

THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI) HAS IMPOSED A PENALTY ON GOOGLE FOR ABUSING ITS DOMINANCE IN THE ANDROID MOBILE DEVICE ECOSYSTEM.

The CCI found that Google abused its dominant positions via online search and app store to protect its apps like Chrome and YouTube in mobile web browsers and online video hosting.

Hence, the competition watchdog imposed a fine of Rs 1,337.76 crore on the tech giant.

In 2018, the European Union imposed a penalty of 4.34 billion euros (around Rs 35,541 crore) on Google for the same reason. However, it was later cut to 4.125 billion euros (approximately Rs 33,296 crore).

The EU had fined the tech giant a total of 8.25 billion euros (around Rs 66,600 crore) for anti-trust violations after 3 investigations that lasted for over 10 years.

97 per cent of 600 million smartphones in India are powered by the android operating system. This makes the country Google's largest market by users.

The CCI found that Google used its dominant position to mandate OEMs to pre-install its entire Google Mobile Suite like Search, Chrome, YouTube, Google Play store, Maps, Photos, and others on mobile phones and place them in prominent positions.

This mandate goes against Section 4(2)(a)(i) of the Competition Act, 2002.

According to the Act, an enterprise abuses its dominant position in the market if it directly or indirectly imposes unfair or discriminatory conditions in the purchase or sale of goods or services.

Besides imposing a fine for the violation of the Act, the CCI issued cease and desist orders against Google to stop it from indulging in anti-competitive practices.

It stated that OEMs should not be mandated to choose Google's proprietary applications and services to be pre-installed. It also ordered the tech giant to allow uninstalling of pre-installed apps by users.

Google is also prohibited from offering any monetary or other incentives to OEMs for ensuring exclusivity for its search services.

ASIA'S LARGEST COMPRESSED BIO GAS PLANT

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri recently inaugurated Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Lehragaga, Punjab.

Key facts

The compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Lehragaga was constructed at the cost of Rs.230 crore over 20 acres of land.

The project was commissioned with a foreign direct investment (FDI) of Verbio AG – one of the leading bio-energy companies in Germany.

The CBG plant is currently capable of processing 6 tonnes of paddy straw each day. This capacity will later be expanded to 300 tonnes of paddy straw per day to produce 33 TPD of compressed biogas using eight digesters of 10,000 cubic meters.

It will address the issue of stubble burning in the state.

The CBG plant will consume 100,000 tonnes of paddy straw, which will be procured from 6 to 8 satellite locations within a 10 km radius of the plant.

It will produce 600-650 Tons of FOM (fermented organic manure) each day. The manure will be used for organic farming.

The plant will provide direct employment to 390 people and indirect employment to 585 people.

This project will increase the income of farmers in the Sangrur district.

It will prevent stubble burning on 40,000 – 45,000 acres of land. This will cut down 150,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

The new CBG plant is a step towards achieving the goals of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme.

SATAT scheme

The Indian Government launched the SATAT scheme in 2018 to set up the CBG production plants across the country by inviting expressions of interest through potential investors. The CBG will be used for the automotive sector. Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) is produced naturally through the process of anaerobic decomposition of biomass sources like crop residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. It has the potential to replace Compressed Natural Gas in automotive, industrial, and commercial uses in the future.

WHAT IS ONE HEALTH JOINT PLAN OF ACTION (OH JPA)?



The One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) was unveiled by the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Organisation for Animal Health.

Key facts

The Joint Plan of Action aims to integrate systems and boost capacity to collectively prevent, predict, detect and respond to the global health crisis.

This is the first-of-its-kind plan that seeks to implement One Health Approach at all levels.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



It will enhance the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment and promote sustainable development.

It will address challenges such as ecosystem degradation, food system failures, infectious diseases, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The action plan will be implemented from 2022 to 2026 to address health challenges at the international, regional, and national levels.

Its key focus areas are One Health capacity for health systems; emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics; endemic zoonotic; neglected tropical and vector-borne disease; anti-microbial resistance and the environment; and food safety risks.

Its objectives include mainstreaming of One Health approach, providing technical and legislative advice to help set up national goals and priorities, promoting collaboration, and exchanging knowledge on One Health.

What is One Health Approach?

One Health Approach recognizes the interdependence of humans, domestic and wild animals, and the wider environment. It is the integrated and unifying approach that seeks to balance the health of people, animals, and the environment. It will increase the ability of the global community to prevent, predict, detect and respond to health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The approach involves the mobilization of multiple sectors, disciplines, and communities at various levels of society to recognize the root causes of complex issues and create long-term and sustainable solutions. It integrates the capabilities of public healthcare system, veterinary health, and environmental sectors at all levels. It will help boost food and water safety, nutritional security, pollution management, and combat antimicrobial resistance.

