

# WRITE TO INFORMATION

**Sports and Gaming  
January – March 2022**

**New Delhi**

C-2/39  
Safdarjung Development Area  
New Delhi – 110016 | India

**Mumbai**

604, 6th floor, Regent Chambers,  
208, Nariman Point,  
Mumbai-400021 | India

**Bengaluru**

316, 3rd Floor Raheja Chambers,  
No. 12, Museum Road,  
Bengaluru - 560001 | India

## ABOUT US

TMT Law Practice is a boutique law firm providing a full suite of services in the TMT sectors. Over time, the firm's practice has expanded from a niche boutique IP practice, to include practice areas such as commercial disputes resolution & arbitration, regulatory litigation & advisory, corporate/commercial advisory and transactional support, and policy and legislative drafting across industry verticals. The Firm represents a broad range of clients including Fortune 500 companies, as well as MSMEs and Start-ups.

The firm engages in the practice of the conventional domains of law, and, is also heavily invested in the niche areas of emerging technology, including space technology and policy; healthcare and ICT; data privacy and protection; and, sports laws.

The Firm stresses on developing well-rounded, solution-oriented professionals, who specialize in client - focused service delivery.



## 1. SPORTS LAW UPDATES

### A. SPORTS FEDERATIONS

- i. **The Hon'ble Madras High Court (MHC) has ordered that only sports person may be appointed as office bearers in sports' federations and has mandated, inter alia, online registration for sports meets.<sup>1</sup>**

The MHC in the case of S. Nithya vs. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports & ors. [W.P No. 3447 of 2019], ordered that the positions of president, vice-president and secretary of all sports clubs, associations and federations in the State must be held by sportspersons, only, and not by politicians or business persons. Furthermore, it was also ordered that the selection of athletes for district, state and national-level events must be done strictly on the basis of merit, and it should be within the purview of the decision-making powers of the selection committees comprising of only sportspersons.

All selections shall be done after implementing an online registration system and the details of funds allocated and the amount spent on each athlete, for participating in such event, must be published on the website of the relevant sports body in the State.

Furthermore, the hon'ble court directed that any complaint pertaining to nepotism, favouritism etc., must be disposed of within a week. Enactment of a comprehensive law on the foregoing subject was also recommended by the hon'ble court.

- ii. **The Hon'ble Delhi High Court (DHC) asks Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) to consider conducting national championship:<sup>2</sup>**

The DHC, admitted a batch of 9 petitions concerning the applicability of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 (Sports Code) to AKFI. These petitions also involved the allegations of irregularities in the agreements signed for Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) between AKFI and Mashal Sports (the rights holder of PKL). Further, during the pleadings, one of the issues raised was pertaining to the dispute regarding affiliation and non-affiliation of some of the State bodies. It was also highlighted that this dispute caused certain meritorious athletes the opportunity to participate in competitions. Addressing the foregoing issue, the Hon'ble DHC requested the administrator of the AKFI to consider conducting an open national kabaddi championship.

- iii. **The Hon'ble Delhi High Court (DHC) suspends Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI):<sup>3</sup>**

On the basis of the report of a committee, appointed by the court to look into the allegations of match-fixing and conflict of interest levelled by paddler, Manika Batra, the DHC suspended the current TTFI executives and appointed a Committee of Administrators (COA). The court also observed that the national coach was appointed in conflict of interest since he was running a private academy in his own name as well. The COA, inter alia, will be incorporating a code of ethics for TTFI and work towards streamlining the processes for selection, camps, and domestic tournaments to improve the functioning of the federation.

- iv. **Hockey India (HI) challenged Central Information Commission (CIC)'s decision before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court (DHC).<sup>4</sup>**

HI approached the DHC challenging an order of CIC, directing it to disclose information such as list of its members' and employees' salaries. CIC's decision came ahead of an RTI application filed by Mr. Subhash Agrawal, whereby he was not provided with the requested information and approached the CIC for relief. It was claimed by the representatives of HI that CIC's order was arbitrary, illegal and unreasoned and contrary to Section 8(1) of the RTI Act (exemption given from disclosing information). However, no interim relief was granted to HI.

v. **All India Football Federation's (AIFF) announced committee to look into the conduct of its elections:**<sup>5</sup>

In 2017, a Public Interest Litigation was filed in the DHC claiming that the AIFF elections held in December 2016 were flawed, as the constitution of the AIFF was not in accordance with the Sports Code. The DHC removed the committee members from holding their respective posts, however, the matter was appealed at the Apex court, where the order of the DHC was reversed.

