

AU COURANT

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RGNUL FINANCIAL AND MERCANTILE LAW REVIEW

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PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to share with our readers the January edition of our monthly newsletter “Au Courant”.

In this edition, the current on-goings in various fields of law have been analyzed succinctly in the ‘Highlights’ section to provide readers some food for thought. With the highlights, we hope to both inform readers and pique their interest on issues of high contemporary relevance. It covers the recent controversy stirred by WhatsApp’s recent policy change and lays emphasis on the data privacy concerns associated with it. The recent patent application from Spotify to generate personalized playlists for users is also discussed in this section. The recent stance taken by Supreme Court on the complicated position of homebuyers under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2020 has also been addressed. The section also explores the novel provisions introduced by a recent amendment in the German Antitrust Act to effectively regulate the fast –growing digital markets.

The ‘timeline’ section of the newsletter discusses briefly the Supreme Court's evolving interpretation of the validity of arbitration clauses as distinct agreements. The court’s recent ruling and its ever- changing stance towards the arbitration approach to solve disputes without nit-picking the technical irregularities has been traced in this section. Major happenings in various fields of laws such as aviation, arbitration, competition, international trade Law, securities, taxation, intellectual property, and technology, media & telecommunication have been recorded to keep the readers abreast of latest legal developments.

Further, the section ‘Call for comments’ encourages readers to signal their interest and express their views and concerns on the measures under development and provide critical suggestions related to Consultation Papers.

PATENTING PERSONALISED PLAYLIST : TRACING SPOTIFY'S RECENT MOVES



Spotify is a digital music-streaming service that provides on-demand access to songs on different devices. It also allows subscribers to search and discover music collections of other users. In a flurry of patent filing, Spotify has recently been granted numerous patents by the US Patent Department. It was granted four such patents in November, 2020 alone according to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office database. Ranging from karaoke-like feature that allows users to “overlay a music track with their own vocals” to a much-debated personality tracker that identifies the user’s personality in accordance with the music they listen to. The latest patent for media content playback based on an identified geolocation of a target venue was granted to Spotify on January 21, 2021.

The most important and talked about one has to be the patent filed by Spotify for its Automatic Personal Playlist Generation Tech. This software essentially analyses the user’s musical taste and history and then sends it to an AI that further memorizes and suggests music in consonance with the same. It recognises the common denominator between the existing media and thereby suggests the user if a common thread has been established. It performs this task via an assemblage of technique whilst utilising explicit user taste preference data as the training data to build up and train the software.

Spotify says the move is an attempt to make social sharing features more relatable to playlist personalisation. Playlists have become a huge part of Spotify’s growing market share globally. A similar patent was granted to Nokia Technologies for generating an audio playlist from the user’s music library in 2015. What sets Spotify’s tech aside from the existing tech is that it automatically collects the user’s data instead of taking feedback from the user. Microsoft Technology had also developed an invention that replicated this system but it was ultimately abandoned by the company.

GERMAN ANTITRUST LAW CHALLENGES DIGITAL MONOPOLIES



On January 14, 2021, the German Parliament passed the tenth amendment to the Act against Restraints of Competition (ARC). The legislation lays a new framework to make the abuse control provisions of the ARC fit for digital age. The amendment also introduces a number of other changes to the German Competition Act related to antitrust investigations procedure and cartel prosecution.

