



COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

22.02.2022

Case No. 10 of 2022

In Re:

The Indian Newspaper Society

Informant

AND

Alphabet, Inc.

Google LLC

Google India Private Limited

Google Ireland Limited

Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd

Opposite Party No. 1

Opposite Party No. 2

Opposite Party No. 3

Opposite Party No. 4

Opposite Party No. 5

ORDER

1. The present Information has been filed by the Informant, under Section 19(1)(a) of the Competition Act, 2002 ('Act') against the Opposite Parties alleging contravention of the provisions of Section 4 of the Act.
2. The Commission considered the Information in its ordinary meeting held today and noted that the subject matter of the allegations made in the instant Information is substantially the same with the subject matter under examination before the Director General ('DG') in an ongoing investigation in Case No. 41 of 2021. Accordingly, in terms of proviso to Section 26(1) of the Act, the Commission decided to club the present matter with Case No. 41 of 2021. Resultantly, the DG is directed to investigate the present matter also along with Case No. 41 of 2021 and submit a consolidated investigation report in the matters, subject to the observations made in the succeeding paragraph.



सत्यमेव जयते



3. It is noted that one of the allegations of the Informant relates to lack of transparency in search results. The Informant has alleged that search results are displayed based on predetermined algorithm and not on the basis of relevance of the content, resulting in lack of level playing field amongst various publishers. However, the Informant has not placed any material on record to substantiate these allegations. In such a scenario, neither any *prima facie* opinion can be formed, nor investigation be ordered on this count.
4. The Secretary is directed to send a copy of this order along with the Information to the Office of the DG forthwith. Further, a copy of this order may also be sent to the parties through counsel by e-mail for information.

Sd/-
(Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi)
Member

Sd/-
(Sangeeta Verma)
Member

Sd/-
(Ashok Kumar Gupta)
Chairperson