Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the celebration of ten years of competition law enforcement by lighting the lamp in presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, and Chairperson, CCI Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta at DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi on 23rd August, 2019.
From The Desk of the Chairperson

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Milestones are important in their own right. They not only give us reasons to celebrate our journey so far, but also offer us a chance to reflect on the same and prepare us for the path ahead.

Competition Commission of India celebrated one such milestone in its journey towards excellence in enforcement of competition law. On 20th May, 2019, we completed 10 years of enforcement of competition law. This landmark was celebrated on 23rd August, 2019 at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi where Hon’ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Hon’ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur graced the occasion and encouraged us for our work and gave us valuable suggestions for the enforcement of competition law.

In the last quarter, Commission undertook some important enforcement measures. Penalties were imposed on parties for rigging of bids in tenders floated by Pune Municipal Corporation and HPCL in two separate cases, and parties found guilty of cartelisation in the supply of Electric Power Steering systems were also penalised in another matter involving leniency. Carrying forward Commission’s effective intervention in the real estate sector, Jay Prakash Associates Limited was found to have abused its dominant position and accordingly penalised under the relevant provisions of the Act.

Investigations were also ordered in matters related to sports and automobile sectors.

Cartels due to their secretive nature are difficult to detect. Commission carries out dawn raids on the premises of parties suspected to be involved in a cartel to seize evidence and information. In the current calendar year, we have stepped up our investigating prowess by carrying out as many as 12 dawn raids. Dawn raids on players involved in pulses from the real estate sector, and on players involved in online betting were conducted. Section 45 of the Competition Act, 2002 provides for dawn raids to be conducted with the permission of the Hon’ble Competition Commissioner only if there is reasonable cause to believe that a cartel exists or is being formed.

Several companies have been found to have violated provisions of the Competition Act, 2002, including a leading conglomerate for its role in anti-competitive practices. The Commission imposed penalties on companies for their role in suppression of competition in the market for testing services. Another conglomerate was also found to have violated provisions of the Act for its role in cartels in the steel sector.

The Commission has also initiated investigations in matters related to sports and automobile sectors.

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FAIR PLAY

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cartel, railway supply contracts and FCI supply contracts helped seize incriminating evidence. The increased intensity and frequency of dawn raids of the Commission has led to enormous behavioural spinoffs as parties involved in the cartel have come forward and provided crucial information to take advantage of our leniency regime. These leniency applications considerably save time and resources of the Commission and the Office of the DG.

All mergers and acquisitions (or combinations) above a certain threshold (defined by assets and turnover) need to be approved by the Commission. We at the Commission recognize the immense responsibility upon us for a speedy approval, keeping in view the criticality of time in the merger and acquisition process for the parties involved. In order to minimise time and cost burden on the parties, the Commission introduced a 'Green Channel' route which allows for an automatic mechanism for the approval of combinations subject to certain conditions. I am happy to share that we have received an encouraging response from the stakeholders and I believe this initiative will go a long way in promoting 'Ease of Doing Business' in India.

In the quarter gone by, the Commission approved acquisition of equity share capital in Delhivery by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, acquisition of equity share capital in Apollo Munich by HDFC, and acquisition of shareholding in International Paper APPM Limited by West Coast Paper Mills Limited.

This quarter also saw the judiciary laying down landmark competition law jurisprudence. The Division Bench of Delhi High Court held that the absence of a Judicial Member does not preclude CCI from performing its adjudicatory function until such time the Judicial Member was appointed by the Central Government. In another judgement with respect to payment of interest to CCI on account of delay in payment of penalty, the Delhi High Court held that the interest on such penalty being a statutory levy is required to be paid by the party. In another case, the Division Bench of Delhi High Court discussed the scope of the DG investigation and held that the DG was within his powers to submit a report regarding the violation of Section 4 of the Act by a party, although the direction issued by the CCI under Section 26 (1) of the Act was with reference to information pertaining to violation of Section 3 of the Act.

Complementing its robust enforcement actions, on advocacy front, the Commission organized workshop on 'E-commerce: Changing Competition Landscape in India' which is a part of Commissions' on-going "Market Study on E-commerce in India". The workshop drew an enthusiastic response from the stakeholders and yielded vital insights into the finer aspects of competition in these markets.

We will continue to embark on our journey with zeal and are committed to ensure fair play in the markets in India.

(Ashok Kumar Gupta)
Celebration of Ten Years of Competition Law Enforcement

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) celebrated a major milestone of completing ten-years of competition law enforcement on 23rd August, 2019 at Dr. D.S. Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Chief Guest on this occasion, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman delivered the keynote address. She reflected on the challenges and responsibilities that CCI will have to take on in the years to come and gear itself for implementing 'Competition 2.0'. She very eloquently parsed the concept of 'Competition 2.0' as an era of competition regulation sans frontier. She noted that markets increasingly have no geographical boundaries but the impact of the firm's conduct reverberates in Indian markets. Regulators, thus, have to constantly work towards assessing these impacts and take measures accordingly. Commenting on the complexity of evolving markets, she urged CCI to take up more cases suo motu to safeguard consumer interests.
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman released two advocacy publications of CCI on this occasion

(a) **Diagnostic Toolkit for Public Procurement Officers**: The Toolkit is designed to serve as a practical guide for procurement officials who can use it to review their present public procurement system and its level of competition-efficiency. The Toolkit provides detailed guidelines and recommended best practices towards designing a competition efficient tendering system.

(b) **Competition Law Module for the Administrative and Judicial Training Academies**: Considering the crucial role of Administrative and Judicial Officers in the implementation of competition law, a comprehensive module on competition law has been prepared for their training and ready reference.

The Hon'ble Minister also praised CCI for its green channel initiative for mergers and acquisitions and for facilitating the establishment of RERA through Commissions' orders passed in respect of cases in the housing sector. She also commended the CCI for acting as a good watchdog for facilitating competition. She asked CCI to keenly observe market developments around the globe, conduct in depth market studies and guide the government for dealing with challenges associated with new economy.

