

Play Store case: Start-ups move CCI for prosecution of Google's top brass

BEING CAUTIOUS. Competition watchdog yet to take a call, fearing it may vitiate ease of doing biz, say experts

KR Srivats

New Delhi

Close on the heels of Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) approaching CCI, alleging non-compliance by Google of the Competition Commission of India's behavioural directions issued last year in the playbilling policy case, the start-ups have stepped up the heat on the tech giant by seeking prosecution of its top executives.

CCI can impose monetary penalties for non-compliance of its directions besides launching prosecution. However, the watchdog is yet to take a call on the ADIF application, seeking prosecution of Google's top executives, plausibly fearing that it may vitiate the business environment in India and affect the ease of doing business, experts noted. ADIF, which is a policy think-tank for digital start-ups, issued a statement on Friday that, on the basis of its submissions, CCI has ordered an



BIG BURDEN. With Google's user choice billing system, app developers could end up paying service fee as high as 26% for purchases made through Play Store

inquiry in the Google Lagaan case for non-compliance.

"CCI today in the Google lagaan case directed Google to respond to various queries regarding its policies and processes on data sharing, user choice billing and anti-steering provisions in a time-bound manner", ADIF

statement said. The CCI order is in response to the ADIF's submission to CCI on Google not complying with the watchdog's directions and introducing UCB, which is unfair, irrational and discriminatory, according to ADIF.

Google's new in-app billing fee system or UCB went live in India from

April 26. This would mean that app developers in India even if they provided third-party billing system could end up paying service fee as high as 26 per cent to Google for in-app purchases made through its Play Store.

UCB IS UNFAIR'

This would take away a chunk of the revenue of app developers and start-ups and would render their business models unusable, especially the ones relying on in-app purchases, paid apps or subscriptions, according to ADIF.

This commission is not so different from the colonial 'lagan' — it is unfair to app developers and to the users who rely on digital applications for their day-to-day activities, ADIF had said. CCI had, in its October 25 order last year, directed Google to allow third party billing systems to be provided and not stipulated that only Google Play's billing system would be allowed for users in India.

Avenue Supermarts' Q4 PAT up 8.3% y-o-y but down 21% q-o-q

Janaki Krishnan

Mumbai

Avenue Supermarts Ltd's net profit and revenue for the March quarter rose on year but fell sequentially due to lower consumer spending on apparel and general merchandise, which also had an adverse impact on the margin mix.

The retailer, which operates stores under D'Mart, reported net profit for the March quarter at ₹505 crore, up 8.3 per cent on year, while revenue was 20 per cent higher at ₹10,337 crore. Both net profit and revenue fell 21.2 per cent and 8.6 per cent sequentially. For the full year FY23, the company's net profit rose 58.2 per cent to ₹2,556 crore and the revenue

from operations increased 37.8 per cent to ₹41,833 crore. In the quarter, operating profit was 5.4 per cent higher at ₹782 crore, while for the year it was higher by 46.3 per cent at ₹3,659 crore. During the March quarter, the company added 18 stores, and, in the year, it added 40 stores to end with 324 outlets.

FMCG AIDS GROWTH
The company said that the revenue during the year was aided by growth in FMCG categories and staples that had outperformed.

The company is also expanding its e-commerce business through DMart Ready and entered 10 more cities in the year, adding to its existing 22 cities.

Data Patterns reports 10% decline in Q4 PAT

Our Bureau

Chennai

Data Patterns (India) Ltd, a Chennai-based electronics solution provider to the defence and aerospace sectors, reported a 10 per cent decline in net profit to ₹55.34 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2023 as against ₹61.63 crore for the same period last year. Revenue increased to

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₹188.90 crore (₹173.07 crore).

REVENUE

However, for the FY23, the net profit rose by 32 per cent to ₹124 crore in FY23 as against ₹94 crore in FY22. Net revenue for FY23 increased by 46 per cent to ₹453 crore (₹311 crore). S Rangarajan, Chairman &

Managing Director, Data Patterns (India) Ltd, said that as communicated at the time of IPO, the company "has smoothed the business through the year."

The company's order book stood at ₹924 crore at the end of FY23. With orders finalised in April and May the current order book is ₹1,008 crore.

RBI likely to hit pause button on interest rates in June meet: SBI

Our Bureau

Mumbai

State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD) expects the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to hit the pause button on interest rates one more time in view of the recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) and core CPI numbers. The MPC will hold its bi-monthly deliberations from June 6-8, 2023.

"With CPI declining at 4.7 per cent in April, the question is whether 6.5 per cent is the terminal rate... Given that the current rate of 6.5 per cent is already higher than the required rate of 6.22 per cent, we expect one more pause by the RBI's MPC meeting in June 23, while carefully watching the CPI and core CPI number in ongoing months," said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Eco-



nomic Adviser, SBI. The ERD's machine learning-based analysis is indicating that this terminal rate could decline to 6 per cent in the next quarter, possibly opening up opportunities for MPC to look at the data trends more carefully for a rate action towards the end of the year.

