CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ExportersIndia fined Rs 10 lakh for listing ammonium nitrate and PETN

CCPA's order of September 8, 2026 fines Weblink.In, which runs ExportersIndia.com, Rs 10 lakh and bars listings of ammonium nitrate, PETN and other explosives.

THE CENTRAL CONSUMER Protection Authority (CCPA) has fined Weblink.In Private Limited, which runs the B2B platform ExportersIndia.com, Rs 10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lakhs) and ordered it to permanently stop listing, hosting, advertising or facilitating sale of or enquiry for Ammonium Nitrate, Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate (PETN) or any other substance classified as an explosive or special category explosive substance under the Explosives Act, 1884 or the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. The order in Case No. CCPA-2/47/2026-CCPA is dated September 8, 2026, signed by Nidhi Khare, Chief Commissioner, and Anupam Mishra, Commissioner, and made under Sections 20 and 21 read with Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

KEY FACTS

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The case came out of a sector-wide review by CCPA of e-commerce platforms, to check whether Ammonium Nitrate, Gun Powder, Picric Acid and PETN were being listed or sold online. Ammonium Nitrate was declared an explosive by Notification No. S.O. 1678(E) dated July 21, 2011 under Section 17 of the Explosives Act, 1884. CCPA issued a Show Cause Notice dated May 7, 2026, asked DG (Investigation) to investigate by letter dated June 1, 2026, and received the Investigation Report on August 7, 2026. The report records that the company didn't answer a notice of June 15, an email of June 24 or a final reminder of July 1, 2026, and replied only on July 31 and August 3, 2026.

CCPA found that the listings showed the substances like ordinary goods, with price quotes and a "verified" tick against sellers that checked nothing beyond a mobile number, and did not say that a PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation) licence is needed to buy them lawfully or that unauthorized possession may attract penal consequences. It held this a misleading advertisement under Section 2(28), an unfair trade practice under Section 2(47) and a breach of the consumer's right under Section 2(9) to be protected against goods hazardous to life and property. It rejected the company's claim to be only a B2B directory and held it a marketplace e-commerce entity bound by Rules 4(3) and 5 of the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020. The order says it doesn't decide any liability under the Explosives Act, 1884, the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 or their rules, which is for the competent authorities.

On the penalty, CCPA notes this is the first proceeding of its kind against the company and lists aggravating factors: two explosive substances, a live per-kilogram PETN listing at the hearing, no action against any of the about 50 or more sellers who listed the substances, and no due diligence shown for sellers based outside India, including from Nigeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ghana, Jordan and Kenya. It credits the company for taking the listings down on receiving the Show Cause Notice, expanding its restricted-product list and giving an unconditional undertaking at the hearing. It warns that a later contravention of the same kind can draw up to fifty lakh rupees under the proviso to Section 21(2). The company must file a compliance report within 15 days of receiving the order.

A second final order against the same company, in Case No. CCPA-2/54/2026-CCPA dated September 10, 2026, covers Picric Acid, declared an explosive by Notification No. GSR 625(E) dated August 7, 1983. It gives the same directions for Picric Acid and any other substance classified as an explosive under the Explosives Act, 1884 or the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, with a second penalty of Rs 10,00,000 and a compliance report within 15 days of receipt.

Issued by	Central Consumer Protection Authority
Document	Order, Case No. CCPA-2/47/2026-CCPA
Dated	September 8, 2026
Against	Weblink.In Private Limited (trading as ExportersIndia.com)
Made under	Sections 20 and 21 read with Section 10, Consumer Protection Act, 2019
Substances	Ammonium Nitrate and Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate (PETN)
Found	Section 2(9), Section 2(28) (misleading advertisement), Section 2(47) (unfair trade practice); Rules 4(3) and 5, Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020
Penalty	Rs 10,00,000
Direction	Permanently stop listing, hosting, advertising or facilitating sale of or enquiry for these or any other explosive or special category explosive substance
Compliance report	Within 15 days of receipt of the order
Show Cause Notice	May 7, 2026
Related	Order in Case No. CCPA-2/54/2026-CCPA, September 10, 2026: Picric Acid, a further Rs 10,00,000 and the same directions

The order (PDF, 4.7 MB)

Source: Consumer Affairs's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on November 17, 2026.

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