



## CCI Imposes Fine on Meta

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Recently, the [Competition Commission of India \(CCI\)](#) imposed a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore on Meta for abusing its dominant position through [WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy](#) update.

- This ruling **prohibits WhatsApp from sharing user data with other [Meta companies](#)** for advertising purposes and mandates that user consent must be obtained for any data sharing.
  - The CCI found that WhatsApp's 2021 policy update **forced users to accept expanded data collection terms without an option to opt out**, constituting an unfair condition under the [Competition Act](#).
  - The new policy may enable commercial exploitation and political micro-targeting.
  - The ruling mandates WhatsApp to provide clear explanations regarding data-sharing practices, enhancing transparency for users.
- WhatsApp's policy also conflicts with the [Srikrishna Committee report](#), which forms the basis of the [Data Protection Bill 2019](#), including **data localisation** and **limiting data use to its original purpose**.
- **The [Competition Commission of India \(CCI\)](#) is a statutory body** responsible for enforcing the **Competition Act of 2002**.

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