The state member associations' demanded that elections be held, and as a result the AIFF formed a 3-member panel to hold discussion with its legal advisors and help expedite the process of conducting elections.

The decision to form the panel was taken during the federation's Annual General Meeting after some state associations inquired about why the AIFF has not held the elections which were due in December 2020. The matter (i.e., application seeking certain clarifications on the current status of the AIFF's constitution and elections process) is now pending before the Supreme Court.

The four-year term of the current executive committee of the AIFF ended in December, 2020 and under normal circumstances, in accordance with the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, the elections should have been held at the expiry of such term.

vi. **New Loan Regulations in Football to be introduced from July 2022:**<sup>6</sup>

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) passed a new regulation pertaining to the loan of football players. It was observed that the wealthier football clubs were hoarding talent and loaning it out to smaller clubs to reap benefits. Such a practice disrupted the competitive balance of the sport. Thus, the new regulations have been introduced with a view to develop young players, promote competitive balance and prevent hoarding. The regulations will be submitted to the FIFA Council for approval before July 2022. The new regulations include the requirement of a written agreement specifying the particulars of the loan, a minimum loan duration, a prohibition on sub loaning, a limitation on the number of loans per season between the same clubs and on the total number of loans a club can undertake per season.

Briefly:

- Clubs will be limited to a maximum of 8 players loaned in and 8 players loaned out at any one time in the 2022-23 season.
- The quotas will be cut to 7 in the season after and 6 from the season starting after July 1, 2024.
- Clubs will also be restricted to the number of deals they can do with a favoured trading partner in another country: 3 players in and three players out at any given point with the same club.
- Short-term deals should also be barred. The minimum loan deal will be between two transfer windows – typically these are in January and June-August during the European offseason – and the maximum period will be 1 year.
- Sub-loaning of a player already sent out on loan will be barred.
- Exemption – the regulations do not apply to players aged 21 and younger, and club-trained players.

**B. GOVERNANCE**

i. **Hike in Sports Budget and recommendation for steps for promotion of animation, visual effects, gaming, and comic (AVGC) sector.**<sup>7</sup>

The Union Budget, which was presented in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister on February 1st, 2022, allocated an additional sum of Rs 300 crore for sports as compared to last year. The total budget allocated for sports now stands at Rs 3062.60 cr. The amount allocated to the National Youth Empowerment Program has also been increased this year (from 108 crores to Rs 138 crore). The Khelo India programme's budget has also been increased from Rs 879 crore to Rs 974 crore this time.

An AVGC promotion task force, with all stakeholders, will be established to recommend ways to realise this and build domestic capacity for serving out markets and the global demand. It is expected that this move will help India achieve its potential of 20 lakh jobs in the sector.

ii. **A National Policy for Air Sports being formulated:**<sup>8</sup>

The Union Government intends to formulate a national air sports policy and establish an apex body for air sports to promote sports like aerobatics, aeromodelling, ballooning and more. The civil aviation ministry has issued the draft National Air Sports Policy. The policy proposes the establishment of the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the main authority to govern air sports, with associations for each air sport being accountable to the ASFI. The ASFI shall represent India at the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, which is the world governing body for air sports.

iii. **Sporting bodies around the world move to bar Russian athletes from competing in international events ahead of their invasion in Ukraine:**

**a. Olympics**<sup>9</sup>: In a resolution issued by the IOC Executive Board, the board recommends that International Sports Federations and sports event organisers do not invite or allow the Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials to participate in international competitions or if this is not possible, not allow them to compete as representatives of either country.

A decision has also been made to withdraw the Olympic Order from persons, who currently hold important government positions, including the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin.

**b. Paralympics**<sup>10</sup>: The International Paralympic Committee barred Russian and Belarusian athletes from participating in the Winter Paralympics in Beijing.

**c. Football:**

(i) The 2022 Champions League final which was scheduled to take place in Russia has been relocated to Paris. The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) added that it will work with the French government to secure the safety of football players and their families in Ukraine.<sup>11</sup> UEFA is also looking to end its major £30m-a-year sponsorship deal with Russian state-run gas giant, Gazprom.

