

Certificate No.

Certificate Issued Date

Account Reference

Unique Doc. Reference

Purchased by

TALY

Description of Document

Property Description

Consideration Price (Rs.)

First Party

Second Party

Stamp Duty Paid By

Stamp Duty Amount(Rs.)

INDIA NON JUDICIAL

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

e-Stamp

IN-DL19579632325426N

24-Jun-2015 02:03 PM

IMPACC (SH)/ dlshimp17/ ROHINI/ DL-DLH

SUBIN-DLDLSHIMP1736227028181328N

JAMES MUKKATTUKAVUNKAL

Article 12 Award

Not Applicable

0

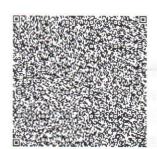
(Zero)

JAMES MUKKATTUKAVUNKAL

Not Applicable

JAMES MUKKATTUKAVUNKAL

(One Hundred And Fifty only)



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INDRP ARBITRATION

THE NATIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE OF INDIA [NIXI]

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION SOLE ARBITRATOR: JAMES MUKKATTUKAVUNKAL

> Lens.com, Inc. Vs.

Ju J friend International

ARBITRATION AWARD Disputed Domain Name: www.lens.in

- The authenticity of this Stamp Certificate should be verified at "www.shcilestamp.com". Any discrepancy in the details on this Certificate and as
 available on the website renders it invalid.
- The onus of checking the legitimacy is on the users of the certificate.
- 3. In case of any discrepancy please inform the Competent Authority.



The Parties

The **Complainant** in this arbitration proceeding is *Lens.com,Inc.*, a company incorporated under the laws of United States of America. Its office is at Nevada, P.O. Box 27740, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA- 829126. The Complainant is represented by the authorized representative, Mr. Varun Bajaj.

The **Respondent** in this arbitration proceeding is *Mr. Ju J friend International*, located at 5 Bongujae-ro 70-gil Jungnang-gu Seoul, 131808 KR as per the details given by the Whois database maintained by the National Internet Exchange of India [NIXI].

The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed Domain name is www.lens.in. The Registrar with which the disputed domain name is registered is Webiq Domains Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (R131- AFIN)

Procedural History [Arbitration Proceedings]

This arbitration proceeding is in accordance with the .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy [INDRP], adopted by the National Internet Exchange of India ["NIXI"]. The INDRP Rules of Procedure [the Rules] were approved by NIXI on 28th June 2005 in accordance with the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. By registering the disputed domain name with the NIXI accredited Registrar, the Respondent agreed to the resolution of the disputes pursuant to the IN Dispute Resolution Policy and Rules framed there under.

According to the information provided by the National Internet Exchange of India ["NIXI"], the history of this proceeding is as follows:

In accordance with the Rules, 2(a) and 4(a), NIXI formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and appointed James Mukkattukavunkal as the Sole Arbitrator for adjudicating upon the dispute in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, and the Rules framed there under, IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy and the Rules framed there under. The Arbitrator submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by NIXI.

The request for submission with a complete set of documents was dispatched to the Respondent by the National Internet Exchange of India [NIXI] on 25th May, 2015. A request was made by the Whois Networks Co. Ltd (hereinafter referred to as the 'third party') for change of details in the Whois database on 2nd June, 2015. The panel had requested the third party to submit requisite documents (application for change of particulars and a condonation of delay application) for changing the particulars on 11th June, 2015; 12th June, 2015; 16th June 2015. The third party has failed to submit the documents as requested by the panel. The panel is hereby dismissing the request made by the third party. The Respondent has not replied to the complaint in the present dispute.

Grounds for the administrative proceedings

- 1. The disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark in which the Complainant has statutory/common law rights.
- 2. The Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name.



3. The disputed domain name has been registered or is/are being used in bad faith.

Background of the Complainant and its statutory and common law rights Adoption:

The Complainant in this arbitration proceeding is *lens.com Inc.*, incorporated under the laws of United States of America. The company has been operating the portal 'www.lens.com' from 1995 till date in the United States of America and various other countries from the United States of America. The portal 'www.lens.com' is very popular among all its vendors/public in general for the quality in services rendered.

Statutory rights:

The Complainant contends that the trademark "lens.com" and its variants in all forms of multiple classes (including classes 9, 32 and 42) have acquired global reputation and goodwill and are well known marks. The Complainant holds several domain name registrations incorporating the "lens.com" trademark.

Respondent

The Respondent failed to reply to the notice regarding the complaint.

