

CCI Watch

Edition 16th (October to December, 2014)

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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
October			
1.	01/10/14	<p><u>CCI slapped penalty of Rs 2.83 Cr. over T-Series</u> Competition Commission of India has imposed Rs 2.83 crore penalty on Super Cassettes Industries, known as 'T-Series', for unfair business practices with regard to licensing of Bollywood music to private FM radio stations.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-01/news/54517021_1_fm-stations-bollywood-music-competition-commission</p>	☺
2.	16/10/14	<p><u>CCI approves acquisition of Kalyan Jewellers by Highdell</u> Considering that the mentioned deal is not likely to have an "appreciable adverse effect on competition in India", Competition Commission has approved global private equity major Warburg Pincus-invested Highdell's proposed 24 per cent stake purchase in Kalyan Jewellers.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-16/news/55107029_1_kalyan-jewellers-cent-stake-purchase-share-purchase-agreement</p>	☺
3.	27/10/14	<p><u>CCI Gives Nod for SIA - Airbus Deal</u> Competition Commission of India has given its nod to Singapore Airlines' deal with the Airbus Services Asia Pacific to offer training for pilots.</p> <p>http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/SIAAirbus-IV-Gets-Competition-Commissions-Approval/865282</p>	☺
4.	28/10/14	<p><u>CCI rules out allegations against Janta Land Promoters</u> Noticing that Janta Land Promoters "may be one of the reputed players in the real estate market for industrial plots, but it cannot be said to be a dominant player." Competition Commission of India has rejected allegations that Janta Land Promoters abused its dominant position in the market for industrial plots in Punjab.</p> <p>http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/policy/competition-commission-of-india-rules-out-allegations-against-janta-land-promoters/articleshow/44958651.cms</p>	☺
5.	28/10/14	<p><u>CCI slapped penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Goa's chemist association</u> The Competition Commission of India has imposed penalty of Rs 10.62 lakhs on the Chemist and Druggists Association, Goa (CDAG) for indulging in anti-competitive practices. The Competition has found the CDAG to be in continued contravention of the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/content/b2b-pharma/cci-imposes-rs-10-lakh-fine-on-goas-chemist-association-114102800618_1.html</p>	☺
6.	28/10/14	<p><u>CCI directs Coal India to modify e-auction terms</u> Fair trade regulator directed Coal India to modify terms and conditions for supply of the dry fuel through an e-auction scheme after finding the current norms anti-competitive in nature.</p>	☺

		http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-28/news/55521573_1_coal-india-e-auction-competition-commission	
7.	30/10/14	<p>CCI rejects Tourism Ministry's complaint against ad agency</p> <p>The complaint mainly pertains to tender issued in late 2012 for the global TV campaign 2012-13 and the work order for the same placed upon Span Communications, which emerged as the lowest bidder.</p> <p>After a careful perusal of the reference and the material available on record, the Commission said it is of opinion that the Ministry <i>"has failed to adduce any material which can be suggestive of any collusive or abusive action where from even a prima facie satisfaction of contravention of any of the provisions of the Act may be recorded"</i>.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-rejects-tourism-ministry-s-complaint-against-ad-agency-114103001524_1.html</p>	☺
8.	31/10/14	<p>CCI approved Adani-Lanco power plant deal</p> <p>Competition Commission of India (CCI), has approved Adani Power's Rs.6,000 crore purchase of Lanco Infratech's 1,200 MW thermal plant in Udupi, Karnataka, setting at rest concerns on monopolising market share.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/competition-commission-okays-adani-lanco-power-plant-deal-114103100676_1.html</p>	☺
November			
9.	03/11/14	<p>CCI penalized Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and Gunny Trade Association (GTA)</p> <p>The Competition Commission of India has imposed a penalty of Rs. 7.68 Lakhs and Rs. 35.16 Thousands (@5% of the average of the turnover for the last 3 financial years) on Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and Gunny Trade Association (GTA) respectively for contravening the provisions of section 3 of the Competition Act, 2002 ('the Act').</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cci-order-against-indian-jute-mills-association-ijma-and-gunny-trade-114110301234_1.html</p>	☺
10.	03/11/14	<p>CCI approves JV Between 3 Japanese Firms</p> <p>The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed joint venture between three Japanese entities -- Fujitsu, Panasonic and Development Bank of Japan - saying that the deal does not raise anti-competition concerns in India.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-11-03/news/55720171_1_competition-commission-fujitsu-semiconductor</p>	☺
11.	18/11/14	<p>CCI approved Panasonic-Minda Industries deal</p> <p>Under the multi-layered deal, Minda Industries would enter into a joint venture with Panasonic for manufacture and sale of lead acid storage batteries for automotive and industrial applications.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/panasonic-minda-industries-deal-gets-competition-comm-approval-114111801036_1.html</p>	☺
12.	19/11/14	<p>CCI approves JP Associates' proposed sale of Haryana assets</p> <p>The Competition Commission of India has approved Jaiprakash Associates' proposed sale of its cement grinding unit at Panipat, located in Haryana state, to Shree Cements.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-11-18/news/56222217_1_shree-cements-jaiprakash-associates-proposed-combination</p>	☺
13.	20/11/14	<p>CCI Clears Coca-Cola's Deal with Monster Beverages</p> <p>The deal involves Coca-Cola, its group firm European Refreshments, Monster and its subsidiary New Laser Corp (NewCo). Besides, NewCo's subsidiary New Laser Merger Corp is part of the proposed combination.</p>	☺