(ii) Chelsea's Russian owner, Roman Abramovich apprehended that, for his alleged relations with Russia, the UK government may try to seize his assets, which might include Chelsea as a part of its measures against Russia. As a result, he made the decision to grant the trustees of Chelsea's charitable foundation the stewardship, control, and care of the club; with himself continuing to own the club. However, the UK government sanctioned him, froze his assets, prohibited him from entering into transactions with UK individuals and businesses and applied a travel ban on him. It is however, observed that an application to the UK government can be made to sell Chelsea in the future as long as Mr. Abramovich does not profit or make any money from the transaction. The UK government has granted Chelsea a special licence to allow fixtures to be fulfilled, staff to be paid and existing ticket holders to attend matches. Chelsea, however, is banned from inter alia offering new contracts to players or staff, conducting any official transfer business and spending over £500,000 on security, stewarding and catering costs per home match and over £20,000 expenses per away games.<sup>12</sup>

**d. Formula 1 ("F1")**<sup>13</sup>: Russia's F1 Grand Prix, which was due to take place in Sochi in September, 2022 has been cancelled as F1 said it was impossible to hold the event in the current circumstances.

**e. Hockey**<sup>14</sup>: The International Ice Hockey Federation suspended all Russian and Belarusian national teams and clubs from its competitions until further notice. It also stripped Russia of the hosting rights for the 2023 junior world championships.

**f. Judo**<sup>15</sup>: The International Judo Federation (IJF) suspended Russian President Vladimir Putin as its honorary president. The IJF has also cancelled the 2022 Grand Slam in the Russian city of Kazan, planned to be held from May 20 to 22.

**g. Rugby<sup>16</sup>:** Rugby’s world governing body banned Russia and Belarus from all international rugby “until further notice”. Russia’s membership in World Rugby was also suspended indefinitely, implying that its’ slim hopes of qualifying for next year’s World Cup in France are over.

**h. Badminton<sup>17</sup>:** The Badminton World Federation (BWF) cancelled all sanctioned tournaments in Russia and Belarus, banning them from hosting future tournaments “until further notice” and ordering their flags and anthems be banned from all BWF tournaments.

**i. Swimming<sup>18</sup>:** Swimming’s global governing body FINA called off the World Junior Swimming Championships that were to take place in Kazan (23 to 28 August). FINA also withdrew the Order it awarded Putin in 2014.

**j. Tennis<sup>19</sup>:** Ukraine’s Elina Svitolina is the first tennis player to refuse to compete against a Russian athlete – she had been due to face Russian Anastasia Potapova in Monterrey on Tuesday. The former world number three said she would not face opponents from Russia or Belarus.

**iv. S. Korea to lodge protest with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), International Olympic Committee (IOC) over disqualified short track skaters.<sup>20</sup>**

The Korean Sport and Olympic Committee intends to lodge a protest with the CAS and IOC for an unfair decision, over the disqualification of two short track speed skaters which triggered public furore at home.

Hwang Dae-heon and Lee June-seo were disqualified from the men’s 1,000 metres semi-finals at the Beijing Winter Olympics for an “illegal late pass” and a “lane change”, respectively, both causing contact with another skater.

### **C. ANTI-DOPING**

**i. The International Testing Agency (ITA) has confirmed an appeal is ongoing in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) lifted a provisional suspension imposed on figure skating star Kamila Valieva.<sup>21</sup>**

The ITA released a statement confirming Valieva had tested positive for trimetazidine during the 2022 Russian Figure Skating Championships in Saint Petersburg on December 25th, 2021.

Trimetazidine is a metabolic agent that helps prevent angina attacks and treats the symptoms of vertigo. It can increase blood flow efficiency and improve endurance, both crucial to athletic performance. It is on the prohibited list published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in the category of “hormone and metabolic modulators”.

A WADA accredited laboratory in Stockholm confirmed an adverse analytical finding on February 8. It was on the same day as the team figure skating medals were due to be awarded at Beijing 2022, leading to the suspension of the medal ceremony.

Post this, Valieva challenged the provisional suspension, which the RUSADA Disciplinary Anti-Doping Committee lifted on February 9. This decision by RUSADA to lift the suspension allowed Valieva to continue her participation at Beijing 2022, including the training sessions.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) then appealed the decision before CAS through the ITA, due to the need for an outcome in the case prior to the women’s singles event, but the same was rejected.

**ii. The National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 tabled in Parliament.<sup>22</sup>**

The National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 (Anti-Doping Bill) was tabled before the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur December 17th, 2021. The Anti-Doping Bill has been under observation since then.

The Anti-Doping Bill seeks to provide a statutory framework for the operation of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), the National Dope Testing Laboratory and other dope testing laboratories in India and provides for the creation of an independent National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports to oversee the activities of NADA. The Anti-Doping Bill further proposes to give NADA the legal authority under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to enter or search any premises for inspecting and examining violations of anti-doping policies, rules and regulations.