Later, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, stated that competition is at the core of efficient markets and is also the strongest incentive for firms to innovate, which brings about dynamic efficiency and higher competitiveness in the long run. He emphasized on the need for having an effective interface between the sectoral regulators and CCI. He advised CCI to look into the challenges arising out of disruptive technology and innovation, and underscored the need for cross-border cooperation with other competition authorities to achieve effective enforcement, advocacy, and to facilitate sharing of knowledge and expertise at international level. Harmonisation, effective consultation and promotion of strong positive comity among regulators as well as nation-states were also stressed upon.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Injeti Srinivas, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, appreciated the crucial role
played by CCI in ensuring fair competition in the liberalised regime. He elaborated the key recommendations of the Competition Law Review Committee (hereinafter CLRC) and stated that they were designed to make the regulatory architecture and framework more robust to tackle the challenges arising out of new age economy. He also congratulated CCI for instituting the green channel mechanism that facilitates faster merger approvals for ease of doing business.

In his welcome address, Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI stated that in the course of ten years, CCI has reviewed over 1000 antitrust cases, 670 merger filings and have held around 720 advocacy events. He stated that CCI has always endeavored to function in harmony with the evolving business environment and in this regard has taken a number of steps, which includes - establishment of green channel for combinations, MoU with Government e-Marketplace for early detection of cartels, an effective leniency regime, advocacy through roadshows and sectoral workshops, market studies etc. He informed that the average number of days to approve combinations has progressively reduced to 18 days, and there is also a quick approval of M&As that do not cause appreciable adverse effect on competition. He also said CCI intervention in digital markets has been nuanced so as to preserve the innovation incentives while correcting the anti-competitive conduct.

In his vote of thanks, Member, CCI Shri. B.S. Bishnoi emphasised that CCI will continue to maintain a fine balance between regulation and intervention and to establish a more effective interface with other sectoral regulators. He stressed that the vision and guidance provided by the Hon'ble Ministers will help CCI immensely in fulfilling its mandate of promoting and sustaining competition in Indian markets, and also assured that a more robust ex post assessment of concluded cases and outcome measurement to assess the actual impact of CCI's interventions would be conducted.

Open House Session 1: Cartel and Abuse of Dominant Position

The panel appreciated the effectiveness of the Commission in containing cartels by way of a combination of enforcement and advocacy. Going forward, it was emphasized that there is a need to understand how self-learning algorithms operate to maximize profits through self-learning and coordination amongst themselves. These technological challenges are faced by other mature jurisdictions as well and hence act as a great leveller between India and mature jurisdictions. The panel also felt the need for a collaborative approach among different regulators, along with development of soft law such as guidance notes/policy papers, etc. to prevent overlaps and promote comity between regulators. The panel observed that by way of its orders, the Commission also undertakes subtle advocacy by making the stakeholders and business community aware of the conducts that are in contravention of the Act.
Open House Session 2: Ten Years of Merger Control Regime and Advocacy

This session featured discussion on four areas - green channel adopted by CCI, big data and M&As, remedies: structural vs. behavioral and common PE investments and issue of control. The panel welcomed the concept of green channel approval of combinations and felt that certain fine tuning may be needed regarding issues such as - whether delineation of relevant markets needs to be done exhaustively; is there a look back period for transactions falling in green channel; whether full analysis of the proposal is required for pre filing consultations; what will be the impact of green channel on block deals on a stock exchange; and is there a potential for substantive gun jumping if someone wrongly files under the green channel? Regarding combinations involving big data, the panel felt that CCI may follow some developments in the international jurisdictions such as hiring of data scientists as a part of capacity building and come out with guidelines for such cases. The Panel further noted that assessment of ‘control’ is a complex process due to a complicated corporate structure in India and therefore multiple parameters may be required to define control.

Regarding remedies, the panel noted that the Commission has always endeavored to devise remedies that are proportional to the theory of harm and has shown flexibility in remedy design on a case-to-case basis.

In the last phase, the focus of the panel discussion shifted to the advocacy initiatives of the Commission where it was noted that scarce resources of the Commission have been used in an optimum manner. It was suggested that the stakeholders need more guidance from CCI in the form of ‘guidance notes’ and ‘thought papers’.
Penalty imposed on SAAR IT Resources Private Limited and Others for rigging bids of a tender floated by Pune Municipal Corporation in 2015

**Allegation:** Nagrik Chetna Manch, a public charitable trust, filed an information under Section 27(1) of the Competition Act, 2002 against SAAR IT Resources Private Limited, CADD Systems and Services Private Limited, Pentacle Consultants (I) Private Limited and Pune Municipal Corporation (Opposite Parties/OPs) alleging bid rigging of a tender floated by Pune Municipal Corporation in the year 2015 for ‘Selection of agency for carrying out geo-enabled tree census using GIS & GPS Technology’. The Commission directed the Director General (‘DG’) to cause an investigation into the matter and submit a report.

**Findings:** After perusing the information, the investigation report submitted by the DG and arguments of parties and the material available on record, the Commission found that there was cogent evidence of bid rigging/ collusive in the abovementioned tender in contravention of Section 3(3)(d) read with Section 3(1) of the Act. Further, the Commission also found meeting of minds and co-ordination between various individuals which included the directors of the companies to rig the tender, by way of submitting proxy/ cover bids.

**Direction:** Apart from directing the OPs to cease and desist from indulging in such anti-competitive conducts. Further, the Commission imposed penalty of Rs. 1.26 Crore, Rs. 0.11 Crore, and Rs. 1.33 Crore on SAAR IT Resources Private Limited, CADD Systems and Services Private Limited, and Pentacle Consultants (I) Private Limited, respectively under Section 27(b) of the Act, calculated at the rate of 10 % of their average turnover for last three financial years.

**51 LPG Cylinder manufacturers and their respective office bearers penalized for bid rigging in tender floated by HPCL in 2013**

**Allegation:** Commission took suo motu cognizance based on an anonymous letter for two tenders floated by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (‘HPCL’) for supply of cylinders to its bottling plants in 18 states with regard to allegation of bid rigging. The Commission directed the Director General (‘DG’) to cause an investigation into the matter and submit a report.

**Findings:** Under first tender, the DG based on the price parallelism observed in bids and various admissions in the depositions of the parties, found 48 LPG Cylinder manufacturers to be in contravention of the provisions of Section 3(3)(d) read with Section 3(1) of the Act. Under the second tender, identical rates were quoted by two qualified bidders in 08 states out of the 10 states in which they had submitted bids. Also, 51 LPG Cylinder manufacturers withdrew their bids while technical evaluation under the second tender was in progress without any plausible justification. The DG also found evidence in relation to exchange of withdrawal letter format through emails, submission of bids by certain entities using common IP address, entities having common/related management, and common agents working for cylinder manufacturers who met each other frequently and being aware of decisions of other companies.