		http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-competition-commission-clears-coca-colas-deal-with-monster-beverages-700066	
14.	20/11/14	<p>CCI probing state-run banks' savings account interest rate</p> <p>In an interactive session with businessmen at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CCI Chairman Ashok Chawla said the competition watchdog was looking at the four per cent interest PSBs offered on savings accounts. Thus, CCI is probing public sector banks for possible cartelisation in terms of the interest offered on savings accounts.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/cqi-probing-state-run-banks-savings-account-interest-rate-114111901562_1.html</p>	☺
15.	20/11/14	<p>CCI recovers just Rs 1,000 cr of Rs 12,000 cr penalties so far</p> <p>Ashok Chawla, Chairman, CCI speaking at a session organised by industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry states that Competition Commission might have slapped penalties close to Rs 12,000 crore on entities violating fair trade norms but has so far managed to recover less than one-tenth of the total amount.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-11-19/news/56265816_1_fair-trade-norms-competition-commission-crore-penalties</p>	☹
16.	20/11/14	<p>CCI dismisses case against Co-operative Societies (Punjab)</p> <p>The Competition Commission of India has dismissed a complaint alleging anti-competitive practices against Co-operative Societies (Punjab) for supply of certain agricultural products, saying that the matter does not fall under its purview.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cqi-dismisses-case-against-co-operative-societies-punjab-114112000832_1.html</p>	☺
17.	22/11/14	<p>CCI invites public views on proposed Holcim-Lafarge merger</p> <p>Competition Commission of India has invited public comments on the proposed Holcim-Lafarge merger after forming a prima facie opinion that the combination is likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in Indian cement industry.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cqi-invites-public-views-on-proposed-holcim-lafarge-merger-114112200718_1.html</p>	☺
18.	23/11/14	<p>CCI closes case against 11 cement companies</p> <p>The Competition Commission of India has closed a case of alleged cartelisation among cement companies for lack of evidence.</p> <p>http://www.livemint.com/Companies/3yYil1VhAYydsM6vfK1lhM/CCI-closes-case-against-11-cement-companies.html</p>	☺
19.	24/11/14	<p>CCI gives green signal to Mylan-Abbott deal</p> <p>Under the deal, Abbott Laboratories established Pharmaceuticals Products (EPP) segment would be transferred to the Netherlands-based New Moon BV -a private limited liability company set up by Mylan for the proposed combination.</p> <p>http://www.livemint.com/Industry/TEiAaHTS6WazXZXdEtEjvO/CCI-gives-nod-to-MylanAbbott-merger.html</p>	☺
20.	25/11/14	<p>CCI rejects complaint against Super Smelters</p> <p>The Competition Commission of India has dismissed a complaint that charged steel company Super Smelters of indulging in anti-competitive business practices in relation to pricing of steel products.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cqi-rejects-complaint-against-super-smelters-114112501332_1.html</p>	☺
21.	28/11/14	<p>CCI clears Kotak Mahindra-PineBridge mutual funds deal</p> <p>Under the proposed combination, Kotak Mutual Fund would acquire control of the schemes of PineBridge Mutual Fund by way of change in trusteeship, management</p>	☺

