

**“Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever.” Lance Armstrong**

### **GOOGLE FINED ₹136 CRORE BY COMPETITION COMMISSION FOR ANTI-TRUST CONDUCT**

The Competition Commission of India has imposed a fine of Rs. 136 crore on search engine major Google for unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search.

It was alleged that Google was indulging in abuse of dominant position in the market for online search through practices leading to search bias and search manipulation, among others.

#### **Competition Commission of India (CCI):**

Competition Commission of India is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India

It is responsible to prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India

CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government

It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India

The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws

The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and Merger and acquisition), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India

The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

### **INDIA RANKS 44 OUT OF 50 NATIONS IN GLOBAL IP INDEX**

India has “increased substantially” its score in the latest international Intellectual Property (IP) index released by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce.

India ranks 44th out of 50 countries.

Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the index.

The report analyses the intellectual property (IP) climate in 50 world economies based on 40 unique indicators.

These indicators benchmark activity critical to innovation development surrounding patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secrets protection.

#### **Reasons behind India’s improved ranking**

- India passed guidelines to strengthen the patentability environment for technological innovations
- It improved the protection of well-known marks
- Also initiated IP awareness and coordination programmes, thereby implementing some tenets of the 2016 National IPR Policy
- Guidelines on the Examination of Computer-Related Inventions

India in July 2017 had issued ‘Guidelines on the Examination of Computer-Related Inventions’ these significantly improved the patentability environment for technological innovations

#### **Key areas of weaknesses**

- Limited framework for the protection of life sciences IP
- Patentability requirements outside international standards
- Lengthy pre-grant opposition proceedings
- Previously used compulsory licensing for commercial and nonemergency situations

- Limited participation in international IP treaties
- No participation in international PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway) tracks

**CHINA TO RESTART KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA THROUGH THE NATHU LA PASS**

China has confirmed restarting of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Nathu La pass.

The trek through the Nathu La pass was cancelled by China in June last year due to face-off between Indian and Chinese troops along the India-China border led to the cancellation of the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra through the Nathu La pass in Sikkim.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) is known for its religious importance, cultural significance and arduous nature. The annual pilgrimage holds religious importance for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists. The Yatra is organized by the government of India in close cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of China. State Governments of Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Delhi, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (KMVN) are other major Indian partners of the Ministry in organizing the Yatra.

Mansarovar Lake is located at an altitude of 14,950 ft (4,558 m) is said to be the highest freshwater lake in the world. It is located in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China.

Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

It is also one of the four officially agreed BPM (Border Personnel Meeting) points between the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army of China for regular consultations and interactions between the two armies, which helps in defusing stand-offs.

**SPACEX FALCON HEAVY, THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ROCKET LAUNCHED**

SpaceX Falcon Heavy, the world's most powerful rocket, was recently launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in the United States' Florida toward an orbit near Mars.

Falcon Heavy is being considered mainly as a potential equipment carrier to deep space destinations.

**The mission:**

The mission is a test flight, pioneered by rocket firm SpaceX which is helmed by Tesla CEO Elon Musk. The rocket is loaded with Mr Musk's own red Tesla roadster. At the wheel is a mannequin dressed in a spacesuit nicknamed Starman. It is the first time that a car is being sent to the space.

If the Tesla roadster survives its five-hour journey through the Van Allen Belt – a region of high radiation where it will be pelted with charged particles – it will attempt a final burn toward Mars.

Falcon Heavy is the most powerful operational rocket in the world with the ability to lift into orbit nearly 64 metric tons.

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY, LAUNCHED APP ASH TRACK**

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched a Web based monitoring System and a Fly Ash mobile application named ASH TRACK.

These platforms will enable better management of the ash produced by thermal power plants by providing an interface between fly ash producers (Thermal Power Plants) and potential ash users such as – road contractors, cement plants etc.

Users can download the Ash Track mobile app from Google Play Store for Android OS and from App Store for Apple IOS. The ASH TRACK Mobile App has following features

**For Consumers-**

App shows coal based power plants situated within the radius of 100 km and 300 km from a given location

User can select power station from where he wants to take fly ash

Ash availability, distance from user's location, details of contact person will be displayed

User can apply online for allocation of ash

SMS will be sent to the applicant and the respective power plant instantly

The ASH TRACK App would be managing 200 million tones of fly ash by tracking coal based power plants situated within 100 km and 300 km from given location and availability of fly ash, along with prospective users within the same radius.

The App gives plant-wise, utility-wise and State-wise ash utilization status in the country.

This would also help in protecting environment in terms of reduction in fugitive emissions, saving of precious top soil and conservation of land for sustainable development.

Fly ash, the end product of combustion during the process of power generation in the coal based thermal power plants, is a proven resource material for many applications of construction industries and currently is being utilized in manufacturing of Portland Cement, bricks/blocks/tiles manufacturing, road embankment construction and low lying area development, etc.

#### VINAY SHEEL OBEROI COMMITTEE

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a 13-member advisory committee to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernisation of the armed forces. The committee is headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi.

The panel will suggest measures to improve the capital acquisition process. The committee will undertake an independent review and check the status of ongoing critical projects worth more than 500 crore rupees.

#### NITI AAYOG RELEASES "HEALTHY STATES, PROGRESSIVE INDIA" REPORT

**Kerala, Punjab & Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance.**

**Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh ranked top three States in terms of annual incremental performance.**

NITI Aayog released today a comprehensive Health Index report titled, "Healthy States, Progressive India".

The report ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.

It is the first attempt to establish an annual systematic tool to measure and understand the heterogeneity and complexity of the nation's performance in Health.

The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW),

States and UTs have been ranked in three categories namely, Larger States, Smaller States, and Union Territories (UTs), to ensure comparison among similar entities. The Health Index is a weighted composite Index, which for the larger States, is based on indicators in three domains: (a) Health Outcomes (70%); (b) Governance and Information (12%); and (c) Key Inputs and Processes (18%), with each domain assigned a weight based on its importance.

**Among the Larger States, Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance, while Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh are the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance.**

**Among Smaller States, Mizoram ranked first followed by Manipur on overall performance, while Manipur followed by Goa were the top ranked States in terms of annual incremental performance.**

**Among UTs, Lakshadweep showed both the best overall performance as well as the highest annual incremental performance.**

The Health Index report notes that while States and UTs that start at lower levels of development are generally at an advantage in notching up incremental progress over States with high Health Index scores, it is a challenge for States with high Index scores to even maintain their performance levels.

However, the incremental measurement reveals that **about one-third of the States have registered a decline in their performance in 2016 as compared to 2015**, stressing the need to pursue domain-specific, targeted interventions.

**Common challenges for most States and UTs include** the need to focus on addressing vacancies in key staff, establishment of functional district Cardiac Care Units (CCUs), quality accreditation of public health facilities and institutionalization of Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS). Additionally, almost all Larger States need to focus on improving the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).

**Linking this Index to incentives under the National Health Mission by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare underlines the importance** of such an exercise.

This Index is expected to **nudge States towards further achieving a rapid transformation of their health systems and population health outcomes.**

Health Index has been developed as a tool to leverage co-operative and competitive federalism to accelerate the pace of achieving health outcomes.

With the annual publication of the Index and its availability on public domain on a dynamic basis, it is expected to keep every stakeholder alert to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal number 3.

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