**Directions:** After hearing the submissions of Opposite Parties and their individuals on Investigation Report, the Commission did not find a case of contravention of the provisions of Section 3 of the Act in relation to first tender. However, with respect to second tender, the Commission found 51 LPG Cylinder manufacturers and their respective office bearers to be in violation of provisions of Section 3(3) (d) read with Section 3(1) of the Act. Accordingly, the Commission directed them to cease and desist from indulging in such anti-competitive practices and imposed a penalty of Rs. 39.75 crore on 51 LPG Cylinder manufacturers and Rs. 45.26 lakhs on their office bearers under Section 27 of the Act.

**Penalty imposed on Jaipurakash Associates Limited for abusing its dominant position**

**Allegations:** Information was filed by Mrs. Naveen Kataria against Jaiprakash Associates Limited (‘JAL’/‘OP’) alleging
contravention of provisions of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002 (Act). The Informant, a buyer/allottee of a villa being developed by JAL, alleged that the terms and conditions in the Provisional Allotment Letter (PAL) were unfair, one sided and loaded in favor of JAL. After having formed an opinion that there exists a prima facie case, the Commission referred the matter to the Director General ('DG') for an investigation.

In its investigation report, the DG delineated the relevant market as ‘market for the provision of development and sale of independent residential units such as villas, estate homes, town homes and row-houses in integrated townships in Noida and Greater Noida’ and found the OP to be dominant therein on the basis of its market share, size and the resources vis-à-vis its competitors during the period 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Findings: Commission found the OP to be dominant in the aforesaid relevant market and the standard terms and conditions of JAL to be one-sided and unilaterally favoring the OP. Furthermore, the conduct of JAL such as collecting money/charges from the buyers without delivering the residential/dwelling unit on time, carrying additional construction and amending/altering the layout plans, imposition of various charges etc. without consulting buyers were also held to be abusive. Thus, the Commission concluded such conduct of JAL to be in violation of Section 4(2)(a)(i) of the Act.

Direction: Commission directed JAL to cease and desist from indulging in the abusive conduct and imposed penalty at the rate of 5% of the average relevant turnover (2009-10 to 2011-12) amounting to INR 13.82 crore on JAL.

Penalty levied for cartelisation in the supply of Electric Power Steering Systems (EPS Systems)

Allegations: The case was initiated on the basis of an application received by the Commission under Lesser Penalty Regulations, from NSK Limited, Japan. This case pertains to alleged anti-competitive conduct by JTEKT Corporation, Japan, along with their Indian subsidiaries namely Rane NSK Steering Systems Ltd. and JTEKT Sona Automotive India Limited (Opposite Parties/OPs) respectively in the EPS Systems market. After forming a prima facie opinion that the parties contravened the provisions of Sections 3(3)(a), 3(3)(c) and 3(3)(d) read with Section 3(1) of the Competition Act.

Directions: The Commission issued a direction to NSK/RNSS and JTEKT/JSAI to cease and desist from indulging in cartel conduct and also decided to levy penalty upon NSK/RNSS at the rate of 4% of the relevant turnover of RNSS and upon JTEKT/JSAI, at the rate of 1% of the relevant profit of JSAI.

Findings: The Commission, upon analysis of the evidences gathered by the DG, and considering that both NSK/RNSS as well as JTEKT/JSAI agreed to the findings of the DG, concluded that the OPs indulged in cartelisation in the EPS Systems market, between 2005 and 2011, by means of directly or indirectly determining price, allocating markets, coordinating bid response and manipulating the bidding process of certain automobile OEMs in contravention of the provisions of Sections 3(3)(a), 3(3)(c) and 3(3)(d) read with Section 3(1) of the Competition Act.

The case was referred to the Director General to cause an investigation.

Investigation Ordered against the Volleyball Federation in India and certain players

Background: The case was initiated on the basis of an application received by the Commission for investigation in respect of the alleged abuse of dominant position by Intel Corporation against Volleyball Federation of India and certain players.

Allegations: The case pertains to alleged abuse of dominant position by Intel Corporation with Section 3(4)(e) of the Competition Act. Further, by entering into this Agreement with Baseline, VFI placed restrictions not only for the players of the Volleyball League but also for the players of other persons or enterprises from organizing a volleyball league in India. Intel Corporation was also alleged that by arbitrarily and unilaterally granting exclusive rights for 10 years (‘Volleyball League’). It was also alleged that by agreeing to the findings of the Commission under Lesser Penalty Regulations, from NSK Limited, Japan. This case pertains to alleged anti-competitive conduct by JTEKT Corporation, Japan, along with their Indian subsidiaries namely Rane NSK Steering Systems Ltd. and JTEKT Sona Automotive India Limited (Opposite Parties/OPs) respectively in the EPS Systems market. After forming a prima facie opinion that the parties contravened the provisions of Sections 3(3)(a), 3(3)(c) and 3(3)(d) read with Section 3(1) of the Competition Act.

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**Investigation Initiated**

**Investigation Ordered against Volleyball Federation of India for alleged abuse of dominant position**

**Background:** Certain volleyball players filed an information against Volleyball Federation of India (VFI), a National Sports Federation for Volleyball in India and Baseline Ventures (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Baseline) wherein it was alleged that Baseline was arbitrarily and unilaterally appointed by VFI as the organizer of volleyball league and VFI entered into an agreement with Baseline, granting it exclusive rights for organizing a volleyball league for Men, Women and beach volleyball in India for the next 10 years (Volleyball League). It was also alleged that by granting exclusive rights for 10 years to Baseline to organize Volleyball League and by restricting and prohibiting any other person or enterprise from organising a similar Volleyball League for the next 10 years, VFI abused its dominant position and thus violated provisions of Section 4 of the Act. Further, by entering into this Agreement with Baseline, VFI placed restrictions not only upon other persons or enterprises who wish to conduct similar leagues in India but also for the players of volleyball in India.

**Prima Facie View:** The Commission found VFI to be in position of dominance in the 'market for organization of professional volleyball tournaments/ events in India' and the 'market for services of volleyball players in India' and referred the matter to DG for investigation.