The Anti-Doping Bill was then, on December 29th, 2021, referred to a standing committee comprising members of both the Houses of the Parliament for further examination and report. After giving due consideration to the opinion of secretary and senior officials of MYAS, various federations, prominent sportspersons, organisations and individuals, the Standing Committee, under the chairmanship of Rajya Sabha MP, Mr. Vinay P Sahasrabudhe, tabled the report in both the Houses on March 23rd, 2022.

#### **D. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **i. Pillow Fighting becomes a professional combat sport.<sup>23</sup>**

The first-ever professional Pillow Fighting Championship was held in Florida in January, 2022. The event saw participation from 24 contenders, out of which 16 were men and eight were women. The participants used mixed martial arts and specially designed pillows to attack their opponents. The bracket styled tournament was introduced as a pay-per-view tournament. There are three, two-minute rounds in each fight. The idea behind introducing it as a sport was to develop a real fighting sport that would appeal to the international family audience by combining the ancient weapon known as a ‘pillow’ with experienced MMA competitors & boxers and strict rules.

##### **ii. Madrid Court rejected recusal of the judge in the ongoing European Super League case:<sup>24</sup>**

In an ongoing matter at the Madrid provincial court, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) sought to have the judge recused, alleging irregularities in how he handled the case. This request has been denied by Madrid’s provincial court.

UEFA initiated disciplinary proceedings against Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus due to their involvement in the European Super League (ESL) last year. When the clubs brought a case against the UEFA asking for the proceedings against them to be halted, Judge Manuel Ruiz de Lara sided with the ESL and the clubs. He then granted an injunction and passed the matter on to the European Court of Justice, ordering that the clubs should face no punishment in the meantime.

##### **iii. No copyright over Cricket – Hon’ble Delhi High Court (DHC) ordered in the case of Samir Kasal v Prashant Mehta and Ors:<sup>25</sup>**

The DHC observed that that no one can claim copyright over the game of cricket as it has several permutations and combinations of “innings” and “overs” that have been evolved over a period of centuries. Further, this evolution also involves the selection of venue and the duration and length of the matches.

The Petitioner in this case claimed to have conceptualised a tournament involving retired legendary players, and submitted that this idea was exclusive to them, hence there should be a stay order passed on the conduct of Legends League Cricket (LLC).

The DHC refused to pass such stay order, and held that the cricketers cannot be enjoined from playing for the defendants or any other organizer, as the plaintiff can claim no such exclusive right. Nevertheless, to protect the interest of the plaintiff, the DHC directed the defendant organisers to maintain clear accounts of their earnings and expenditure in respect of the matches that are being organized and file the same in court within one month of the conclusion of the season.

## 2. GAMING LAW UPDATES

### i. Hon'ble Karnataka High Court (KHC) strikes down amendment Act banning online gaming in All India Gaming Federation v. State of Karnataka and Anr.<sup>26</sup>

The KHC struck down certain provisions of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021 (Amendment Act) holding that such provisions were unconstitutional and lacked legislative competence. The Amendment Act criminalized wagering, betting, or risking money on an unknown result of an event, including pure games of skill, whether played online or offline. It equated games of skill with games of chance and prohibited participation in any game of skill for stakes. The KHC observed that the state governments are permitted to only regulate staking in relation to gambling, which is different from staking on skill, and 'gambling' by its very nature excludes skill. Further, the KHC stated that games of skill do not automatically turn into games of chance merely because they are played online. Accordingly, sections 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 of the Amendment Act were held to be in violation of the constitutional rights guaranteed under Articles 19, 14, and 21 of the Indian Constitution. The KHC, for the first time, also recognised the artistic and recreational value of games and held that it was pertinent to protect those forms of expression and self-development that emanate out of playing/developing of games.

Pursuant to this judgement, the KHC dismissed criminal charges against Bhavit Sheth and Harsh Jain, co-founders of the fantasy gaming platform, Dream11 (Bhavit Sheth and Others v. Karnataka State)<sup>27</sup>. The Karnataka government has filed a special leave petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court against this judgement contending that the Amendment Act is required to maintain public order in view of the significant rise of cybercrimes in the past few years. The petition is currently pending before the top court.

### ii. Hon'ble Madras High Court (MHC) disapproves of the attempt to monitor each and every activity of individuals through CCTV cameras.<sup>28</sup>

The MHC rejected a plea filed by the DGP requesting the mandatory installation of CCTV cameras in all places except restrooms, both inside and outside clubs and recreation centres, in order to prevent gambling.

The MHC stated that the mindset of the police to look at every individual with suspicion and to monitor each and every activity by installing CCTV cameras in every other place possible is quite disturbing, and to take a stand that the right to privacy must be superseded by suspicion is untenable.