		and administration. Giving its green signal, CCI said the deal is not likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition in the country. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Kotak-Mahindra-PineBridge-mutual-funds-deal-gets-CCI-approval/articleshow/45309629.cms	
22.	28/11/14	CCI Probes RRBs' Merger Promoted By Syndicate The Competition Commission of India is investigating a merger between regional rural banks (RRBs) sponsored by Punjab National Bank and Syndicate Bank for possible breach of norms. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-11-28/news/56540495_1_rrbs-regional-rural-banks-ggb	☺
December			
23.	01/12/14	Ashok Chawla: Reviewing M&A deals not a 'crystal gazing' Speaking at the International Competition Network (ICN) workshop organised by the CCI in New Delhi, CCI chairman Ashok Chawla comments come at a time when some of the major Mergers & Acquisitions (M&As), including the \$4 billion Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy transaction, have been subject to strict scrutiny as part of assessing their overall impact on fair competition. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-01/news/56614599_1_cci-chairman-cci-chief-ashok-chawla-ma-deals	☺
24.	03/12/14	CCI gives green signal to Huhtamaki-Positive Packaging deal The Competition Commission of India has approved the packaging firm Huhtamaki's proposed acquisition of Enpee group firm Positive Packaging Industries, saying the deal does not raise anti-competition concerns in the country. http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cci-gives-nod-to-huhtamaki-positive-packaging-deal-114120300775_1.html	☺
25.	8/12/14	CCI clears Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy deal Although the merger will create the world's fifth largest global specialty generics company. The Competition Commission of India approved generic drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries' (SUN.NS) \$3.2 billion bid to buy Ranbaxy Laboratories (RANB.NS), but ordered the firms to divest seven products to ensure the deal doesn't harm competition. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-08/news/56839367_1_cci-chairman-ashok-chawla-fair-trade-watchdog-cci-ranbaxy	☺
26.	11/12/14	Ashok Chawla: Competition panel keeping eye on oil marketing firms The Competition Commission of India believes that public sector oil marketing companies behave like a cartel on retail prices of auto fuel – petrol and diesel. http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/competition-panel-keeping-eye-on-oil-marketing-firms-ashok-chawla/article6683361.ece	☺
27.	15/12/14	CCI clears Reliance-Prime Focus deal Reliance MediaWorks' proposed transfer of entertainment business to Prime Focus has been cleared by fair trade regulator CCI, paving the way for one of the biggest deals in this sector in the country. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-15/news/57072187_1_prime-focus-competition-commission-reliance-mediaworks	☺
28.	18/12/14	CCI rejects case on TCS, excise department It was alleged that excise department and TCS had abused their dominant position in the market by not incorporating the complainant's invention with the portal - Excise Supply Chain Information Management System (ESCIMS). http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/competition-comm-rejects-case-on-excise-department-and-tcs-114121500555_1.html	☺

29.	23/12/14	<p>2014: CCI Slaps Rs 2,700 Crore Penalties</p> <p>Fair trade regulator, CCI imposed penalties of Rs 2,675 crore on 169 entities in the first 10 months of 2014. The number of penalised entities is the highest ever in more than four years.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-23/news/57349955_1_fair-trade-norms-competition-commission-possible-anti-competitive-practices</p>	☹
30.	24/12/14	<p>CCI clears Novartis-GSK pharma deal</p> <p>Remarking that "<i>the proposed combination is not likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition in India</i>". The Competition Commission of India has approved a multi-billion dollar deal between global pharma giants GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals and Novartis.</p> <p>http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cci-clears-novartis-gsk-pharma-deal-114122400067_1.html</p>	☺
31.	25/12/14	<p>CCI rejects complaint against Ansal Properties</p> <p>The complaint pertained to shop/commercial space at the company's mall in Greater Noida. Rejecting the allegations, CCI said there is no case of violation of competition norms.</p> <p>http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-25/news/57395431_1_ansal-properties-relevant-market-dominant-position</p>	☺