**Investigation ordered into alleged anti-competitive conduct by Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) in implementing discount control policy vis-à-vis dealers**

**Allegations:** The Commission received an anonymous complaint against Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) alleging Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) and Violation of Section 27(b) of the Competition Act. Further, by entering into this Agreement with Baseline, VFI placed restrictions not only upon other persons or enterprises who wish to conduct similar leagues in India but also for the players of volleyball in India.

**Prima Facie View:** The Commission was of the opinion that the allegations were prima facie to be considered for investigation in respect of the alleged resale price maintenance arrangement put in place by MSIL upon its dealers in contravention of the provisions of Section 3(1) read with Section 3(4)(e) of the Competition Act, 2002 and referred the matter to DG for investigation.

**Investigation ordered into alleged abuse of dominant position by Intel Corporation and Intel Technology India Private Limited**

**Allegations:** Matrix Info Systems Pvt. Ltd. (Matrix) alleged that Intel Corporation and its Indian subsidiary, Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd. (Intel) imposed unfair and discriminatory conditions in terms of the price that dealers could offer to their customers and if a dealer was found giving discounts more than the permitted level, penalty was levied depending upon the number of such circumstances. Intel also alleged that dealers of MSIL in West-2 Region were not permitted to give extra discount to their customers and if a dealer was found giving discounts more than the permitted level, penalty was levied depending upon the number of incidents found in a particular financial year.

**Prima Facie View:** The Commission prima facie found Intel to be in position of dominance in the 'market for sale of Intel's Boxed Micro-processors for Laptop PCs in India' and found Intel to be prima facie a dominant player in the said relevant markets. The Commission was of the opinion that the warranty policy of Intel is unfair and discriminatory, and referred the matter to DG for investigation.
Commission approves the acquisition of up to 8% of the total equity share capital of Delhivery on a fully diluted basis by CPPIB, through a secondary purchase from existing shareholders of Delhivery.

Commission received a notice under Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, filed by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (‘CPPIB’) regarding its proposed acquisition of 7.97% shareholding in Delhivery Private Limited (‘DPL’).

CPPIB is a professional investment management organization which invests in public equities, private equities, real estate, infrastructure and fixed income instruments. CPPIB has majority equity stake in Indospace Core, which is engaged in the business of leasing space in modern commercial warehouses. DPL is engaged in provision of third party logistics services in India. The logistics activities of DPL and the warehousing space leasing business of Indospace Core are placed at different levels of the supply chain.

It was observed by the Commission that Indospace Core has considerable presence in the cities of Chennai and Pune. However, the total of warehousing spaces leased in by DPL in the above mentioned cities are insignificant vis-à-vis the warehousing space of Indospace Core. Further, the major customers of Indospace Core are largely non-logistics players. Thus, the Commission observed that the combination is not likely to incentivize the parties to engage in any activity that would raise competition concern.

Commission approves a composite transaction comprising of two inter-connected steps: (i) the acquisition by HDFC of an aggregate 51.20% of the total equity shareholding of Apollo Munich from the certain selling shareholders (Proposed Acquisition); and (ii) pursuant to the Proposed Acquisition, the merger of Apollo Munich into its then fellow subsidiary, HDFC ERGO, pursuant to a scheme of arrangement.

_Health Insurance_
The Commission received a notice, under Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, jointly filed by Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (‘HDFC’), HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited (‘HDFC ERGO’) and Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company Limited (‘Apollo Munich’). The combination comprised of the following inter-connected steps: (i) acquisition by the HDFC of an aggregate of 51.20% shareholding of the Apollo Munich; and (ii) subsequent merger of the Apollo Munich into the HDFC ERGO.

HDFC ERGO, a joint venture between the HDFC and ERGO International AG, is engaged in general insurance business in India. Apollo Munich, a joint venture inter alia between Apollo Energy Company Limited and Munich Health Holding AG, is engaged only in health insurance business.

Both Apollo Munich and HDFC Group are engaged in health insurance business in India, which includes personal accident insurance and travel insurance. It is observed that these business segments are characterised by the presence of several public and/or private sector general insurance companies. Further, the incremental market share as a result of the combination is not significant in the broader business segment for health insurance business as well as in each of the narrower business segments viz. personal accident insurances, travel insurance and other health insurance.

HDFC through its affiliates is engaged in distribution of insurance products. The distribution activities of affiliates of HDFC and the insurance business of Apollo Munich are at different levels of the supply chain. It was observed by the Commission that distribution through individual agents and direct sales are the major modes of distribution of health insurance (excluding personal accident and travel insurances) and in terms of value, only 8% of the products in this segment were distributed by banks. As regards the distribution of personal accident and travel insurances products, it was observed that the presence of Apollo Munich is not significant and accordingly the combination is not likely to incentivize the parties to engage in any conduct that is likely to raise any competition concern.

**Acquisition of controlling stake in International Paper APPM Limited by West Coast Paper Mills Limited.**

The Commission received a notice from West Coast Paper Mills Limited for acquisition of (i) 51-60 % shareholding in International Paper APPM Limited (‘Target’) from International Paper Investments (Luxembourg) S.A.R.L (‘IP Investments’) and IP International Holdings, Inc. (‘IP Holdings’) and (ii) acquisition of up to 25 % of the shareholding of the Target from public shareholders of the Target, pursuant to the open offer triggered on account of the acquisition of shares from Sellers.

The Parties are engaged in business activities in the markets for maplitho paper, copier in uncoated writing and printing paper, machine glazed/poster paper, cup stock paper, ledger paper, and stiffener paper in India. The combined market share of the Parties is less than 15% in maplitho paper, Machine Glazed/poster paper and Cup stock paper, and 15-20% in Copier. Further, it was noted that presence of Parties in sub-segments of Ledger paper and Stiffener paper, is not significant to raise any concern. It was also noted that there are other players such as JK, TNPL, ITC, Century, Star, BILT present in each of these segments. Accordingly, the Commission approved the transaction.
Validity of final orders passed by CCI in absence of Judicial Member

Competition Commission of India (‘CCI’) ordered investigation into alleged cartelization in a tender floated by Pune Municipal Corporation (‘PMC’) for conducting trees census within the PMC jurisdiction area, using GIS and GPS Technology. CCI, passed two separate orders where vide the subsequent order, after the case was adjourned and vide the subsequent order, after hearing the detailed arguments, the matter was reserved for judgment. The said two orders were challenged before the Hon’ble High court of Delhi on the ground that these orders were passed in absence of a Judicial Member and therefore, were in contravention of the law laid down by the Division Bench of this Court in the judgment dated 10.04.2019 in Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. & Ors v. CCI &Anr.; W.P(C) 11467 of 2018 whereby the CCI and Central Government were directed to ensure the presence and participation of a Judicial Member at all times while passing adjudicatory orders by the CCI and that these orders being adjudicatory in nature required the presence of a Judicial Member to be mandatory as per the law.