Discussion and Findings

The Respondent does not have any relationship with the business of the Complainant or any legitimate interest in the mark/brand "lens.com". Moreover, the Complainant has neither given any license nor authorized the Respondent to use the Complainant's mark. Also it is a well-established principle that once a Complainant makes a prima facie case showing that a Respondent lacks rights to the domain name at issue; the Respondent must come forward with the proof that it has some legitimate interest in the domain name to rebut this presumption. However, the Complainant has not provided for any such evidence regarding registration of "lens.in" or evidence as to acquirement of secondary meaning in the word "lens.in". The disputed domain name in question is "www.lens.in"

The Respondent's Default

The INDRP Rules of Procedure require under Rule 8(b) that the arbitrator must ensure that each party is given a fair opportunity to present its case. Rule 8(b) reads as follows

"In all cases, the Arbitrator shall ensure that the Parties are treated with equality and that each Party is given a fair opportunity to present its case."

Rule 11(a) empowers the arbitrator to proceed with an ex parte decision in case any party does not comply with the time limits or fails to reply against the complaint. Rule 11(a) reads as follows:

"In the event that a Party, in the absence of exceptional circumstances as determined by the Arbitrator in its sole discretion, does not comply with any of the time periods established by these Rules of Procedure or the Arbitrator, the Arbitrator shall proceed to decide the Complaint in accordance with law."

The Respondent was given notice of this administrative proceeding in accordance with the Rules. The .IN Registry discharged its responsibility under Rules paragraph 2(a) to employ reasonably available means calculated to achieve actual notice to the Respondent of the



Complaint.

As previously indicated; the Respondent failed to file any reply to the Complaint and has not sought to answer the Complainant's assertions, evidence or contentions in any manner. The Arbitrator finds that the Respondent has been given a fair opportunity to present his case.

The 'Rules' paragraph 12(a) provides that the Arbitrator shall decide the Complaint on the basis of the statements and documents submitted in accordance with the INDRP and any law that the Arbitrator deems fit to be applicable. In accordance with Rules paragraph 12, the Arbitrator may draw such inferences as are appropriate from the Respondent's failure to reply to the Complainant's assertions and evidence or to otherwise contest the Complaint. In the circumstances, the Arbitrator's decision is based upon the Complainant's assertions and evidence and inferences drawn from the Respondent's failure to reply.

The issues involved in the dispute

The Complainant in its complaint has invoked paragraph 4 of the INDRP, which reads:

"Types of Disputes -

Any Person who considers that a registered domain name conflicts with his legitimate rights or interests may file a Complaint to the .IN Registry on the following premises:

- (i) the Respondent's domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a name, trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights;
- (ii) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the domain name; and (iii) the Respondent's domain name has been registered or is being used in bad faith.

The Respondent is required to submit to a mandatory Arbitration proceeding in the event that a Complainant files a complaint to the .IN Registry, in compliance with this Policy and Rules thereunder."

According to paragraph 4 of the INDRP, there are 3 essential elements of a domain name dispute, which are being discussed hereunder in the light of the facts and circumstances of this case.

Parties Contentions

I. <u>The Respondent's domain name is identical and confusingly similar to a name,</u> trademark or service in which the Complainant has rights.

Complainant

The Complainant, based on various international trademark registrations across various classes owns the trademark "lens.com". Based on the use of the said trademark in USA submitted that it is the sole proprietor having sole and exclusive rights to use the said trademark "lens.com".

The Complainant submits that as the disputed domain name is 'www.lens.in', it is clearly



identical/confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark – "lens.com" in which the Complainant has exclusive rights and legitimate interest.

It has been proved by the Complainant that it has trademark rights, and other rights in the mark "lens.com" by submitting substantial documents. The mark has been highly publicized, advertised by the Complainant in both the electronic media and print media. Furthermore the same has been done in countries such as USA. The Complainant intends to start offering its services in India and is making preparations for the same and the only requirement stopping them to do so is the non-availability off the disputed domain name, www.lens.in.

The Complainant has painstakingly built up an admirable reputation in the United States of America for itself and has invested substantial amounts of resources in advertising its products under the trademark "lens.com". The panel also would like to note that the Respondent is not carrying out any commercial activity through the disputed domain name in India which is blocking the development of Complainant's business activity in India.

A mere glance at the disputed domain name does not gives rise to enormous confusion as to its origin. The disputed domain name registered by the Respondent while being identical to the Corporate as well as the trademark of the Complainant does not automatically prove that the Complainant has rights in the disputed domain name "www.lens.in". The Complainant enjoys statutory and common law proprietary rights over the trademark 'lens.com' in the United States and the public there identifies the said trademark exclusively with the Complainant and no one else. However it does not follow that the complaint automatically enjoys statutory and proprietary rights over the disputed domain name www.lens.in.

