

CCI Watch

Edition 17th (January to March, 2015)

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.	01/01/15	<p><u>CCI gives nod to IBM, Globalfoundries deal</u> CCI cleared the proposed deal between technology major IBM and Globalfoundries, mentioning that the deal would not have any adverse impact on competition in the country.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ibm-globalfoundries-deal-gets-competition-commission-nod-115010100957_1.html</p>	☺
2.	09/01/15	<p><u>CCI nod to Dewan Housing-PGLH deal</u> CCI approved mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance's proposed buying of 50 per cent stake each in two arms of US-based PGLH of Delaware Inc, saying the deal did not raise anti-competitive concerns in the country.</p> <p>http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-cci-nod-to-dewan-housings-deal-with-us-based-pglh-724994</p>	☺
3.	15/01/15	<p><u>CCI disposes of case against ACI Worldwide</u> While stating that "<i>no contravention of ... The (Competition) Act is made out against ACI in the present matter</i>", CCI disposed of a plea alleging unfair business practices by US-based payment solutions company ACI Worldwide Inc and its arms based in India and Singapore.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-disposes-of-case-against-aci-worldwide-115011501212_1.html</p>	☺
4.	17/01/15	<p><u>HDFC Bank arm's deal with Atlas Documentary gets CCI nod</u> HDFC Bank's arm HDB Financial Services proposed merger deal with BPO services provider Atlas Documentary Facilitators Company got the green signal from CCI.</p> <p>http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-cci-nod-for-hdfc-bank-arm-atlas-documentary-deal-728601</p>	☺
5.	19/01/15	<p><u>CCI orders probe against Rural Electrification Corp. (REC) for anti-competitive ways</u> CCI prima facie found that "<i>the conduct of REC and the opposite party appears to be anti-competitive and the matter deserves to be investigated by the Director General (DG) under the (Competition) Act</i>".</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-01-19/news/58231709_1_rural-</p>	☺

		electrification-corporation-competition-commission-consultancy-services	
6.	22/01/15	CCI gives nod to Manipal Health's stake sale to TPG CCI approved Manipal Health Enterprises proposed sale of its 24.75 per cent stake to Singapore-based investment firm TPG Asia VI SF Private Ltd, saying the deal does not raise anti-competitive concerns. http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-gives-nod-to-manipal-health-s-stake-sale-to-tpg-115012201344_1.html	☺
7.	27/01/15	CCI clears L&T-Bradken deal CCI approved the proposed sale of Larsen and Toubro's (L&T) iron manufacturing unit in Coimbatore to Australia-based Bradken Operations. While illustrating that that the proposed combination is not likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/competition-regulator-clears-l-t-bradken-deal-115012701156_1.html	☺
February			
8.	01/02/15	CCI rejects anti-competitive charges against Parsvnath Developers CCI rejected charges that realty major Parsvnath Developers and its arm abused their dominant market position with respect to development and sale of residential apartments in Gurgaon. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-02-02/news/58711749_1_competition-commission-relevant-market-parsvnath-developers	☺
9.	02/02/15	CCI Clears Nippon-Reliance Capital Asset Management Deal CCI approved Japanese financial services giant Nippon's proposed deal to hike its stake in Reliance Mutual Fund to 49 per cent in multiple tranches. http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-cci-nod-for-nippon-reliance-capital-asset-management-deal-736447	☺
10.	05/02/15	CCI Calls for Establishment of Real Estate Regulator to Safeguard Buyers Interests Noting the “exploitative conduct” wherein developers abuse their dominant position and indulge in anti-competitive arrangements, CCI called the government to take “immediate and urgent” legislative steps to enact a law that will strengthen the existing regulatory architecture and address buyers' grievances and protect their interests. http://www.brokgayab.com/realty-scoops-view/203-competition-commission-of-india-calls-for-establishment-of-real-estate-regulator-to-safeguard-buyers-interests	☺
11.	07/02/15	CCI approves Jaiprakash Power Ventures hydro asset sale to JSW Energy CCI approved the sale of two of Jaiprakash Power Venture Ltd.’s hydropower assets to JSW Energy Ltd. While stating that “ <i>The proposed combination is not likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition in India</i> ”. http://www.livemint.com/Companies/P8BzbftCdQA10gLnh8Ke3J/CCI-approves-Jaiprakash-Power-Ventures-hydro-asset-sale-to-J.html	☺
12.	12/02/15	CCI to look into pricing model of airlines CCI initiated another enquiry into allegations of anti-competitive methods being used in the setting of air fares. The latest investigation follows a reference from a Parliamentary panel. “ <i>The regulator is studying the pricing</i> ”	☺