However, Delhi High Court vide judgment dated 17.07.2019 in CADD Systems and Services Pvt. Ltd. vs CCI held that the absence of a Judicial Member did not preclude CCI from performing its adjudicatory function until such time the Judicial Member was appointed by the Central Government. It was also noted by the court that no act or proceedings of CCI would be invalid by reason of any vacancy or any defect in its constitution by virtue of the provisions of Section 15 of the Act.

Liability to pay interest on account of delay in payment of penalty

CCI directed United India Insurance Company Ltd. to deposit interest on account of delay in payment of the penalty, which was imposed upon it for violating the provisions of Section 3 of the Act. Pursuant to the same, demand notices were issued
Delhi High Court vide judgment dated 11.09.2019 in United India Insurance Company Ltd. vs CCI held that the interest on such penalty being a statutory levy is required to be paid by the party. The court observed that in appeal before the COMPAT, the findings of CCI with regard to the contravention were upheld and the penalty was modified/ reduced and such modification would thus, relate back to CCI order. It was also held that though Appellate Tribunal had stayed the operation of the order passed by CCI, on vacation of the stay, the order passed by CCI as well as the consequential demand notice became operative to a reduced extent.

**Scope and power of Director General**

CCI ordered investigation into alleged violations of Section 3 of the Act pertaining to anti-competitive agreements, by manufacturers of Man Made Fiber including Grasim Industries Ltd. (GIL). Upon investigation, Director General (DG) found that GIL had abused its dominant position, in terms of Section 4 of the Act. An application was filed by GIL for quashing the DG Report but the same was dismissed by CCI. The CCI order dismissing the application filed by GIL for quashing the DG Report was challenged before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court on the ground that DG had exceeded its jurisdiction. The learned Single Judge in judgment dated 17.12.2013 held that the direction issued by the CCI to the DG was to investigate violations of Section 3 of the Act and thus, the DG could not have investigated into any violation by GIL of Section 4 of the Act which pertained to abuse of dominant position. An LPA was preferred by CCI against the said judgment passed by the Single Judge.

The Division Bench of Delhi High Court vide judgment dated 12.09.2019 in CCI vs M/s Grasim Industries Ltd. while setting aside the judgment passed by the learned Single Judge held that the DG was within his powers in terms of Section 26 (1) of the Act read with Regulations 18, 20 and 41 of the CCI (General) Regulations 2009, to submit a report regarding the violation of Section 3 of the Act. The court also clarified that an order of the CCI under Section 26 (1) of the Act “triggers” investigation by the DG, and that the powers of the DG are not necessarily circumscribed to examine only such matters that formed the subject matter of the 'Information' filed.
E-commerce has been on a remarkable ascent in the past few years. Digital trade, intermediated by online platforms, has unlocked efficiency gains for businesses and brought myriad benefits to consumers. Business models, across a number of goods and services, have been recast in response to the advent of digital commerce. In certain sectors, businesses now have an increased dependence on online platforms as major gateways to markets and consumers. At the same time, the online ecosystems have given rise to some concerns, articulated by suppliers/business-users of online platforms.

For instance, the recent months have witnessed a growing discordance between the online platforms and their business-users in the food services sector in India. The issues of dispute are many, all however emerging primarily from the alleged increased market power of the platforms and the consequent imposition of alleged one-sided and ‘unfair’ terms of engagement by them on the restaurant partners. As a fallout of the platforms’ pursuit of growth over profits, restaurants are compelled inter alia to offer unrealistic discounts to consumers thereby pushing their profitability to unsustainable levels, argue a large number of restaurateurs. Such emerging platform-to-business issues were deliberated over by representatives of all stakeholder groups at the Workshop on ‘E-commerce: Changing Competition Landscape in India’, organised by the Competition Commission of India on August 30, 2019. The Workshop was part of the CCI Market Study on E-commerce in India, which is currently underway.

In a session at the Workshop focusing on the food service industry, the representatives of the platforms stressed on how food delivery platforms have been driving growth, healthy competition between restaurants, innovation and employment, while also pointing to the still untapped potential in India, when compared to the economies like US or China. The restaurant fraternity, while making it clear that they were not against the technology-driven platforms, urged for the terms of engagement offered by such platforms to be more fair and equitable. The platforms, according to them, initially were willing and genuine partners in the market. However, this has changed over a period of time as now restaurants do not have the kind of operational power they had earlier. It was pointed out that the platform-restaurant contract terms are changed unilaterally and with a perceptible shift in consumer behaviour towards ordering.
online, restaurants have to rely on these platforms even if they impose exorbitant commissions and unreasonable terms. Among such terms was bundling of listing and delivery services, which required the restaurants who want to list on a platform to also register for delivery services. This choice, according to the restaurant industry, should be left with individual restaurants. The other major concern pertained to the issue of alleged data masking by platforms. As per the restaurateurs, critical customer information is not shared by platforms with restaurants, while the same is mined for launching and promoting the platforms' own cloud kitchens. The restaurateurs urged the Government to create clear and stable rules to resolve these issues and to invite views from the industry for framing such rules.

Broadly similar concerns emerged in the context of hotel services. The stakeholders were of the view that the role of the Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) has been gaining importance, both in terms of providing consumers the facility of search, compare and book hotels, as also to the hotel operators to be able to gain wider distribution reach. However, the issues of unsustainable discounts, unilateral imposition of unreasonable terms by the OTAs, opacity of search algorithm and arbitrary increase in commission, were highlighted as constraints faced by hotel operators in the increasingly online hotel reservation ecosystem. Moreover, preferential treatment or exclusive arrangement with specific hotel chains were highlighted as an issue that calls into question the neutrality of certain OTAs.

