'NOT GOOD CONDUCT'

Bombay HC Warns Vijay Mallya Against Sharing Court Docs on Social Media

PTI

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday issued a warning to businessman Vijay Mallya, accused of money laundering, against posting court documents on social media while his case was pending.

Justice Milind Jadhav was informed by Enforcement Directorate (ED) lawyer Ashish Mehta that Mallya shared the agency's affidavit in response to his petition before the HC on his social media accounts even before it was submitted to the court.

ED filed the affidavit on September 8 and served it to Mallya's legal team the same day. The case was to be heard on September 9, advocate Mehta told the court. But the former liquor baron uploaded the affidavit on his social media accounts the same evening, the ED lawyer said.

ED says Mallya uploaded the agency's affidavit online before it was submitted to the court

Justice Jadhav asked senior advocate Amit Desai, appearing for Mallya, to warn his client not to do so in future.

"This is not good conduct. This is serious. Please warn him (Mallya) against doing so in future. Whatever he wants to submit he can do so in court," the court said.

"Please make your client understand, this is not the way to do it... it undermines the efficacy of the court," the judge said. Mallya filed the petition in 2020 seeking a closure of the criminal cases registered against him, claiming that the dispute with the banks was settled after they recovered their dues.

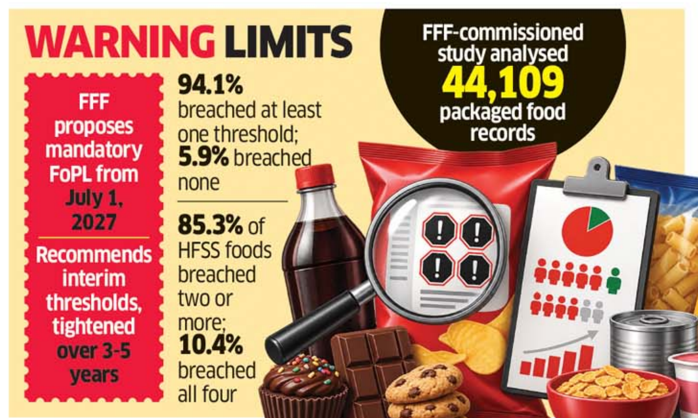
In its reply, ED said the businessman continued to evade the process of law in India, and mere recovery of assets did not absolve him from money laundering charges.

'RUSHING FRONT-OF-PACK LABELLING RISKS DILUTION'

FSSAI Ex-Chief Urges SC for Phased Food Warning Rollout

Argues 94% packaged foods could end up being flagged under proposed nutrient thresholds

Shambhavi Anand



New Delhi: Former FSSAI chief Pawan Kumar Agarwal has warned that India's proposed front-of-pack food warnings could end up on almost every packaged food product, potentially diluting their impact, and urged the Supreme Court to consider a phased rollout, offering to assist the court in the process.

More than 94% of packaged foods could attract at least one warning under the nutrient thresholds proposed for India, according to a study commissioned by Agarwal's non-profit.

In an intervention before the Supreme Court, Agarwal proposed starting with less stringent interim thresholds and progressively tightening them to the final limits over three to five years, while notifying the entire roadmap upfront.

The proposal comes as the top court pushes for urgency in finalising the front-of-pack labelling rules.

The Food Future Foundation (FFF), headed by Agarwal, said the front-of-pack labelling (FoPL) regulations should be made mandatory from July 1, 2027, with interim threshold and tightened over three to five years. FFF works with public institutions, schools and research organisations on food, nutrition and preventive health.

The recommendation is based partly on an analysis commissioned by FFF from Hyderabad-based food-data company NatFirst, which examined the declared nutritional composition of 44,109 barcode records of packaged branded foods available at retail in India.

The analysis found that 94.1% of the records exceeded at least one of the specified thresholds, while only 5.9% did not breach any. Among records classified as high in fat, sugar or salt (HFSS), 85.3% breached two or more thresholds, while 10.4% breached all four.

