti-competitive concerns. <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-30/news/46828352_1_minority-stake-competition-commission-green-signal</p> | ☺ |

| February | | | |
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| 1. | 03/02/14 | <p><u>CCI approves UltraTech-Jaypee deal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India gives green signal to UltraTech for its US\$605m agreement with Jaypee Cement Corporation, which include an integrated cement manufacturing plant at Sewagram, a captive power plant and mining leases and limestone reserves. <p>http://www.globalcement.com/news/item/2252-cci-approves-us\$605m-ultratech-jaypee-deal</p> | ☺ |
| 2. | 04/02/14 | <p><u>Competition Commission cautions against unfair ways in pharma business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CCI had found various practices anti-competitive with regard to cases concerning practices of all India, state-level, district-level associations of chemists, druggists, stockists, whole-sellers and manufacturers. <p>http://www.domain-b.com/industry/pharma/20140203_practices.html</p> | ☺ |
| 3. | 05/02/14 | <p><u>CCI rejects complaint against NDMC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A complaint filed with CCI by Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturer's Association (KISMA) accused the state-owned company of abusing its market dominance by limiting production of the iron ore to the level lower than the approved capacity of mines as well as charging higher prices. <p>http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/cci-rules-out-unfair-trade-practices-by-nmdc_1038451.html</p> | ☺ |
| 4. | 05/02/14 | <p><u>CCI approves IBM-Synnex deal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed deal includes acquisition of the customer relationship management business process outsourcing (CRM BPO) operations of IBM by Synnex Corporation. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ibm-synnex-deal-gets-approval-from-competition-commission-114020501487_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 5. | 07/02/14 | <p><u>CCI slapped Rs.54.70 crore Penalty on Escorts Ltd</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The penalty has been imposed after CCI took up a case of suo motto basis based on information given by Diesel Loco Modernization Works, a unit of Indian Railways at Patiala, Punjab. The case relates to a DLMW tender wherein the three vendors quoted identical rates for feed valves. <p>http://abclive.in/competition-commission-of-india-imposes-rs-54-70-crore-penalty-on-escorts-ltd/</p> | ☺ |
| 6. | 10/02/14 | <p><u>CCI clears INEOS SLOVAY proposed joint</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competition Commission has given its approval for European firms, INEOS Group Investments and Solvay, to set up an equal joint venture for their chlorvinyls business. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-clears-ineos-solvay-proposed-joint-venture-114021001296_1.html</p> | ☺ |

| March | | | |
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| 1. | 07/03/14 | <p><u>The competition watchdog approves Thomas Cook-Sterling Holiday deal of Rs 870 cr.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India said that "the proposed combination is not likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India" and It also observed that Thomas Cook (India) and Sterling Holiday were "not engaged in similar business. <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-03-07/news/48005386_1_sterling-holiday-resorts-competition-commission-share-purchase-agreement</p> | ☺ |
| 2. | 08/03/14 | <p><u>CCI clears merger of two Glenmark Pharma arms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CCI has given the green light for the merger of Glenmark Access and Glenmark Generics with Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. <p>http://www.financialexpress.com/news/cci-clears-merger-of-two-glenmark-pharma-arms/1232024</p> | ☺ |
| 3. | 08/03/14 | <p><u>CCI rejects Dish TV complaint against Hathway</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dish TV, a Direct-To-Home (DTH) operator, had alleged that the MSOs in abuse of their position of dominance, were forcing broadcasters to pay high carriage and placement fee for carrying and placing their channels. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cci-rejects-dish-tv-s-complaint-114030700870_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 4. | 08/03/14 | <p><u>CCI has approved stake purchase of Tata Group entities into auto component maker Varroc Engineering (VEPL)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The Commission is of the opinion that the proposed combination is not likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India and therefore, the Commission hereby approves the same," CCI said. <p>http://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/auto-components/cci-clears-tata-group-arms-stake-buy-in-vepl/31648250</p> | ☺ |
| 5. | 14/03/14 | <p><u>CCI imposed Rs. 18- crore penalty on Bengal Chemists and Druggist Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The BCDA and its district and zonal committees were found to be engaged in anti-competition by, directly or indirectly, determining the sale prices of drugs and controlling or limiting the supply of medicines. <p>http://www.knnindia.co.in/sectors/cci-slaps-rs-18-cr-penalty-on-w-bengal-chemist-assn-for-anti-competitive-practices/31-5236.go</p> | ☺ |
| 6. | 08/03/14 | <p><u>M&A deals: CCI to assist companies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To make compliance process easier for companies, the Competition Commission of India plans to provide assistance in "substantiative" matters pertaining to mergers and acquisitions. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/competition-watchdog-ready-to-aid-m-a-deals-114030800770_1.html</p> | ☺ |