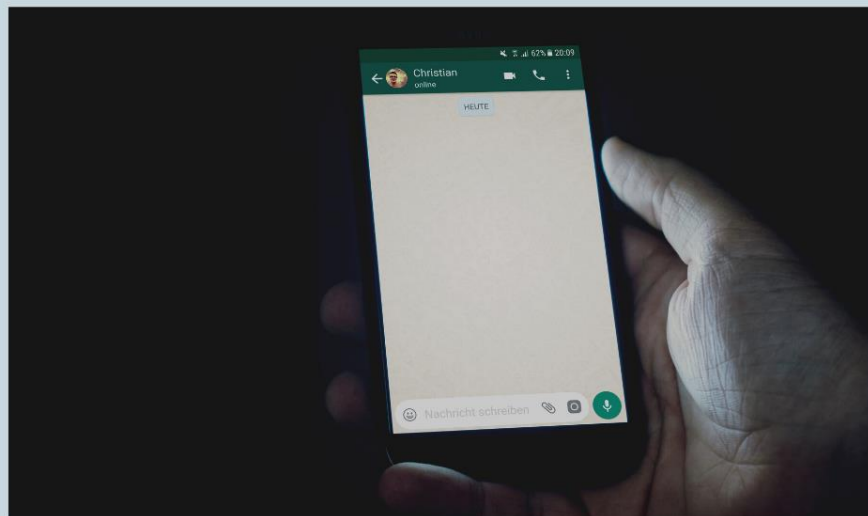
In the light of rapidly evolving digital economy where several competitors are vying for a greater online market share ARC ensures stricter abuse controls and broader access to data. The most hotly contested change to the law is the introduction of Section 19a against restraints of Competition. The Section empowers the German Federal Cartel Office (FCO) to intervene in cases where competition is put at risk by giant digital groups. The Act also takes cognizance of the increasing significance of data and includes ‘access to data’ as one of the criteria for the assessment of a company's market position under Section 18(3).

Further, Section 19(1) of the ARC has been revamped to prohibit the "abuse" of dominant position instead of "abusive exploitation" of a dominant position. The aforesaid change has been triggered by the furore created over the dominance of tech giants such as Facebook. This move will likely pave a way for greater number of cases dealing with big tech companies exploiting user data as opposed to the often narrowly interpreted term “exploitation”.

In addition to facilitating fair competition amongst digital players, the ARC also raises the German merger control thresholds which were previously very low as compared to other international regimes. This move can be construed as an effective way to relieve the FCO from red-tapism.

With its various novel provisions to curb abusive conduct in the digital space in a proportionate manner the ARC is likely to set out a blueprint for antitrust authorities across the globe.

WHATSAPP OPENS A CAN OF WORMS WITH ITS LATEST UPDATE NOTIFICATION



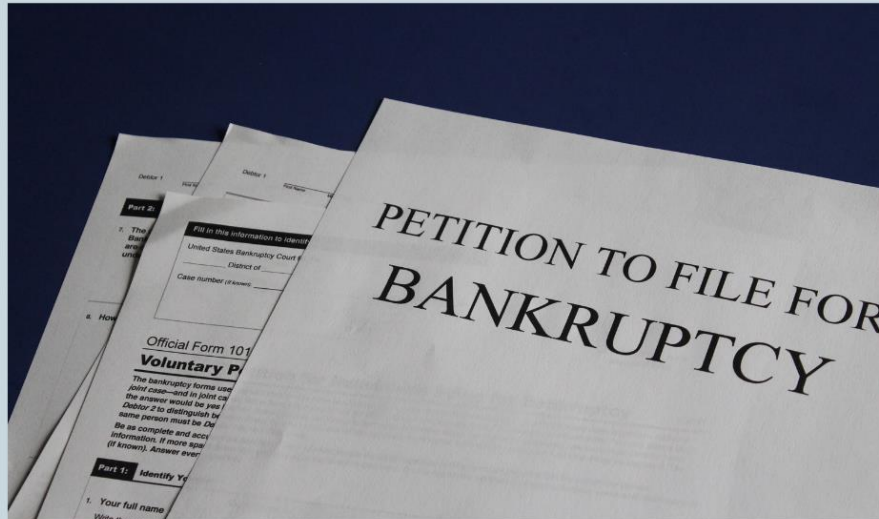
WhatsApp messenger was co-founded by two Yahoo employees and was acquired by Facebook in 2014 for US\$19 billion. The platform gained popularity owing to its features of free calling and video calling and unlimited messaging. On January 4, 2021, WhatsApp came out with an update notification for users to accept its revised policies before February 8th that will enable them to continue to use the application after the said date.