It further said that "these violators could be handled appropriately under the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act of 1930, which empowers officers in the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police to raid clubs on reasonable suspicion, or to authorise officers, not below the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, to do so".

While the MHC directed the police not to interfere with lawful activities inside the clubs, it ordered that if at all, CCTV cameras should only be installed at the entry and exit points and in the play area.

### iii. Madhya Pradesh (MP) Government to bring in law to regulate online gaming.<sup>29</sup>

MP Home Minister, Mr. Narottam Mishra, stated that the state government will bring an act to regulate online gaming applications, after an 11-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Bhopal due to his addiction to an online mobile game.

### iv. The Hon'ble Bombay High Court (BHC) asked the Maharashtra Government to explain its stand on poker being a game of skill or gambling.<sup>30</sup>

The Aurangabad Bench of the BHC has requested the Maharashtra state government to explain their stand on whether poker is gambling, or a game of skill, since gambling is illegal under the Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act. This question has arisen pursuant to a PIL, which states that various private

companies participate in illegal activities passing them off as games of skill on account of Maharashtra government's inaction. The petition seeks restraining orders against the companies like Pokerwale, Ninestacks Gaming LLP and Baazi Mobile, and prohibition of poker being played through online and offline avenues.

v. **All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) launches regulatory intelligence portal:**<sup>31</sup>

AIGF has announced the launch of an intelligence services portal, <https://aigfintelligence.in/>. The portal will monitor, track, and share latest updates and analysis in the gaming sector with respect to court cases, regulations, and policy developments, both at the national and state levels.

The website is backed by G2G Technologies that runs online news portal Gateway To Gaming (g2g.news). The platform will also provide access to reports, documents, and expert analyses.

vi. **Federation of Electronic Sports Associations of India (FESAI) submits policy paper on Esports.**<sup>32</sup>

FESAI, an apex national body for esports in India met with Hon'ble Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, and submitted its policy paper for esports.

The policy paper aims towards facilitation of a policy-centred Esports outlook and seeks to promote the country's indigenous talent and narrative. The report also seeks to foster a strong talent development ecosystem that will cover talent, businesses, job creation, education, and revenue generation for India with regional centres of excellence.

vii. **IndiaTech proposes that games of skill be taxed differently from games of chance.**<sup>33</sup>

IndiaTech, an industry association that represents consumer internet start-ups, and constituting members such as Dream11 and Mobile Premier League,

has urged the government to tax games of skill differently from games of chance in a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. IndiaTech proposes that goods and services tax be levied only on the platform fees received by such platforms and not on the prize pool kept that is distributed among players.

viii. **Garena Free Fire and other apps banned by the Indian Government:**<sup>34</sup>

The Indian Government has issued an order that bans 54 mobile applications that were deemed to be linked to China stating that such apps pose a threat to the privacy and security of Indians. The list of banned apps includes popular battle royale game, Garena Free Fire, and the rebranded versions of many apps that were banned in 2020.

The banned apps are no longer accessible in Google Play Store and Apple App Store in India.

ix. **China's cyberspace regulator drafts new rules to protect minors:**<sup>35</sup>

The Cyberspace Administration of China issued a new set of draft measures that is aimed at protecting minors. The draft measures demands that online gaming, livestreaming, audio, and video platforms set up a "youth mode" for minors. Platforms are also required to regularly conduct assessments on cyber protection for minors and impose caps on daily spending amount by minor users.

x. **Hero Vired and LaLiga introduces eLaLiga trophy in India:**<sup>36</sup>

Hero Vired, an edtech company by the Hero Group, has launched the first ever eLaLiga Trophy, in partnership with Spain's football league, LaLiga. The Spanish football legend, Luis Garcia inaugurated the eLaLiga challenge in New Delhi. The tournament will be held between April 9, 2022 and April 26, 2022 and the national finale shall be hosted live on May, 8, 2022.

Participants will be competing against each other in online esports tournaments with the chance to win official merchandise and a 'Money Can't Buy Experience' to Spain.

**xi. ESFI to host the National E-sports championship:<sup>37</sup>**

The Esports Federation of India (ESFI) is going to host the National Esports Championships (NSEC) in New Delhi from April 4, 2022. The winners of the NSEC will be representing India at the upcoming Asian Games 2022 that is scheduled to be conducted in Hangzhou from September 10, 2022 – September 25, 2022.

Esports has been introduced as a medal event for the first time in the 2022 edition of the Asian Games. The NSEC will be hosting tournaments in DOTA 2, Hearthstone, FIFA22, Streetfighter V and League of Legends. ESFI is yet to get clarity/permission from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for conducting tournaments in Arena of Valour 2 and PUBG as these both these games have been banned by the Indian Government.