DASSPEAK

After hiking the policy repo rate cumulatively by 250 basis points from 4 per cent to 6.50 per cent since May

2022, the MPC hit the pause button at its last meeting in April. Governor Shaktikanta Das then said, While the recent high frequency indicators suggest some improvement in global economic activity, the outlook is now tempered by additional downside risks from financial stability concerns. "Headline inflation is moderating but remains well above the targets of central banks... Headline inflation is projected to moderate in 2023-24. The monetary policy actions taken since May 2022 are still working through the system."

Das emphasised that the MPC will not hesitate to take further action as may be required in its future meetings.

The ERD said concerns remain on the growth front as India remains at the forefront of the most vulnerable countries to the likely adverse impacts of climate change.

T Udhayachandran is TN Finance Secretary

Our Bureau

Chennai

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle in Tamil Nadu, T Udhayachandran, Secretary to Chief Minister MK Stalin has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary replacing N Muruganandam, who has taken over



Udhayachandran's role. A government order issued on Sat-

urday said Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi has been posted as Health Secretary in place of P Senthil Kumar, who will replace P Amudha as Secretary for Panchayat Raj and Development. Amudha is posted as Secretary for Home, Prohibition and Excise Department in place of K Phanindra Reddy.

DATA PATTERNS (INDIA) LIMITED

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS INDUS TEQSITE PRIVATE LIMITED)

CIN: L72200TN1998PLC061236

Registered Office: Plot H9, Fourth Main Road, SIPCOT IT Park, Siruseri, Chennai 603103, Tamil Nadu, India.

AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

(Rs in Crores except EPS)

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		Audited March 31, 2023	Unaudited December 31, 2022	Audited March 31, 2022	Audited March 31, 2023
I	Revenue from Operations	185.10	111.81	170.54	453.45
II	Other Income	3.81	1.85	2.53	9.22
III	Total Income (I+II)	188.91	113.66	173.07	462.67
IV	Expenses:				
	a) Cost of materials consumed	73.85	45.32	52.61	194.14
	b) Changes in inventories of work in progress and finished goods	4.29	(7.69)	7.10	(23.23)
	c) Employee benefits expenses	24.37	18.49	17.17	79.49
	d) Finance cost	2.81	2.14	3.53	7.74
	e) Depreciation / Amortization	2.22	2.11	1.89	8.45
	f) Other expenses	9.23	8.65	6.20	6.63
	Total Expenses (IV)	116.77	69.02	88.50	297.83
V	Profit before exceptional items and Tax (III-IV)	72.14	44.64	84.57	164.84
VI	Exceptional items	-	-	-	-
VII	Profit / (Loss) before tax (V-VI)	72.14	44.64	84.57	164.84
VIII	Tax expense (including deferred tax)	16.78	11.32	22.95	40.84
IX	Profit / (Loss) for the period (VII-VIII)	55.36	33.32	61.62	124.00
X	Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (net of tax)	(0.90)	(0.05)	(1.27)	(1.15)
XI	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period (IX+X)	54.46	33.27	60.35	122.98
XII	Paid up equity share capital (Face value of Rs 2 each)	11.20	10.38	10.38	11.20
XIII	Other Equity				1,155.88
XIV	Earnings per equity share (EPS) of face value of Rs 2 each* (Basic and Diluted)	10.49	6.42	12.77	23.80

*EPS is not annualised for the quarter ended 31st December 2022, 31st March 2022 and 31st March 2023

Notes:

- The above audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2023 of Data Patterns (India) Limited ("the Company") have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on May 13, 2023 in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Statutory Auditors of the Company has expressed an unmodified opinion on the aforesaid results.
- The financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Indian Accounting Standards prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The Group operates only in one business segment i.e. manufacture, sale and service of defence electronics, and hence does not have any reportable segment as per Indian Accounting Standard 108 "operating segments".
- During the FY 21-22, the company had completed Initial Public Offering (IPO) of its equity shares, comprising a fresh issue of 51,42,425 equity shares (including Pre IPO placement of 10,39,861 equity shares) and offer for sale of 69,52,550 equity shares by the existing selling shareholders at an offer price of Rs. 585 per equity share (Rs. 577 for Pre IPO placement). Pursuant to the IPO, the equity shares were allotted on December 22, 2021 and listed on the BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited on December 24, 2021.

The details of utilization of proceeds from IPO and pre-IPO placement, net of IPO expenses (inclusive of GST) are as follows:

PARTICULARS	As per the objects of the issue	Utilized upto 31 st March 2023	Un-utilized as at 31 st March 2023
Prepayment or repayment of outstanding borrowings availed by our Company	60.08	60.08	-
Working capital requirements (Including Dividend Payment)	95.19	66.68	28.51
Upgradation and expansion of existing facility	59.84	38.37	21.47
General Corporate purposes	66.31	65.08	1.23
Total	281.42	230.21	51.21

- During the FY 22-23, the Company allotted 40,97,319 Equity shares of Rs. 2 each at an issue price of Rs. 1,220.31 per equity share through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) process to the Qualified Institutional Buyers. These equity shares were allotted on March 13, 2023 and will rank pari-passu with the existing equity shares.

The details of utilization of proceeds from QIP, net of QIP expenses (inclusive of GST) are as follows:

PARTICULARS	As per the objects of the issue	Utilized upto 31 st March 2023	Un-utilized as at 31 st March 2023
Funding working capital requirements of our Company	168.00	-	168.00
Investment in product development by our Company	167.		