This sparked the ongoing privacy debate surrounding its parent company, Facebook. Many frazzled users took to Twitter to express their outrage and started to troll the platform for its blatant dismissal of privacy and security laws. The notorious update has led to an unprecedented exodus of its userbase to alternatives like Signal and Telegram that are open-sourced.

A PIL was filed by lawyer Chaitanya Rohilla in the High Court of Delhi because the new notification violates the right to privacy enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which was laid down by the landmark judgment of *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*. The controversial update lays down how user data will be handled, starting from 2021. It elaborates on how certain user activity will be collected and processed by the platform automatically like a user's status, profile picture, last seen, IP addresses, etc.

This new update, owing to the GDPR, is relatively safer in the EU nations as the legislation protects its citizens from data sharing with third parties. As WhatsApp has 400 million active users in India whose privacy and security are in jeopardy, the Indian government must take steps to put the draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 into action to protect its citizens from the impending ordeal.

SC UPHOLDS IBC AMENDMENTS: SAFEGUARDS FOR NEW OWNERS, THRESHOLD FOR HOMEBUYERS



The Supreme Court has upheld the Constitutionality of the amendments, including Sections 3, 4 and 10 brought by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2020 to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 which required, among other things, that the application must be filed by a minimum of 100 allottees or 10 percent of the allottees, whichever was lesser to cause an insolvency proceeding against a defaulter builder.

The petitioner(s) had argued that the amendments were unfair, time consuming and put homebuyers at a disadvantage. The court rejected the argument and argued that this group of creditors required a threshold to put an end to indiscriminate lawsuits.

The court also rejected the argument that the law was created by succumbing to their pressure or by way of placating their vested interests. The court remarked, “A vested right under a statute can be taken away by a retrospective law. A right given under a statute can be taken away by another statute. We cannot ignore the fact that there was considerable public interest behind such a law.”

The Supreme Court also upheld the retrospective effect of the homebuyer threshold.

With regards to amendments to Section 32A, the court claimed that the amendment was made to allow the new leadership to make a clean break from the past and take over with a clean slate.

This judgement by Supreme Court is in line with international practices. The judgement will ensure the legislature's goal to make the Code functional and will also help the real estate projects immensely in India.

[Read here](#)

TIMELINE

The timeline explores the ever changing stance of Indian courts on the doctrine of separability of arbitration clauses/agreements in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling in *N.N. Global Mercantile Pvt. Ltd. Vs Indo Unique Flame Ltd. and Others* (Civil Appeal Nos. 3802 - 3803 / 2020). The court reiterated that an arbitration agreement/clause can be deemed as being separate and distinct from the underlying commercial contract.

2011

In *SMS Tea Estates Pvt. Ltd. v. Chandmari Tea Co. Pvt. Ltd.* (2011) 14 SCC 66, it was held that an arbitration agreement cannot be acted upon. It was held that such an arbitration agreement would be invalid where the contract is voidable at the option of a party.

2015

Indo Unique Flame Ltd. (Indo Unique) entered into a sub-contract with N.N. Global Mercantile Pvt. Ltd (Global Mercantile) termed as a 'Work Order' for the transportation of coal. Clause 9 of the Work Order provided for furnishing a security deposit. In accordance with the clause, Global Mercantile furnished a Bank Guarantee in favor of State Bank of India-the banker of Indo Unique.

2017

Indo Unique invoked the Bank Guarantee furnished by Global Mercantile under the Work Order. Subsequently, Global Mercantile filed a Civil Suit (No.62 of 2017) against Indo Unique before the Commercial Court, Nagpur alleging that the invocation of bank guarantee was fraudulent since it was not in terms of the Work Order. In response, Indo filed an application under Section 8, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 seeking reference of disputes to arbitration.

2018

The Commercial Court dismissed the Section 8 Application on the ground that the Arbitration Clause specified in the Sub-Contract did not cover Bank Guarantees, the latter being an independent contract.