**xii. Transaction Updates**

**a. Games24X7 raised \$75 million in a funding round that was led by Malabar Investment.<sup>38</sup>**

Games24x7, a multi gaming platform raised USD 75 million in a recent funding round. This funding round also included participation by existing investors Tiger Global and Raine Group. Tiger Global had earlier invested in Games24X7 in 2011 and 2012 and Raine Group did their first round of investment in 2019. The latest investment round, makes Games24x7, India's most valuable multi game platform. Amongst its offerings include RummyCircle (India's largest online rummy game), My11Circle (India's second largest fantasy platform) and U Games (a portfolio of casual games).

**b. MPL acquires German games studio GameDuell.<sup>39</sup>**

Mobile Premier League (MPL), the Indian mobile Esports and skill gaming platform, has acquired Berlin-based games studio, GameDuell, for expanding operations across European markets. The move is in furtherance of MPL's strategy to expand its footprints into key global markets. It already has established its presence in Indonesia and the US.

**c. Glance Acquires gaming firm 'Gambit' for NFT-based live gaming.<sup>40</sup>**

Glance, that is owned by the Softbank-backed InMobi, has acquired Indian gaming company Gambit Sports in furtherance of its goal to build the world's largest live internet platform. Glance seeks to launch creator-led NFTs for live gaming which will generate unique 'play-to-earn' and 'play-to-own' possibilities for the entire gaming ecosystem. The acquisition will bring together Glance's scale and lock screen centric innovation with Gambit's expertise and understanding of the gaming ecosystem.

**d. Microsoft announces acquisition of Activision Blizzard for \$67.8 billion:<sup>41</sup>**

Microsoft announced that it plans to acquire US gaming giant Activision Blizzard, the developer of gaming hits like "Call of Duty". Microsoft's plans to launch Activision Blizzard games into its Game Pass. Upon close, Microsoft will have 30 internal game development studios, along with additional publishing and Esports production capabilities.

The aforementioned transaction is subject to customary closing conditions and completion of regulatory review and Activision Blizzard's shareholder approval. The deal is expected to close in fiscal year 2023. The acquisition has been approved by the boards of directors of both Microsoft and Activision Blizzard.

**3. DIGITAL ASSETS UPDATES**

**i. Tennis Australia - Australian Open (AO) 2021 has introduced NFTs and the metaverse to add to the fan experience.<sup>42</sup>**

Tennis Australia released a collection of 6,776 NFTs pursuant to the Australian Open tournament, that corresponded to the action on court. Every NFTs metadata was linked to a plot of the AO court surface in

the real-time tournament and every winning shot from the 600 matches of the tournament corresponded to one of the collection's of the NFTs. NFT owners will receive an airdrop with footage of the point, virtual wearables and AO merchandise.

Data pulled to match the NFTs will come from the same electronic line-calling technology used to judge in-game points in the matches.

The AO also, hosted a virtual event for the competition on the metaverse platform, Decentraland, for the entire duration of AO, i.e., January 17th -30th, 2022, including challenges for fans to compete for virtual prizes.

ii. **Hike introduces NFT avatars on its blockchain gaming platform.**<sup>43</sup>

Hike, which previously operated an internet messaging service has announced the introduction of non-fungible token (NFT) virtual profile displays, called Rush Avatar NFTs, on its blockchain gaming platform – Rush Gaming Universe (RGU). Under its initial offering, Hike will reward the platform's most active players with 'launch edition' NFTs, which would be rarer than other NFTs on the platform. The launch edition NFTs will be valued higher than other NFTs on the platform.

iii. **Jupiter Meta launches India's first fully curated NFT marketplace.**<sup>44</sup>

Jupiter Meta, a Chennai based e-commerce start-up has launched India's first fully curated NFT marketplace. The digital marketplace seeks to focus on creation of singular experiences in the fields of music, film, and gaming; and enable users to maximise their time in the metaverse.

The NFT marketplace is backed by Jupiter's own level-1 blockchain technology called 'Rubix'. Jupiter Meta has plans on expansion in the Web 3.0 space as well in the future.