It has to be noted that the paragraph no. 4 of the INDRP policy starts with following words, "Any person who considers that a registered domain name conflicts with his legitimate rights or interest may files complain to the in registry on follow premises." This is a positive assertion and sentence. Further paragraph 4(i) also constitutes a positive assertion and sentence. Paragraph 4(iii) and paragraph no.6, which is supplementary/explanation to it, also have positive assertions/sentences. The above clearly indicates that the onus of proving the contents of para no.4 (i) and 4(iii) are upon Complainant. To succeed he must prove them.

Also, the provisions of sections 101 to 103 of Indian Evidence Act also show that onus in present proceedings is primarily on Complainant.

Now the other important aspect that needs consideration is, as to whether the Complainant has right in the domain name "www.lens.in". The panel notes that all the proofs given by the Complainant has proven his trademark in "lens.com" and not in "www.lens.in".

The trademark of Complainant is 'lens.com'. The Complainant is trying to prove his ownership in the word "lens". It is a common word, has a dictionary meaning, it is extensively used. Thus it's a generic word, which can be used by anyone and not exclusively by one person as a matter of right. Reference is also drawn to sections 9 and 32 of The Trademark Act 1999, which prohibit use and registration of trademarks, which consists of



common or generic words. To acquire exclusive right to use words like 'internet' [generic word] as trademark, the Complainant must show that the word had/has acquired secondary meaning before registration. He also has to show that he has acquired reputation or goodwill in it or that he is known or recognized or associated with it in or outside market. He must show that he has acquired these by extensive user, length and extent of sales, advertisement, consumer surveys, or by media recognition. Nobody can claim exclusive rights to use any generic word, abbreviation or acronym which has become *publici juris*. Common words, generic or descriptive names require that the Complainant establishes that it has acquired secondary meaning in the relevant word. [*Relevant decisions: SBL Limited v Himalaya Drug Company 67 (1997) DLT 803 (DB); Rhizome Distilleries Pvt. Ltd. & Ors v. Pernod Ricard S.A. France & Ors 165 (2009) DLT 474; 2003(7) AD Delhi 405; 2002(95) DLT-3 and 2002(97) DLT-1)]*

This panel holds that a trademark has to be considered in its entirety. It has been held that when a domain name contains a trademark in its entirety, the domain name is identical or at least confusingly similar to the trademark. [Relevant Decisions: Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications AB v Salvatore Morelli, INDRP/030; Orange Brand Services Limited v PRS Reddy, INDRP/644; International Business Machines Corporation v. Zhu Xumei, INDRP/646, (January 30, 2015); Jaguar land Rover v. Yitao, INDRP/641, (January 4, 2015)]

The panel while following the rule of law is of the opinion that while considering the trademark "lens.com" in its entirety, the domain name www.lens.in is not identical or confusingly similar to the trademark of the Complainant.

According to the INDRP paragraph 3, it is the responsibility of the Respondent to find out before registration that the domain name he is going to register does not violate the rights of any proprietor/brand owner.

Paragraph 3 of the INDRP is reproduced below:

"The Respondent's Representations -

By applying to register a domain name, or by asking a Registrar to maintain or renew a domain name registration, the Respondent represents and warrants that:

- the statements that the Respondent made in the Respondent's Application Form for Registration of Domain Name are complete and accurate;
- to the Respondent's knowledge, the registration of the domain name will not infringe upon or otherwise violate the rights of any third party;
- the Respondent is not registering the domain name for an unlawful purpose; and
- the Respondent will not knowingly use the domain name in violation of any applicable laws or regulations.

It is the Respondent's responsibility to determine whether the Respondent's domain name registration infringes or violates someone else's rights."

However this panel is of the view that the request to ownership to the same has to be denied on the grounds of no proof of trademark registration for "lens.in" or "lens" in India with regard to the same [(Relevant decisions: Jagdish Purohit v. Mr. Stephen Koeing INDRP/6



(July 7, 2006); Suresh Kumar Sareen v. Jim J INDRP/007 (October 4, 2006); Pepsico, Inc. v. Bijon Chatterji INDRP/014 (June 24 2006); Pheonix IT Solutions Ltd. v. Mr. M. Ramesh INDRP/495 (28TH September, 2013); Gokul Kalyansundaram v. Eternal Softwares INDRP/564 (February 2, 2014)]