Product e-tail and the competition landscape therein were also discussed at the Workshop. The sellers using the online marketplaces voiced their concern regarding lack of level playing field on these platforms. The marketplaces, allegedly, have a small set of preferred sellers who enjoy preferential treatment from the platforms and as a corollary account for majority of the sales, outcompeting a large number of listed sellers. Moreover, platforms compete with third party brands through their own private label products, which too allegedly distort the playing field.

New market realities and business strategies raise novel issues for competition law and policy. The CCI Market Study on E-commerce is an attempt to understand these issues from multiple perspectives, to identify issues emerging from e-commerce that have a bearing on competition in markets and to have stakeholders' recommendations on policy options that may adequately address these issues while safeguarding the freedom of trade and innovation incentives of online platforms and other market participants.
Scope of DG's investigation not limited to prima facie order passed by CCI

The Competition Act, 2002 ('Act') provides the provisions with regard to the investigation by the Director General ('DG') as directed by Competition Commission of India ('CCI') as well as the procedure therein. Section 26 (1) of the Act provides that upon receipt of any reference/ information, if CCI is of the opinion that there exists a prima facie case, it shall direct the DG to cause an investigation to be made into the matter. Regulation 18 (1) of the Competition Commission of India (General) Regulations, 2009 (General Regulations) provides that the said directions of the CCI ought to be conveyed through the Secretary, CCI within seven days to the DG to investigate the matter. By virtue of Section 26 (3) of the Act, the DG is directed to submit a report on his findings within such time as prescribed by the CCI. Regulation 20 (4) of the General Regulations provides that the said report of the DG shall contain his findings on each and every allegation made in the information/reference, as the case may be, together with all evidences or documents or statements or analyses collected during the investigation. As per the provisions of Regulation 41 (4) of the General Regulations, the CCI/DG may call for the parties to lead evidence by way of affidavit or lead oral evidence in the matter.

Yet, there have been instances wherein the scope and powers of DG has been challenged before the courts of law.

It is pertinent to note that Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of CCI vs Steel Authority of India Ltd.1 has characterised the powers of the CCI under Section 26 (1) of the Act as “an inquisitorial and regulatory power”. The information was meant to trigger investigation followed by submission of a report by the DG, on the basis of which the CCI could pass its final order. By virtue of the said judgment, it can be concluded that the opinion formed by the CCI at the stage of issuing directions to the DG under Section 26 (1) of the Act is, by no means, intended to restrict the opinion that may be formed by the DG on such investigation.

Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court in Excel Crop Care Limited v. CCI2 explained the powers of the DG in broad terms. The court held that the DG was not prevent DG from examining its mind into the role played by the DG in broad terms. The court held that the DG will also have a bearing on the scope of such information could be with reference to a tender which was not even named in the information filed by the CCI. Thus, a party which was not named in the information could have proceeded with the investigation was investigated into by the DG. The Division Bench referring to the above-mentioned judgments in Cadila Healthcare Limited v. CCI3 also examined the powers of DG to look into “all the facts till the DG's investigation. The DG investigated the existence of a cartel in relation to a tender which was not even named in the information. Thus, a party which was not even named in the information was not in a position to contravention of the same matter i.e. violation of Section 3 of the Act within the ambit of the DG's investigation. The information therein was filed in respect of one tender only, and the DG investigated the conduct of the relevant entities with respect to a subsequent tender. In the said facts and circumstances, the court held that the language of the order...
passed by the CCI under Section 26 (1) of the Act was broad enough to enable the DG to look into “all the facts till the investigation was completed”. Thus, the court did not prevent DG from examining an anti-competitive practice adopted in the subsequent tender as well and upheld the DG report which pointed to the existence of a cartel in relation to a tender which was not even mentioned in the information.

The Division Bench of Delhi High Court in Cadila Healthcare Limited v. CCI3 also examined the issue whether the DG had exceeded its powers in finding a violation of the Act by Cadila which was not even named in the information filed by the CCI. Cadila submitted that there had to be separate orders under Sections 26 (1) of the Act by the CCI authorising the DG to investigate Cadila, and that, in the absence of such order, the DG could not have proceeded against Cadila on the strength of a general order passed by the CCI. The Division Bench after analysing the judgments of Supreme Court in CCI vs Steel Authority of India Ltd. (supra) and Excel Crop Care Limited v. CCI (supra) rejected Cadila’s argument that a specific order by CCI applying its mind into the role played by it was essential before the DG could have proceeded with the inquiry. Thus, a party which was not even named in the information could be investigated into by the DG.

Endnotes
1. (2010) 10 SCC 744
2. (2017) 8 SCC 47
3. 252 (2018) DLT 647

The Division Bench of Delhi High Court in the matter of CCI vs M/s Grasim Industries Ltd. (GIL)4 dealt with a similar issue “whether DG went beyond the scope of its powers in submitting a report for the alleged violations of Section 4 of the Act by the GIL”. The Division Bench referring to the above-mentioned judgments in Steel Authority of India Ltd., Excel Crop Care and Cadila Healthcare Ltd. clarified that the order of the CCI passed under Section 26 (1) of the Act “triggers” investigation by the DG, and that the powers of the DG are not necessarily circumscribed to examine only such matters that formed the subject matter of the ‘Information’. The court further emphasized that no doubt, the language of the order passed by the CCI issuing directions to the DG will also have a bearing on the scope of such investigation by the DG. Thus, the court held that the DG was within his powers in terms of Section 26 (1) of the Act read with Regulations 18, 20 and 41 of the General Regulations to submit a report regarding the violation of Section 4 of the Act, although the direction issued by the CCI under Section 26 (1) was with reference to information pertaining to violation of Section 3 of the Act.
Participation of CCI in various workshops / seminars / meetings:

1. Ms. Sangeeta Verma, Member, CCI & Dr. K.D. Singh, Joint Director (Law) participated in Head of Authority Workshop and 46th Annual Conference on International Antitrust Law and Policy organized by Fordham Competition Law Institute during 11-13th September 2019 in New York, USA.

Ms. Sangeeta Verma, Member, CCI with Mr. Andreas Mundt, President of the Bundeskartellamt at 46th Annual Conference on International Antitrust Law and Policy at Fordham University.

Ms. Sangeeta Verma, Member and Dr. K.D. Singh, Joint Director (Law) with Ms. Aoki Reiko, Commissioner Japan Fair Trade Commission.

2. Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI, Ms. Jyoti Jindger, Adviser (Economics), and Ms. Payal Malik, Adviser (Economics) participated in VIth BRICS International Competition Conference during 16-19th September, 2019 in Moscow, Russia.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI with heads of BRICS competition authorities at VIth BRICS International Competition Conference, Moscow, Russia.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, CCI shares his thoughts with Mr. Igor Artemiev, Head, Federal Antimonopoly Service of Russia at VIth BRICS International Competition Conference, Moscow, Russia.
Engaging with The World

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3. Shri Rahul Ravindran, Director (Law), Shri Kuldeep Kumar, Joint Director (Law), Shri Raj Kumar Badde, Joint Director (Financial Analysis), Shri Ashutosh Kumar, Deputy Director (Economics) and Shri Nilotpal Bal, Deputy Director (Economics) participated in the Competition Summer School College of Europe under EU-India Competition Cooperation Project during 1-12th July, 2019 in Bruges, Belgium.
4. Shri Ansuman Pattnaik, Director General (in charge) and Shri Kamal Sultanpuri, Deputy Director (Law) participated in 18th meeting of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and related meetings during 10-12th July, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation was also guest speaker for the 7th edition of the CAS in International Competition Law and Compliance in cooperation with NYSBA and UNCTAD and presented on the topic Evolution of Competition Jurisprudence in India on 9th July, 2019.

5. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Economics) participated in the International Conference on Digital Economy and second meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Digital Economy during 31st July – 1st August, 2019 in Brasilia, Brazil.

6. Shri Apurv Agarwal, Joint Director (Law) & Shri Anand Vikas Mishra, Deputy Director (Law) participated in Competition Law Workshop on Vertical Restraints during 4-6th September, 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.


8. Shri Paul O’ Brien and Shri Jon J Nathan, counsels US FTC were on secondment with CCI during 23rd-27th September, 2019 under the US-India MoU on Antitrust Cooperation. FTC officials also conducted a session on the topic “FTC in Digital Age” on 27th September, 2019 for CCI officials.

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Advocacy Initiatives

During the last quarter, 25 advocacy events were organised which are as follows:

1. Shri Arpit Gupta, Deputy Director (Economics) delivered a lecture on “Competition Issues in Public Procurement” at National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad on 5th July, 2019.

2. Shri Sukesh Mishra, Director (Law) delivered a lecture on “Competition Law in India-A Brief Overview” at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack on 17th July, 2019.


4. Shri V. Sriraj, Joint Director (Law) delivered a lecture on “Interface of Competition Act and IBC 2016” at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Manesar on 25th July, 2019.

5. Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director (Economics) delivered a lecture on Competition law at M.P. Judicial Academy, Bhopal on 7th August, 2019.

6. Shri Rahul Ravindran, Director (Law) conducted a half day workshop on Competition law at Kerala Judicial Academy, Angamaly on 9th August, 2019.

7. Shri Manish Mohan Govil, Adviser (Law) participated in a meeting with “CII Regional Representatives at CII Western Regional Council (WRC) Meeting, Ahmedabad on 28th August, 2019.

8. Shri Manish Mohan Govil, Adviser (Law) delivered a lecture on “Competition Issues in Pharma and Medical Sector” at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh on 17th August, 2019.

Development in other Jurisdictions

EUROPEAN UNION

Antitrust Commission fines Coroos and Groupe CECAB €31.6 million for participating in canned vegetables cartel

The European Commission has fined Coroos and Groupe CECAB a total of €31,647,000 for breaching EU antitrust rules. Bonduelle was not fined as it revealed the existence of the cartel to the Commission.

The Commission has found that Bonduelle, Coroos and Groupe CECAB participated for more than 13 years in a cartel for the supply of certain types of canned vegetables to retailers and/or food service companies in the European Economic Area (EEA). The three companies admitted their involvement in the cartel and agreed to settle the case.

The aim of the three companies involved in the cartel was to preserve or strengthen their position on the market, to maintain or increase selling prices, to reduce uncertainty regarding their future commercial conduct and to formulate and control marketing and trading conditions to their advantage. To achieve this aim, the companies set prices, agreed on market shares and volume quotas, allocated customers and markets, coordinated their replies to tenders, and exchanged commercially sensitive information.

The infringement covered the entire EEA and lasted from 19 January 2000 to 11 June 2013 for Bonduelle, and to 1 October 2013 for Coroos and Groupe CECAB.
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9. Shri Kamal Sultanpuri, Deputy Director (Law) delivered a lecture on “Public Procurement and Competition law” at H.P. Institute of Public Administration, Shimla on 21st August, 2019.


12. Shri Shekhar Verma, Joint Director (Financial Analysis) participated as a Judge for NLIU Bhopal Moot Court Competition, Bhopal on 31st August, 2019.

13. Shri Ashutosh Kumar, Deputy Director (Economics) delivered a lecture on Competition Law at Patna University on 4th September, 2019.


15. Shri Manish Mohan Govil, Adviser (Law) delivered a lecture on “Importance of Competition Law & Market Regulation in the New Age Economy” at IIM Lucknow Noida Campus on 7th September, 2019.

16. Shri Shekhar Verma, Joint Director (Financial Analysis) and Shri Pranav Satyam, Deputy Director (Economics), delivered a lecture on Competition Law at IIM Lucknow Noida Campus on 8th September, 2019.

17. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Economics), delivered a lecture on “Use of Data Analysis in Antitrust” at Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), DRDO New Delhi on 12th September, 2019.


19. Shri Ashutosh Kumar, Deputy Director (Economics) delivered a lecture on competition law at JIMS Institute of Management (IP University), NOIDA on 23rd September, 2019.


21. Shri Nandan Kumar, Director (Economics) participated in a panel discussion on “Blockchain & Legal Implications” at Tech Law Conclave organised by PG College of Law, Mumbai on 27th September, 2019.

22. Shri Mohan R. Ronanki, Joint Director (Economics) delivered a lecture on “Recent changes in Merger Control Regime in India” at Six Month Advanced Professional Course by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs at Dr. Ambedkar Centre, Janpath, New Delhi on 27th September, 2019.


24. Ms. Payal Malik, Adviser (Economics) was a panel speaker on theme “Competition and Fairness in the Digital Economy” during 2nd edition of “India Data Leadership Summit (IDLS) – Growth, Trust & Privacy held at New Delhi on 27th September, 2019.