2019

Whilst dealing with a similar matter, the Supreme Court observed in *Garware Wall Ropes Limited v. Coastal Marine Constructions and Engineering Ltd.* (2019) 9 SCC 209 that an arbitration clause could not be separated from the arbitration clause contained in the agreement so as to give it an independent existence

September 2020

Challenging the Order passed by the Commercial Court, Indo Unique filed a Civil Revision Petition before the Bombay High Court. The court held that the application under Section 8 was maintainable and the dispute could be resolved through arbitration.

January 2021

The judgment of the High Court was challenged by Global Mercantile before the Supreme Court. The court observed that non-payment of stamp duty on the commercial contract does not render the arbitration agreement unenforceable, going against its earlier rulings on the matter.

It was opined that an arbitration agreement/ clause is a separate and distinct agreement with an independent existence of its own. It was also held that the ground that allegations of fraud are not arbitrable is archaic in nature. The aforesaid was justified on the ground that the matter in question was not of public nature but a private settlement by arbitration with consent of the parties involved in the dispute.

The ruling by the court to not impede the arbitral process on account of technicalities is in favor of the arbitration approach.

Arbitration Law

- **English Test for Anti-Suit Injunction: Order Terminating Arbitration Proceedings:**

In the case of PCL v. NHAI, Delhi High Court has decided that an order terminating the arbitration proceedings under Section 32(2) of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 cannot be termed as the final award. Moreover, the Court stated that the same can be challenged under the Section 14(2) of the A&C Act, 1996.

[Read More](#)

- **Powers of High Court under Article 226/227:** In the case Bhaven Construction v. Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam, the Supreme Court of India held that powers conferred under Article 266 & 277 of the Constitution shall be used cautiously by the High Courts whenever interfering with the arbitral tribunal. The Apex Court asserted that the Arbitral Tribunal shall be given first chance to adjudicate the dispute between the parties and then the courts shall interfere.

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- **Existence of Valid Arbitration Agreement:** In the case of Knowledge Podium Systems v. SM Professional Services, the Delhi High Court held that when the courts are in doubt over the existence of the valid arbitration agreement, the dispute shall be referred to the arbitral tribunal to settle. The High Court was of the opinion that

unless there is a prima facie case of invalid arbitration clause, the dispute shall be referred to the tribunal.

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Insolvency Law

- **Centre Notifies Three-Month Extension of IBC Suspension:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) notified the three-month extension of the suspension on Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The MCA also notified 45 sections of the amended Companies Act, largely relating to the decriminalisation and reduction of fines of various offences under the law, in an earlier notification.

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- **MCA Proposes Prepack Insolvency Process:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has proposed a pre-packaged insolvency process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to resolve the unaddressed Covid-related stress resulting from the suspension of certain sections of the code. It is drawn-up by a committee headed by MS Sahoo, chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. The aforementioned process seeks to prioritise resolution of Covid-related stress and defaults between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1 crore. [Read more](#)

- **SBI initiates insolvency proceedings against Videocon promoters:** In a petition filed by Videocon resolution professional Asish Narayan on behalf of the group's largest lender State Bank of India, insolvency petitions have been initiated, by the Mumbai bench of NCLT, against Videocon Industries promoters Rajkumar Dhoot and Pradipkumar Dhoot in their capacity as personal guarantors to recover dues from the company. Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas is representing SBI in the case. Allegations against Dhoots and Videocon is that they committed several irregularities in acquisition of oil and gas assets in Mozambique in Africa.
[Read more](#)
- **Five-member NCLAT bench declines to reconsider decision on insolvency filing time frame:** National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has turned down a reference made by a three-member bench seeking reconsideration of an earlier decision related to deciding the time frame for initiating insolvency proceedings against a company. Five-member bench headed by Acting Chairperson Justice Bansi Lal Bhat upheld that acceptability of debt entered in the balance sheet of a company will not amount to acknowledgment of debt for deciding the time frame for initiating insolvency proceedings.
[Read more](#)