However, it is only some types of commercial domain names that qualify for trademark protection. For instance, while domain names that use common or descriptive terms, may work very well to bring users to a website, they usually do not qualify for much trademark protection. This means that owners of such domain names generally won't be able to stop the use of these words and phrases in other domain names. In other words, by using common terms that are the generic name for the service or by using words that merely describe the service or some aspect of it, the owner of the name will have less trademark rights against the users of similar domain names than she would if her domain name was distinctive. Hence, it is a generic name and Complainant has not been able to prove that he has acquired any secondary meaning in the word "lens"/"lens.in". [(Relevant decisions: Mr. Shevaldas C. Raghani v. Mr. Stephen Koenig INDRP/008 (May 3, 2006); Jagdish Purohit v. Mr. Stephen Koeing INDRP/6 (July 7, 2006); Suresh Kumar Sareen v. Jim J INDRP/007 (October 4, 2006); Pepsico, Inc. v. Bijon Chatterji INDRP/014 (June 24 2006); Pheonix IT Solutions Ltd. v. Mr. M. Ramesh INDRP/495 (28TH September, 2013); Gokul Kalyansundaram v. Eternal Softwares INDRP/564 (February 2, 2014)]

Furthermore it has been held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that the criteria to be considered while deciding on the similarity/dissimilarity of the marks the following criteria need to be considered; the nature of the marks (i.e. whether they are word, label or composite marks); the degree of resemblance between the marks; the nature of the goods for which they are used as trademarks; similarities in the nature, character and performance of goods of rival traders; the class of purchasers who are likely to buy gods bearing the marks, the method of purchasing the goods or placing orders; and other circumstances that may be relevant. It is immaterial whether the plaintiff and defendant trade in the same field or in the same or similar products. [(Relevant decision: Cadila Health Care Ltd. V. Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 2001 (5) SCC 73)]

Therefore it is clear from the evidence provided by the Complainant that the allegation of infringement of the mark "lens.com" by the Respondent would not satisfy the tests as laid down by law.

Respondent

No response has been made from Respondent and with the e-mails sent to the panel by the third party, it was made clear that the Respondent did not want to pursue any action in case of the disputed domain name. The third party contacted the panel with the request of change in particulars. The panel had requested the third party to submit the appropriate documents. Despite repeated mails exchanged requesting the submission of the documents in the format prescribed by the 19th of June, 2015, the third party has not done so till date. Therefore the panel dismisses the application of the third party in respect of the change in particulars of the Respondent. The Respondent has not replied to content and as such the panel has to decide the present dispute on the documents provided by the Complainant.



The Panel comes to the conclusion that the disputed domain name is not identical or deceptively similar to the Complainants' marks and its business. Accordingly, the Panel concludes that the Complainant has not satisfied the first element required by Paragraph 4 of the INDRP.

II. <u>The Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain</u> name

Complainant

The second element that the Complainant needs to prove and as is required by paragraph 4(ii) of the INDRP is that the Respondent has no legitimate right or interests in the disputed domain name.

Once the Complainant makes a prima facie case showing that the Respondent does not have any rights or legitimate interest in the domain name, the evidentiary burden shifts to the Respondent to rebut the contention by providing evidence of its rights or interests in the domain name.

The Complainant cannot have any right or legitimate interest in the disputed domain name solely on the grounds that the disputed domain name incorporates part of the trademark 'lens.com"; a mark in which the Complainant has the sole and exclusive right and that has become well known in the United States of America owing to the Complainant's efforts. However, the Complainant has failed to make a prima facie case to show that the Respondent does not have any right in the disputed domain name www.lens.in. Just the presence of generic word "lens" in the disputed domain name does not make it an infringement of the trademark of the Complainant "lens.com". It is a well settled principle of trademark law that the trademarks have to be considered in its entirety and not piece meal.

The panel agrees that Respondent is not authorized by the Complainant to use its trademark. If this was the situation in the present case then in the absence of any license or permission from the Complainant to use any of its trademarks or to apply for or use any domain name incorporating those trademarks, it is clear that no actual or contemplated bonafide or legitimate use of the domain name could be claimed by the Respondent. [Relevant Decisions: Statoil ASA v. Bright, AK, D2014-1463 (WIPO October 14, 2014) and Swiss Eco Patent S.A. v. Verdicchio Simon, D2014-1804 (WIPO November 21, 2014)]

However, this is not the situation in the present case. The Respondent did not need any authorisation or license to use the generic word "lens" in its domain name. The Complainant has not proved that it holds any trademark rights in the generic word "lens" either through registration or by acquiring secondary meaning in the territory of India.

It also seems that the Respondent has not used the disputed domain name, www.lens.in, for commercial gain or for the purpose of disrupting the business of the Complainant. As the matter stands of now the Respondent does not seem to be carrying out any commercial activity through the disputed domain name in India.