## References

<sup>1</sup>[https://images.assettype.com/barandbench/2022-01/0ea6d3b9-9b89-4861-a64e-0428fb2ec3e6/S\\_Nithya\\_v\\_The\\_Secretary\\_to\\_the\\_Union\\_of\\_India\\_The\\_Ministry\\_of\\_Youth\\_Affairs\\_and\\_Sports.pdf](https://images.assettype.com/barandbench/2022-01/0ea6d3b9-9b89-4861-a64e-0428fb2ec3e6/S_Nithya_v_The_Secretary_to_the_Union_of_India_The_Ministry_of_Youth_Affairs_and_Sports.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>W.P.(C) 8915/2019 & CM APPL.36773/2019, 53240/2019, 53241/2019 & 53316/2019; <[http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhcqrydisp\\_o.asp?pn=26262&yr=2022](http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhcqrydisp_o.asp?pn=26262&yr=2022)>

<sup>3</sup>[https://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhc\\_case\\_status\\_oj\\_list.asp?pno=1050690](https://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhc_case_status_oj_list.asp?pno=1050690)

<sup>4</sup>[http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhcqrydisp\\_o.asp?pn=13185&yr=2022](http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhcqrydisp_o.asp?pn=13185&yr=2022)

<sup>5</sup><<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/football/top-stories/aiff-announces-election-panel-states-look-for-clarity-on-its-ambit/articleshow/89569306.cms>>; <<https://www.the-aiff.com/article/aiff-agm-2022-held-in-mumbai>>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/organisation/media-releases/fifa-to-introduce-new-loan-regulations>

<sup>7</sup><<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/union-budget-2022-sports-budget-increased-by-30558-crore-emphasis-on-khelo-india-and-national-youth-schemes/article38358810.ece>>; <<https://yas.nic.in/sites/default/files/Outcome%20Budget%202022-23.pdf>>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.civilaviation.gov.in/sites/default/files/Draft-NASP-2022.pdf>

<sup>9</sup><https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-eb-recommends-no-participation-of-russian-and-belarusian-athletes-and-officials>

<sup>10</sup><<https://paralympics.org.uk/articles/british-paralympic-association-statement-ipc-decision-on-rpc>>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/mediaservices/mediareleases/news/0272-148df1faf082-6e50b5ea1f84-1000--fifa-uefa-suspend-russian-clubs-and-national-teams/>

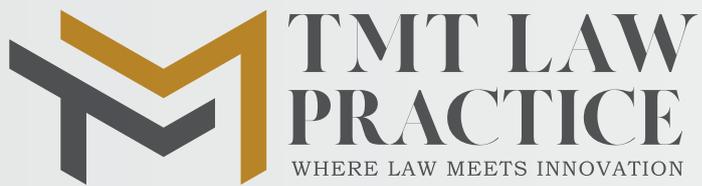
<sup>12</sup><https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11668/12562138/chelsea-owner-roman-abramovich-sanctioned-by-uk-government>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article.formula-1-statement-on-the-russian-grand-prix.4S39V28GpAH5ESb8LksW0J.html>

<sup>14</sup>[https://www.iihf.com/en/news/32301/iihf\\_council\\_announces\\_decisions\\_over\\_russia\\_belar](https://www.iihf.com/en/news/32301/iihf_council_announces_decisions_over_russia_belar)

<sup>15</sup>[https://twitter.com/Judo/status/1497875171008516105?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1497875171008516105%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports](https://twitter.com/Judo/status/1497875171008516105?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1497875171008516105%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports)