		<p><i>mechanism of airlines,"</i> said a senior government official requesting anonymity.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-02-12/news/59083483_1_fare-buckets-ashok-gajapathi-raju-aviation-regulator-directorate-general</p>	
13.	16/02/15	<p>CCI approves FMC Corporation's proposed deal to buy Auriga arm CCI approved US-based FMC Corporation's proposed acquisition of Denmark's agrochemical firm Auriga Industries' arm, saying the deal would not cause anti-competitive concerns in the market.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-02-16/news/59196806_1_competition-concern-competition-commission-products</p>	☺
14.	17/02/15	<p>CCI again asks Coal India to 'cease, desist' from unfair ways After finding the state-owned miner violated competition norms with respect to dry fuel supply, CCI has again directed Coal India Ltd to "cease and desist" from unfair business ways. CIL, the country's largest coal producer, has been censured by the Commission earlier also. In December 2013, a penalty of about Rs 1,773 crore was imposed.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cci-again-asks-coal-india-to-cease-desist-from-unfair-ways-115021701005_1.html</p>	☺
15.	17/02/15	<p>CCI slapped Rs 14.24 lakh penalty on road transporters grouping CCI slapped a fine of Rs 14.24 lakh on All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) and asked the grouping to "cease and desist" from indulging in anti-competitive practices with respect to truck freight rates.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-slaps-rs-14-24-lakh-penalty-on-road-transporters-grouping-115021700733_1.html</p>	☺
16.	18/02/15	<p>CCI approves FMC's \$1.8bn purchase of Cheminova CCI approved US-based FMC's proposed \$1.8bn acquisition of Cheminova, a wholly owned subsidiary of Auriga Industries. While illustrating that <i>"There is no significant vertical relationship between the parties except a supply arrangement, pursuant to which Cheminova India purchases one of the FMC India's products and sells it under its brand name."</i></p> <p>http://www.chemicals-technology.com/news/newscci-approves-fmcs-18bn-purchase-of-cheminova-4514470</p>	☺
17.	20/02/15	<p>Competition Commission approves Kotak Mahindra-ING Vysya merger CCI found that no negative effect on competition could occur through the merger of these two companies, even though they function in the same business sphere. It observed the ING Vysya did not have a significant market share around the country.</p> <p>http://www.livemint.com/Companies/5rAoP4hR9dWNovAeJTOzeJ/CCI-approves-Kotak-purchase-of-ING-Vysya-bank.html</p>	☺
18.	24/02/15	<p>CCI Probed 132 Cases of Abuse of Dominance in Realty Sector In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley said that CCI has investigated 132 cases of alleged abuse of dominance in the realty sector till February 11 this year.</p> <p>http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/CCI-Probed-132-Cases-of-Abuse-of-Dominance-in-Realty-Sector/882711</p>	☺

