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भारत सरकार
संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
Government of India
Ministry of Communications &
Information Technology
Department of Electronics &
Information Technology (DeitY)

18(16)/2012-E.Infra

November 7, 2013

Subject : Government of India's strong objection to the new gTLD applications for .INDIANS from M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and for .RAM from M/s. Chrysler LLC, USA

Dear Mr. Fadi Chehede,

I would like to bring to your kind attention the matter concerning Government of India's strong objection to the gTLD strings .INDIANS and .RAM. Our concerns are reiterated in the Annexure.

2. The matter was also raised by Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology on 17th Oct., 2013 in Delhi during your meeting with him.
3. Unfortunately so far the Government of India has not received any official communication to the effect that these strings (.INDIANS & .RAM) will not be cleared.
4. We would request you to kindly confirm at the earliest that the applications relating to the aforesaid gTLDs are being rejected.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(J. SATYANARAYANA)

Mr. Fadi Chehede
President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)
Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536, USA

Indian Government Concerns about .INDIANS and .RAM

1. .INDIANS

1.1 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 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.

2. .RAM

2.1 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 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.

2.2 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.