- <sup>16</sup>[https://twitter.com/worldrugbymedia?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1498439675144544267%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports](https://twitter.com/worldrugbymedia?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1498439675144544267%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports)
- <sup>17</sup><https://theprint.in/sport/bwf-suspends-russia-belarus-athletes-from-international-badminton-events/853881/#:~:text=BWF%20had%20already%20cancelled%20all,from%20March%20%20to%202013.>
- <sup>18</sup>[https://twitter.com/fina1908/status/1498591342456455168?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1498591342456455168%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports](https://twitter.com/fina1908/status/1498591342456455168?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1498591342456455168%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports)
- <sup>19</sup>[https://twitter.com/ElinaSvitolina/status/1498351682668965891?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1498351682668965891%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports](https://twitter.com/ElinaSvitolina/status/1498351682668965891?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1498351682668965891%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Fsports%2F2022%2F3%2F1%2Frussia-ukraine-war-what-sports)
- <sup>20</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/07/sports/olympics/south-korea-speedskaters-appeal-china.html>
- <sup>21</sup>[https://www.tas-cas.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/OG\\_22\\_08-09-10\\_Arbitral\\_Award\\_publication\\_.pdf](https://www.tas-cas.org/fileadmin/user_upload/OG_22_08-09-10_Arbitral_Award_publication_.pdf)
- <sup>22</sup><https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/parliamentary-panel-endorses-anti-doping-bill-101648098237157.html>
- <sup>23</sup><https://www.ladbible.com/entertainment/latest-pillow-fighting-has-now-become-a-professional-sport-20220131>
- <sup>24</sup>[European Super League - Madrid court rejects UEFA appeal over judge \(espn.in\)](https://www.espn.com/soccer/european-super-league/story/_/id/3245678/madrid-court-rejects-uefa-appeal-over-judge)
- <sup>25</sup>[http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhcqrydisp\\_o.asp?pn=11687&yr=2022](http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/dhcqrydisp_o.asp?pn=11687&yr=2022)
- <sup>26</sup>[https://www.livelaw.in/pdf\\_upload/all-india-gaming-federation-v-state-of-karnataka-409739.pdf](https://www.livelaw.in/pdf_upload/all-india-gaming-federation-v-state-of-karnataka-409739.pdf)
- <sup>27</sup>[https://www.livelaw.com/pdf\\_upload/karnataka-hc-dream-11-412690.pdf](https://www.livelaw.com/pdf_upload/karnataka-hc-dream-11-412690.pdf)
- <sup>28</sup><https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/victorian-era-laws-against-gambling-must-change-hc/articleshow/89415982.cms>
- <sup>29</sup><https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/madhya-pradesh-government-to-bring-in-law-to-regulate-online-gaming-minister-narottam-mishra/articleshow/88894814.cms>
- <sup>30</sup><https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/is-poker-a-game-of-skill-or-gambling-bombay-high-court-asks-maharashtra-govt>
- <sup>31</sup><https://www.aigf.in/game/aigf-unveils-new-regulatory-intelligence-portal/>
- <sup>32</sup>[https://twitter.com/FEAI\\_IN/status/1506904279373672450?s=20&t=N1igjOWpIKDVkxKhA0V9A](https://twitter.com/FEAI_IN/status/1506904279373672450?s=20&t=N1igjOWpIKDVkxKhA0V9A)
- <sup>33</sup><https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/tax-games-of-skill-differently-from-games-of-chance/articleshow/89102078.cms>
- <sup>34</sup><https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/union-government-issues-fresh-orders-to-ban-over-54-chinese-apps/articleshow/89551062.cms>
- <sup>35</sup><https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-cyberspace-regulator-drafts-new-rules-protect-minors-2022-03-14/>
- <sup>36</sup><https://herovired.com/elaliga/>
- <sup>36</sup><https://iesf.org/news/7132>
- <sup>38</sup>[https://www.games24x7.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/8.-Press-Release\\_Games24x7-becomes-the-most-valuable-multi-game-platform-in-India-raises-USD-75-million-led-by-Malabar-Investment.pdf](https://www.games24x7.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/8.-Press-Release_Games24x7-becomes-the-most-valuable-multi-game-platform-in-India-raises-USD-75-million-led-by-Malabar-Investment.pdf)
- <sup>39</sup>[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mobile-premier-league\\_mobile-premier-league-acquires-german-games-activity-6903973652195610625-1tVk?utm\\_source=linkedin\\_share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop\\_web](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mobile-premier-league_mobile-premier-league-acquires-german-games-activity-6903973652195610625-1tVk?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web)
- <sup>40</sup><https://www.glance.com/newsroom/pressrelease/glance-acquires-gambit>
- <sup>41</sup><https://news.microsoft.com/2022/01/18/microsoft-to-acquire-activision-blizzard-to-bring-the-joy-and-community-of-gaming-to-everyone-across-every-device/#:~:text=Microsoft%20will%20acquire%20Activision%20Blizzard,revenue%2C%20behind%20Tencent%20and%20Sony>
- <sup>42</sup><https://finbold.com/official-australian-open-to-launch-their-own-nfts-and-metaverse-world/>
- <sup>43</sup><https://www.techcircle.in/2022/02/28/hike-introduces-nft-avatars-on-its-blockchain-gaming-platform/>
- <sup>44</sup><https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/cryptocurrency/jupiter-metas-fully-curated-nft-marketplace-to-go-live-today/articleshow/89767023.cms>



Established in 2008, headquartered in New Delhi, with branch office in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Bhubneshwar, TMT Law Practice is India's premiere Law Firm in segment of Technology, Media and Telecom, behind India's iconic clients and judgements, often cited for "Where Law Meets Innovation"...

Get In Touch:

+91 (11) 2651 2813 | +91 (11) 4168 2996

info@tmtlaw.co.in | M-F: 9am-6pm

[www.tmtlaw.co.in](http://www.tmtlaw.co.in)