

Dr. Ajay Kumar  
Joint Secretary  
Telephone : 91-11-2436 0160  
Fax : 91-11-24363079  
Email : [ajav@deity.gov.in](mailto:ajav@deity.gov.in)

दूरभाष/Tele:

असं पत्र सं :

D.O.NO.....18(16)/2012-E.Infra



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND IT  
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निकेतन/ELECTRONICS NIKETAN  
6,सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स / 6,C.G.O. COMPLEX  
नई दिल्ली /New Delhi-110003  
Website : [www.deity.gov.in](http://www.deity.gov.in)

September 2, 2013

दिनांक/Dated.....

**Subject : Follow up regarding the new gTLD application for .INDIANS from M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and for .RAM from M/s. Chrysler LLC, USA**

**Dear Ms. Dryden and Dr. Crocker,**

Kind reference is invited to the applications for **.INDIANS** submitted by M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. and **.RAM** submitted by M/s. Chrysler LLC. In this regard, the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity), Government of India, in July 2013 formally requested the GAC place the two strings **.INDIANS** and **.RAM** on the GAC objection list the GAC's advice to the ICANN Board of Directors, pursuant to the Government of India's early warning on both strings in November, 2012. Further discussions have been held with the applicants of these gTLD strings and their representations considered in detail.

1. The Government of India continues to be of the view that the strings **.INDIANS** and **.RAM** need to be rejected.
2. In the case of **.INDIANS**, the applicant has stated that their applied for string will directly focus on the same users as the **.IN** ccTLD, and plans to offer an open an unrestricted gTLD with a meaning and message that is identical to that of the **.IN** ccTLD. Further, the applicant intends to globally position the **.INDIANS** gTLD as a domain aimed at India and for Indians, which is the same target and purpose of the official country code **.IN**.

The Government of India has an obligation to minimize user confusion and misinterpretation of the country's identity online. Given the published plans of the **.INDIANS** gTLD, combined with the declared intent to offer **.INDIANS** as an allegedly complementary alternative to the official country code **.IN**, the Government of India believes it highly likely that the proposed **.INDIANS** string will confuse Internet users, organizations and registrants both inside the country and all users of the Internet outside the country.

Cont...2/-



ELECTRONICS INDIA

Ekam Preethi Mitham Chyap

Further, the **.INDIANS** string's distinct meaning is likely to be misleading to the citizens of India in a way that fundamentally affects the security and stability of the Internet name space inside the country. For instance, it is likely that the **.INDIANS** string would be used in a confusing manner for many nefarious purposes, with long-term damage to the growing Internet user population in the country.

To our knowledge, the applicant did not consult the targeted community in regard to the launch of the proposed TLD, its strategy and policies. The applicant did not obtain any endorsement from the Government of India, or any governmental or non-governmental organization in the country.

The Government of India does not believe that any mitigation measures for a private party who has applied to operate the string **.INDIANS**, which is inherently misleading to the official country code **.IN** will be sufficient to address the long-lasting user confusion, security and stability considerations which are critical to the mission of ICANN and the Government of India.

In the case of **.RAM**, this gTLD string is a Religious term, attaching to it tremendous religious sensitivity. Millions of Indian citizens worship Lord Ram as a main deity, and the The allocation of such a domain to any applicant and the attendant likelihood of misuse will have far reaching social and religious repercussions in the country. The GAC has already recognized that Religious terms are sensitive issues.

Ram is an immensely revered and inspirational figure to people across the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia, as well as increasingly across Western civilization, where Hindu epics and values have gained recognition and popularity. In the Jain religion, Ram is enumerated among the nine great gods ("Baladeva"). Festivals devoted to Lord Ram are amongst the most pervasive in the country, and many such events are notified national holidays.

Ram is a great hero to the adherents of Agama Hindu Dharma and to the Muslims who practice Abangan, a syncretic form of Islam and Hinduism, in Indonesia. He is revered by the people throughout Indochina who otherwise adhere to different forms of Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism. His regal bearing and fighting prowess is emulated in various Indian martial arts which in turn influenced various Southeast Asian fighting systems such as silat. The Ram Leela is performed across South East Asia in numerous local languages and the story has been the subject of art, architecture, music, folk dance and sculpture. The ancient city of Ayutthaya stands in Thailand, as the tribute of an ancient Thai kingdom to the great legend. Many ancient and medieval era kings of India and South East Asia have adopted Ram as their name. (Reference: Wikipedia)

To our knowledge, the applicant did not consult with the affected communities in regard to the launch of the proposed TLD, its strategy and policies.

The Government of India has carefully considered the mitigation measures offered by the applicant to operate the string **.RAM**. Given the significant religious and social impact in the country, the measures suggested by the applicant do not adequately address the concerns raised by the Government of India, and do not mitigate the large scale social and religious consequences of potential misuse or abuse of the domain.

In view of the above, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India requests that the GAC convey to the ICANN Board of Directors as part of GAC Advice that the strings **.INDIANS** and **.RAM** must be rejected. We request that this letter be placed as part of the public communications section of the GAC and the ICANN Board.

**With regards,**

**Yours sincerely,**

**(Dr. Ajay Kumar)**

**Ms. Heather Dryden**

Chairman,  
Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)  
GAC Secretariat,

**Dr. Steve Crocker**

Chairman of the Board  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)  
12025 Waterfront Drive  
Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094- 2536, USA

cc:

✓ **Mr. Fadi Chehadé**  
President and CEO  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)  
12025 Waterfront Drive  
Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094- 2536, USA