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CBD organized following lectures at CCI under CCI's Special Lecture Series (SLS) during July to September, 2019:

+ 3rd Lecture by Prof. Sebastian Morris, IIM-Ahmedabad on the topic 'Competition among Industries with Consumer Side Scale and Scope Economies' on 1st July 2019.

+ 4th lecture by Shri Lalit Gupta, Former Joint Director General, Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the topic ‘Slot Allocation at Indian Airports-Regulatory Perspective’ on 3rd July 2019.


+ 6th lecture by Shri Kapil Kaul, CEO & Director, CAPA Advisory (Specialist Aviation & Aerospace Consulting/ Advisory/ Research/ Data & Analytics Practice) on ‘Aviation Sector in general and Jet Airways Saga in particular’ on 6th September, 2019.

CBD conducted a two-day Orientation Programme during 11th & 12th July, 2019 at CCI for two IAS Officers (Batch 2017) posted as Assistant Secretaries in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on Central Deputation.

CBD organized following two lectures under CCI's Distinguished Visitors Knowledge Sharing Series (DVKS) during July to September, 2019:

+ 26th lecture by Dr. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) on the topic 'Union Budget 2019-20' on 17th July, 2019.

+ 27th lecture by Dr. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Delhi (NLU-D) on the topic 'Artificial Intelligence and Competition Law: Challenges Ahead' on 19th July, 2019.


Shri Kapil Kaul, CEO & Director, CAPA Advisory with Shri B. S. Bishnoi, Member, CCI.

Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Economics) explains the nuances of competition law to Officer Trainees On The Job Training Programme.

Sh. Ram Avtar, Jt. Director (Finance and Accounts) and Sh. Shishupal Kumar Singh, Office Manager (Corporate Secretariat) attended a Management Development Program on 'Public Procurement' organised by National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) at NIFM Campus, Faridabad during 23rd-28th September, 2019.

Sh. Anshul Jain, Deputy Director (Financial Analysis) attended one-day Seminar on 'Invest DigiCom 2019: Propelling Digital Communications in India: Role of FDI' organized by National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF), Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) as the knowledge partner in association with FICCI on 24th September 2019 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
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1. 3rd Lecture by Prof. Sebastian Morris, IIM-Ahmedabad on the topic 'Competition among Industries with Consumer Side Scale and Scope Economies' on 1st July 2019.
2. 4th lecture by Shri Lalit Gupta, Former Joint Director General, Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the topic 'Slot Allocation at Indian Airports—Regulatory Perspective' on 3rd July 2019. Prof. Sebastian Morris, IIM-Ahmedabad shares his thoughts with the audience. Shri Lalit Gupta, Former Joint Director General, Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) explains nuances of slot allocation in aviation industry.
4. 6th lecture by Shri Kapil Kaul, CEO & Director, CAPA Advisory (Specialist Aviation & Aerospace Consulting/ Advisory/ Research/ Data & Analytics Practice) on 'Aviation Sector in general and Jet Airways Saga in particular' on 6th September, 2019. Shri Kapil Kaul, CEO & Director, CAPA Advisory with Shri B. S. Bishnoi, Member, CCI. CBD conducted a two-day Orientation Programme during 11th & 12th July, 2019 at CCI for two IAS Officers (Batch 2017) posted as Assistant Secretaries in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on Central Deputation.

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2. 27th lecture by Dr. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Delhi (NLU-D) on the topic 'Artificial Intelligence and Competition Law: Challenges Ahead' on 19th July, 2019. Dr. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Delhi (NLU-D) shares his views on interplay between artificial intelligence and competition law.
5. Shri Sukesh Mishra, Director (Law) and Dr. Bidyadhar Majhi, Director (Economics) attended a residential training programme on 'Modern Management Practices for Improving Organizational Performance' during 16th-20th September, 2019, organized by National Productivity Council (NPC) at Goa.
6. A one-day Attachment Programme was organized with CCI & O/o DG, CCI for four Indian Corporate Law Services (ICLS) Officer Trainees (9th batch) on 19th September, 2019 as part of their Professional Course under 7-weeks On The Job Training Programme. Shri Mukul Sharma, Deputy Director (Economics) explains the nuances of competition law to Officer Trainees On The Job Training Programme.
7. Sh. Ram Avtar, Jt. Director (Finance and Accounts) and Sh. Shishupal Kumar Singh, Office Manager (Corporate Secretariat) attended a Management Development Program on 'Public Procurement' organised by National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) at NIFM Campus, Faridabad during 23rd-28th September, 2019.
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**HR Corner**

- Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi joined as Member, CCI on 17.07.2019.
- Confirmation orders in respect of 14 Professional staff officers of CCI were issued.
- Selection of three officers (2 Deputy Directors (CS) & 1 PPS) in CCI on deputation basis made.

**Forthcoming Events**

i. Ms. Payal Malik, Adviser (Economics), will be speaking on the topic 'Regulating the Gig Economy' at the Indian School of Business (ISB)'s annual Workshop on 'Digital Transformation' on 11th October, 2019 at ISB, Hyderabad Campus.

ii. Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, Competition Commission of India will be leading a delegation for OECD Competition Committee, its Working Parties meetings and the Global Forum on Competition to be held on during 2-6 December 2019 in Paris, France.

iii. 2nd EU-India Competition Week under the EU-India Competition Cooperation Project wills to be organised during 9-11 December 2019.

iv. 28th Distinguished Visitor Knowledge Sharing Series (DVKS) lecture on the topic 'Building Capacity for Economic Freedom' by Dr. M. S. Sahoo, Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is scheduled on 25th October, 2019 at CCI.

v. Annual Offsite Leadership and Team-building Workshops have been planned for professional and support officers separately during November, 2019 at Amritsar.
Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi joined as Member, CCI on 17.07.2019.

Confirmation orders in respect of 14 Professional staff officers of CCI were issued.

Selection of three officers (2 Deputy Directors (CS) & 1 PPS) in CCI on deputation basis made.

Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi being administered the oath of office and secrecy by Chairperson, CCI Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta.

Forthcoming Events

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Team CCI at ten-year celebration of competition law enforcement at DRDO, Bhavan on 23rd August, 2019.

**Competition Commission of India**  
9th Floor, Office Block-1, Kidwai Nagar (East),  
New Delhi- 110023, India

Please visit www.cci.gov.in for more information about the Commission.  
For any query/comment/suggestion, please write to advocacy@cci.gov.in

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