International Trade Law

- **Trade policy of sanitizers and air conditioners revised:** The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified that the export of alcohol-based hand sanitizers in containers with dispenser pumps is now permissible, making alcohol-based hand sanitizers in any form/packaging freely exportable. Their exports were banned in March in light of the pandemic. In a separate notification, DGFT banned the imports of both split and window air conditioners with refrigerants.
[Read more](#)
- **Trade policy of medical goggles and nitrile gloves revised:** The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended the export policy of medical goggles and nitrile/NBR gloves from 'restricted' to 'free' category, making all types of medical goggles and nitrile/NBR gloves freely exportable. India had earlier banned the exports of nitrile/NBR gloves in June and thereafter eased their export policy from 'prohibited' to 'restricted' in October.
[Read more](#)
- **DGFT amends trade policy of onions and room and car fresheners:** India has lifted the ban on the exports of onions. The export of all varieties of onions has been made free with effect from January 1, 2021. In a separate notification, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade also freed up the imports of odoriferous preparations such as room

fresheners and car fresheners that do not operate by burning. Their imports had been under the restricted category till now.

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- **Amendment in export policy of rice:** DGFT has deferred mandatory certificate requirements for both basmati and non-basmati rice export to European countries by another six months. “Export to remaining European countries (except Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) will require Certificate of Inspection by Export Inspection Council /Export Inspection Agency for export from July 1, 2021,” the notification states. Earlier, the date was January 1.

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- **Launch of Coal Import Monitoring System:** India will implement a Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS) from February 1. As per DGFT’s notification, CIMS will require importers to submit advance information in an online system for import of items and obtain an automatic Registration Number by paying a registration fee of Rs 1 per thousand, subject to a minimum of Rs 500 and maximum of Rs 1 lakh on CIF value.

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Intellectual Property Rights

- **Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2020:** The Central Government, on 20th October 2020, published the Patent (Amendment) Rules, 2020 containing the revised rules. The amended rules simplify the filing of form

(Form-27), which prescribes the working of patented inventions on a commercial scale in India. It now includes the revenue accrued to the patentee in India and brief details regarding the same. Further, the rules allow the filing of statement of commercial working jointly by patentees.

[Read more](#)

- **Supreme Court dismisses allegations of cartelization against Uber and Ola:** The Supreme Court of India upheld the order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) dismissing claims of cartelization against aggregators Ola and Uber. It claimed that the prices were not designed by the aggregators as there was no likelihood of meeting their minds because the prices were fixed by a demand supply algorithm, and thus they behaved in their individual capacity. However, the court dismissed this finding.
- **Draft National Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy released:** The Government of India launched a new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP), dedicated to science, technology and, most importantly, innovation. The new policy seeks to bring about significant changes that encourage research and innovation on the part of individuals and organizations alike. It aims to establish a robust system of evidence and stakeholder-driven STI planning, information, assessment and policy research in India.

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- **Publishers sue Sci-Hub and Libgen in India:** Three major academic publishers in India sued Sci-Hub and Libgen for copyright infringement in the Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court in *Elsevier Ltd. and ors. v. Alexandra Elbakyan and ors.*, re-issued notice to Libgen and ordered Sci-Hub not to upload any of the plaintiffs' material till next hearing based on their undertaking. The court noted the case to be a 'matter of public importance'.

[Read more](#)

- **Facebake vs. Facebook:** In the case of *Facebook, Inc. v. Mr. Noufel Malol*, the Delhi High Court granted an interim relief to Facebook and held that the usage of the mark "FACEBAKE" for the sale of confectionaries such as cakes, biscuits, cookies etc. was violative of the Facebook's rights. This ruling is an example of trademark rights being granted outside the classification of certain products or services and even where the line of business is entirely different.
- **MoU signed between India and USA to strengthen IP systems:** India and USA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-operate on intellectual property examination and protection for the next 10 years and to strengthen the IP systems in both countries. The MOU seeks to improve the IP structures of both countries, thereby facilitating more innovation and development. The MoU

identifies various practices relating to the protection, use and compliance of IP rights in the fields of patents, trademarks, copyrights, geographical indications and industrial designs.