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| 7. | 10/03/14 | <p><u>CCI rejects abuse of dominance complaint against BMW India</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A complaint had alleged that BMW India abused its dominant position by forcing a 'run-flat tyre technology' on its customers and had misused the same to market an insurance policy through its subsidiary BMW India Financial Services. <p>http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2014-03-10/news/48083830_1_tyre-makers-dominance-complaint-insurance-policy</p> | ☺ |
| 8. | 12/03/14 | <p><u>CCI to probe JCB India</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India (CCI) will investigate construction equipment maker JCB India for alleged abuse of its dominant position to keep away competitors from the market <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-to-probe-jcb-india-for-abuse-of-dominant-position-114031201072_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 9. | 13/03/14 | <p><u>Competition Commission orders fresh probe against DLF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCI has ordered a fresh probe against realty major DLF for allegedly imposing unfair and unreasonable conditions on apartment buyers at one of its projects in Gurgaon, although DLF is already under the scanner of the fair trade watchdog in other cases of anti-competitive practices. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/competition-comm-orders-fresh-probe-against-dlf-114031300796_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 10. | 13/03/14 | <p><u>The fair trade regulator orders probe against Indian Railways, IRCTC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCI has ordered an investigation against Indian Railways and its arm IRCTC for alleged unfair practices related to compulsory sale of food to travelers on some trains and ticket booking. <p>http://businesstoday.intoday.in/story/cci-orders-probe-against-indian-railways-irctc/1/204274.html</p> | ☺ |
| 11. | 19/03/14 | <p><u>Complaint against Emaar MGF rejected</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India gave clean chit to the real estate firm Emaar MGF in a project related case. <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/competition-comm-rejects-complaint-against-emaar-mgf-114031901076_1.html</p> | ☺ |
| 12. | 20/03/14 | <p><u>The fair trade regulator Tata Power's complaint against GAIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCI has rejected a complaint by Tata Power against GAIL that alleged the state-owned firm abused its dominant position with regard to shipping of natural gas to the private firm's power plants. <p>http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/companies/cci-rejects-tata-powers-complaint-against-gail_96537.html</p> | ☺ |
| 13. | 24/03/14 | <p><u>CCI clears Lenovo's Acquisition of IBM Server Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In its order, CCI said Lenovo was not present in the server market in India and through the proposed combination; it would enter as a competitor in the already competitive and dynamic server market in India. <p>http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/features/smartbuy/laptops/competition-panel-clears-lenovos-acquisition-of-ibm-server-business/article5827224.ece</p> | ☺ |

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| 14. | 25/03/14 | <p><u>No abuse of dominant position by Nissan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Competition Commission of India has rejected allegations that automaker Nissan Motors India abused its dominant market position with respect to sales and services of its cars in Ludhiana, Punjab. <p>http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-fair-trade-regulator-denies-abuse-of-dominant-position-by-nissan-383728</p> | ☺ |
| 15. | 28/03/14 | <p><u>Google slapped with Rs. 1-crore fine by fair trade regulator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fine has been placed on Google as it failed to provide CCI with the requested information and details pertaining to the ongoing anti-trust cases running against them. <p>http://www.financialexpress.com/news/competition-commission-of-india-slaps-rs-1-crore-fine-on-google-inc./1236282</p> | ☺ |