FFF argued that applying the proposed final thresholds immediately could result in warnings appearing on nearly all packaged foods, potentially diluting the impact of the labels.

WARNING EVEN IF ONE NUTRIENT BREACHES LIMIT

On another contentious issue, Agarwal's foundation has taken a firm position that a packaged food should carry a warning if even one nutrient of concern exceeds the prescribed threshold from the outset.

FSSAI's proposed approach had prompted the Supreme Court to question the basis for including foods high in "two or more" nutrients of concern in Phase I and those high in "any one" nutrient in Phase II.

FFF cited Chile and Mexico, which introduced front-of-pack warning systems with progressively stricter nutrient criteria, while acknowledging that their experience does not establish that the same thresholds or three-to-five-year transition would necessarily produce similar outcomes in India.

ADDED SUGAR, SATURATED FAT

The intervention favours added sugar rather than total sugar and added sodium after adjusting for naturally occurring sodium. For fats, it recommends saturated fat rather than total fat as the warning parameter.

EIL Signs $450-m Contract with Dangote for Kenya Refinery

New Delhi: Engineers India (EIL) has signed a contract worth more than $450 million with Nigeria's Dangote Group to provide project management consultancy and engineering, procurement and construction management services for a 700,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) greenfield refinery and petrochemical plant in Kenya, the Indian state-run firm said in a statement on Tuesday.

EIL has previously worked as project management consultant for the Dangote Group's 650,000 bpd refinery and petrochemical complex at Lekki in Nigeria. EIL is also working on the expansion of the refinery's capacity to 1.4 million bpd.

The Dangote Group, headquartered in Lagos, operates across 17 African countries and has interests in oil and gas, petrochemicals, fertilisers, cement and other industries. The Kenya project is part of the group's expansion into East Africa and aims to meet regional demand and process a wider range of crude, EIL said. The project, once completed, is expected to strengthen fuel production in East Africa, reduce the region's reliance on imports and supply petroleum products to international markets, it said. EIL works on refining, petrochemicals, oil and gas, fertilisers and infrastructure projects.—**Our Bureau**

Drugmakers Urge Europe to Back its Pharma Industry

FUNDING PUSH Seek higher public support for new medicines to keep pace with US, China

Bloomberg

European pharmaceutical companies are ramping up their effort to persuade the region's cash-strapped governments to invest more in new medicines, or risk losing out to China and the US.

Drugmakers for months have been warning they could curtail investments and delay the release of new medications in Europe, widening a disparity in access with the US, unless the region's healthcare systems agree to boost spending.

Now, the chairs of several large drugmakers, including AstraZeneca Plc, Roche Holding AG and Sanofi SA, have written an open letter warning European leaders of a looming industry decline in the region absent greater government support.

"In our boardrooms, we see Europe losing ground to global competition," reads the letter. "European governments must create conditions that attract investment in next-generation medicines before it's too late."

Chairs of drugmakers, including AstraZeneca, Roche, Sanofi, have warned governments of a looming industry decline in the continent

The chairs of Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, GSK Plc, Novartis AG, Novo Nordisk A/S, Chiesi Farmaceutici SpA and Ipsen are also joining in the letter that has been sent to governments.

The industry's campaign for higher spending on drugs intensified after US President Donald Trump said the US—the world's most lucrative market for pharma companies—will no longer pay more for medicines than other wealthy countries.

As prices are typically lower in Europe, launching a drug in the region risks leading to lower prices in the US, damaging profits.

Insmed Inc, for example, earlier this year held back the European launch of its bronchiectasis medicine as it assesses the impact of the US policy.

"Around 40% of newly approved therapies never reach European patients," according to the letter. "This is the result of decades in which Europe treated medicines as a cost to suppress rather than one of the best investments a government can make."

The industry effort comes at a difficult time for many European nations, as soaring medical costs linked to ageing populations put healthcare systems in the red.

"The industry's lobbying is colliding with a hard reality," said Thomas Hwang, assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and lead author of a recent study on the US drug-price push. "Health budgets across Europe have little room to give."