Competition Law

- **CCI dismisses complaint against BCI:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has dismissed a complaint which alleged that the Bar Council of India (BCI) was abusing its dominant position with respect to legal education in the country. The complaint was regarding the BCI rules that impose maximum age restrictions for new entrants into the legal education. It was also alleged that the BCI members who are managing the affairs were misusing the council's dominant position in controlling legal education in the country.
- **CCI dismisses case of alleged cartelisation by 2 bidders in AIIMS tender:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has dismissed a case of alleged cartelisation by Romsons Scientific & Surgical Industrial Pvt Ltd and BSN Medical Pvt Ltd and some of their officials. CCI said that there is no evidence of any communications or meetings having taken place between the opposite parties (OPs) or any other arrangement indicating a tacit collusion in respect of fixing the prices for the bids.

[Read more](#)

Securities Law

- **Relaxations relating to procedural matters –Issues and Listing:** SEBI has extended the relaxations for companies with regards to compliance with certain Regulations of SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 pertaining to rights issues opening till March 31, 2021 in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Earlier, this relaxation was given for rights issues opening till July 31, 2020, which was further extended till Dec. 31, 2020.

[Read more](#)

- **Extension of Timeline:** After taking into consideration the representation received from debenture trustees, SEBI has extended the implementation date for the framework for creation of security in issuance of listed debt securities and due diligence to be carried out by debenture trustees to April 1, 2021. SEBI had come out with the framework in November and it was to become effective from January 1, 2021.

[Read more](#)

- **Reduced registration fee for investment advisors:** SEBI has reduced application and registration fees for individuals and corporates seeking a registered investment advisor status. Now, individuals and firms (partnership) will have to pay Rs 2,000 while applying for an investment advisor certificate instead of Rs 5,000. The application fee for

corporates including Limited Liability Partnerships has been brought down to Rs 10,000. The lower fees structure will come into force from April 1.

[Read more](#)

- **Enquiry process framework for intermediaries amended:** SEBI has notified the SEBI (Intermediaries) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 wherein norms related to the holding of enquiry against intermediaries have been amended. With regard to the process that needs to be adopted in enquiry proceedings, the rules state that the designated authority shall grant an opportunity of personal hearing and issue a notice scheduling a date for hearing the notice.

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TMT Laws

- **Mandatory News Media Bargaining Code: CBI books Cambridge Analytica for alleged data theft:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against the UK-based political consulting firm, Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research LTD for illegally harvesting the personal data of Facebook users in India. It is reported that personal data such as demographic information and content on private chats were obtained without the knowledge or consent of the user. This data was subsequently brokered to political

marketers for targeting advertising on social networking sites.

- **RBI sets up working group to regulate digital lending activities:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a Working Group (WG) to review all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated and unregulated financial sector. According to RBI, the WG will aim to evaluate digital lending activities and assess the penetration and standards of outsourced digital lending activities in RBI controlled entities. It would also recognize challenges posed by unregulated digital lending to financial stability, and consumers would recommend regulatory changes.
- **Supreme Court admits Centre's appeal against TDSAT:** The Supreme Court has registered the government's appeal against Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT's) order that asked it to maintain parity between unified license internet service providers (UL-ISPs) and old licensees concerning license fees. The SC bench has stayed the refund of license fee to some ISPs in pursuance of 'TDSAT' order. The aforesaid order had set aside the license fee altogether and mandated for the UL-ISP to be assessed in the same way as the ISPs holding licenses under the old regime.
- **India Releases Revised Non-Personal Data Framework:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has released a revised report on the Non-

Personal Data Governance Framework (NPDF) for India. The updated report clarifies the concept of non-personal data and states that the framework would not conflict with the PDP bill. The revised report recommends an amendment to the PDP Bill to eliminate all references to non-personal data, as well as suggests improving the requirements for obtaining consent for the processing of anonymized data.