19.	27/02/15	<p>CCI rejects abuse of dominant charge against KENT RO Systems CCI said that “no case is made out against opposite party (KENT RO) for contravention of the provisions of...the (Competition) Act”. Though, It was also alleged that the company was charging “unusually high price” for the spare parts.</p> <p>http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/cci-rejects-abuse-of-dominant-charge-against-kent-ro-systems/article6941778.ece</p>	☺
March			
20.	04/03/15	<p>CCI imposes Rs 2 cr penalty on Deepak Fertilisers subsidiary CCI imposed Rs 3 crore and Rs 2 crore of “nominal” fines on Zuari Fertilisers & Chemicals, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zuari Agro Chemicals, and on SCM Soilfert, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals Corporation, for violating competition norms with regard to their stake purchases in MCF.</p> <p>http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/announcements/cci-imposes-rs-2-cr-penaltydeepak-fertilisers-subsiary_1320168.html</p>	☺
21.	05/03/15	<p>CCI rejects case against Indian Oil Corporation, Mahanagar Gas Finding no prima facie case, CCI has rejected charges against Indian Oil Corporation and Mahanagar Gas that they indulged in unfair business practices with respect to distribution of CNG.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-03-05/news/59807881_1_mahanagar-gas-cng-appreciable-adverse-effect</p>	☺
22.	07/03/15	<p>CCI approves RIL-RuYi deal for textile business CCI approved Reliance Industries' proposed deal to sell 49% stake in a textile firm to Chinese company RuYi. Under the proposed deal, CSTT Co Holdings would acquire 49% stake in a textile company to be incorporated by RIL as its wholly owned subsidiary.</p> <p>http://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/cci-approves-ril-ruyi-deal-for-textile-business-115030700034_1.html</p>	☺
23.	09/03/15	<p>CCI probing case of banks ‘fixing’ lending rates CCI is investigating if banks have been acting as a cartel in fixing lending rates in recent times. The competition regulator confirmed this in response to an RTI query furnished by activist S Dheenadhayalan.</p> <p>http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/cci-probing-case-of-banks-fixing-lending-rates/article6983075.ece</p>	☺
24.	20/03/15	<p>CCI Rejects Complaint Against Crisil Finding "no material" evidence, the CCI has rejected allegations of unfair business practices made against credit rating agency Crisil. The complaint was filed by Brickwork Ratings India Pvt Ltd against Crisil and its largest shareholder, S&P India.</p> <p>http://profit.ndtv.com/budget/cci-rejects-complaint-against-crisil-748112</p>	☺
25.	21/03/15	<p>Julius Baer acquisition of DSP Merrill Lynch’s India ops gets CCI nod CCI approved the proposed acquisition of DSP Merrill Lynch’s (DSPML) wealth management business in India by the Zurich-based Julius Baer (JB) Group.</p>	☺

		http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/companies/julius-baer-acquisition-of-dsp-merrill-lynchs-india-ops-gets-cci-nod/56145/	
26.	21/03/15	<p>CCI investigating alleged cement cartelization</p> <p>Ashok Chawla, CCI Chairman, has acknowledged "<i>Prices have again been moving up over the past few months in certain regions,</i>" The CCI said that it is looking at the differentials in cement prices across the country to ascertain if there is any cartel behaviour.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/CCI-investigating-alleged-cement-cartelization/articleshow/46641240.cms</p>	☺
27.	23/03/15	<p>CCI gives green signal to merger of Shasun Pharma with Strides</p> <p>CCI has given its approval to the proposed merger of Chennai-based Shasun Pharmaceuticals with drug maker Strides Arcolab.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-03-23/news/60404313_1_shasun-pharma-shasun-pharmaceuticals-shashun</p>	☺
28.	27/03/15	<p>CCI Dismisses Complaint Against Suzuki Motorcycle</p> <p>CCI rejected charges that Suzuki Motorcycle India abused its dominant position in the market for manufacturing and sale of two-wheeler vehicles. A complaint filed by an individual had alleged that Suzuki was imposing unfair and discriminatory conditions in the sale of its two-wheeler ACCESS 125cc.</p> <p>http://m.newshunt.com/india/english-newspapers/financial-chronicle/latestnews/cci-dismisses-complaint-against-suzuki-motorcycle_37749762/998/c-in-l-english-n-finance-ncat-latestnews</p>	☺
29.	31/03/15	<p>CCI approves Carnival-Big Cinemas deal</p> <p>CCI gave its approval to the acquisition of Big Cinemas, a division of tycoon Anil Ambani's Reliance MediaWorks Ltd, by Carnival Films Pvt. Ltd.</p> <p>http://www.livemint.com/Companies/xlZnqHUyQQ0tMgxo0ccvqM/CCI-approves-CarnivalBig-Cinemas-deal.html</p>	☺