- **Google threatens to remove search function in Australia:** Tech giant Google has threatened to block Australian users from accessing its search service unless the Australian government changed its proposed legislation. The legislation mandates Google and Facebook to pay local media organizations to host news content or face hefty monetary penalties. The tussle is being closely observed around the globe, as news media worldwide have suffered in the digital space where big tech firms overwhelmingly capture advertising revenue.
- **WhatsApp amends privacy policy to facilitate user data access for third parties:** WhatsApp has introduced its newly updated Privacy Policy, which intends to allow Facebook to access user information, except private chats, to companies and third parties who use these web platforms. The justification given for such a move is to help companies and third parties better manage their services. This move has raised concerns about antitrust and data privacy.

- **New Broadcasting Policy:** The government of India is all set to notify new National Broadcasting Policy which will review mechanisms for audience measurement and provide recognition to self-regulatory bodies. The draft policy creates a roadmap for amending the existing law, and establishes the framework for the proposed new law, which will bring under its ambit television broadcast, as well as all distribution platforms, including DTH, cable TV and HTS. The policy will review all the major rules and acts, including the existing Cable Television Network (CTN) Act, 1995.

[Read more](#)

Consultation paper on Role of KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) / Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) in performing KYC (Know Your Client) of clients in securities market

A revamped process for KYC in the securities market has been envisaged in order to achieve multiple goals of standardizing the KYC process, making the KYC process more stable, preventing duplication, saving costs for Registered Intermediaries, etc. In this regard, SEBI released a consultation paper on the proposed position of KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs)/Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) in the success of KYC clients in the securities market.

This will ensure the end-to-end encrypted KYC process, including Aadhaar authentication, independent Officially Legitimate Document (OVD) or Permanent Account Number (PAN) verification, Income Tax document safeguarding, technical advances, standardization, cyber security standards, etc. Though RIs and KRAs will be responsible for KYC, documentation for opening of account for entering into transaction shall continue to be the responsibility of concerned RI.

The comments should be submitted latest by February 15, 2021 in the prescribed format.

[Read more](#)

Discussion paper on Review of Ownership and Governance norms to facilitate new entrants to set up Stock Exchange / Depository

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on January 6, 2021 has released a discussion paper (DP) proposed a new system for ownership of market infrastructure entities to encourage the establishment of stock exchanges and depositories by new competitors.

The paper also stressed the need for greater competition among market infrastructure institutions, to achieve greater performance and governance, and to improve adaptation to disruptive new-age technologies and also proposed that any resident individual or domestic institution owned and controlled by a resident can set up the MII and hold up to 100 percent shareholding.

It also proposed that at least half of the MII's ownership should be embodied by individuals/entities with experience of 5 years or more in the field of financial services related technology or capital markets.

Public comments on the discussion paper have been sought till February 5, 2021.

[Read more](#)

- **CGST INTEREST CALCULATION:
BIG RELIEF FOR TAX PAYERS?**



This post is authored by Abhishek Iyer, a fourth-year student of B.A. LL.B (Hons.) at the Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar.

- **ONLINE DISPUTE RESOLUTION:
EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF SEAT-
VENUE CONUNDRUM**



This guest post is authored by Mr. Guillermo Coronado Aguilar, Partner at Coronado Arbitration, Mexico, and Pranav Tomar, Associate Editor at RFMLR.

- **THE DOWNFALL OF LAKSHMI
VILAS BANK AND THE DBS BANK
MERGER**



This post is authored by Devansh Parekh and Yuuvraj Vaidya, students of Government Law College, Mumbai, studying in their 4th year of the BLS. LL.B Course.

- **THE FUTURE OF SHARES ISSUED
WITH DIFFERENTIAL VOTING
RIGHTS UNDER THE INDIAN
CORPORATE REGIME (PART I &
PART II)**



This two-part post is authored by Pranshu Gupta and R. Kavipriyan, 4th-year students of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The second part can be accessed [here](#).

- DEMYSTIFYING THE LEGAL CONUNDRUM OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEBT IN THE BALANCE SHEET



This post is authored by Monish Raghuvanshi, a second-year student of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) at National Law Institute University, Bhopal.

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