The panel cannot agree with the contention of the Complainant that the Respondent's website of the disputed domain name carries nothing but sponsored links of other companies providing a variety of products and services.

Respondent

No response has been made from Respondent and with the e-mails sent to the panel by the third party, it was made clear that the registrant did not want to pursue any action in case of the disputed domain name. The Respondent has not replied to content and as such the panel has to decide the present dispute on the documents provided by the Complainant.

For these reasons, the Panel holds that the Complainant has not proved that the Respondent does not have any rights or legitimate interests or is infringing the trademark of the Complainant in the disputed domain name.

III. The disputed domain name has been registered or is being used in bad faith.

Complainant

It has been contended by the Complainant that the Respondent has registered the disputed domain name in bad faith. The language of the INDRP paragraph 4(iii) is clear enough, and requires that either bad faith registration or use of bad faith has to be proved.

Paragraph 6 of the INDRP provides that the following circumstances are deemed to be evidence that a Respondent has registered and used a domain name in bad faith:

"Circumstances indicating that the Respondent has registered or has acquired the domain name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the domain name registration to the Complainant who is the owner of the trademark or service mark or to a competitor of the Complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of its documented out-of-pocket costs directly related to the domain name; or

the Respondent has registered the domain name in order to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that the Respondent has engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or

by using the domain name, the Respondent has intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to its Website or other on-line location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation or endorsement of its Website or location or of a product or service on its Website or location."

From the circumstances of the case and from the evidences put before the Panel by the Complainant, the Panel is of the opinion that the Complainant had no previous connection with the disputed domain name and any use of the disputed domain name by the Respondent, would not result in confusion and deception of the trade, consumers and public,



who would assume a connection or association between the Complainant and the Respondent. It must also be noted that the registration of the domain name www.lens.com by the Complainant was a constructive notice to the Respondent on the Complainant's rights in the lens.com mark and domain name. However this does not entail that the registration of www.lens.com domain name would serve as a constructive notice to any third party looking to register the disputed domain name. Therefore the Respondent by adopting the domain name [www.lens.in] did not do so in bad faith.

It is a well laid down principle that if on perusal of the disputed domain name the panel finds that the Respondent has used the disputed domain name to intentionally attract internet website users to its website or the on-line location by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainants lens.com Trade Mark as to source, sponsorship or affiliation or endorsement of the website www.lens.in, then the assumption would be that the Respondent is deriving a financial benefit and an unfair profit from the goodwill of the Complainants brand. [Relevant Cases: Satyam Infoway Ltd. V Siffynet Solutions (P) Ltd. 2004 (6) SCC 145; Maher Mohammad Najib Mikati v. Domain Privacy Service FBO Registrant / Kaleb Jacob Mikati, Mikati Associates, D2014-1960 (WIPO, December 22, 2014 Woolworths Limited v. Mucahid Saki, D2014-0952 (WIPO July 24, 2014); The Coco-Cola Company v. Ma Ying Jo, WIPO Case No. D2012-1823]

However on the perusal of the disputed domain name the panel found that the Respondent not has used the disputed domain name to intentionally attract internet website users to its website or the on-line location by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's "lens.com" Trade Mark as to source, sponsorship or affiliation or endorsement of the website www.lens.in. Therefore the assumption that the Respondent is deriving a financial benefit and an unfair profit from the goodwill of the Complainants brand is not proved.

It is also a well settled principle that the registration of a domain name that incorporates a well-known mark by an entity that has no relationship to the mark is evidence of bad faith. [Relevant Decision: The Ritz Carlton Hotel Company LLC v. Nelton! Brands Inc., INDRP/250 (December 30, 2011)]

However, the Respondent has not incorporated the mark of the Complainant. The only word that is common between the disputed domain name and the trademark of the Complainant is the word "lens". The word "lens" cannot be granted as an exclusive protection in favour of any one person.

The only way that bad faith could have been proved is by registering the disputed domain name with actual knowledge of the Complainant's trademark. Furthermore the Respondent could have been said to have acted in bad faith is by breaching its service agreement with the registrar on the ground that the Respondent registered a domain name that infringes upon the Intellectual Property rights of another entity, which in the present scenario is the Complainant. [Relevant Decision: Swarovski Aktiengesellschaft v. WhoisGuard, Inc. / Person, Johnny D., D2013-1450, (WIPO October 2, 2013); zingametall BVBA v. Mister Alexey Navalny INDRP/639(January 21, 2015)]

The Respondent's registration of the domain name does not meet the bad faith elements set



forth in the INDRP. Therefore the panel comes to the conclusion that the registration is not in bad faith.

Respondent

No response has been made from Respondent and with the e-mails sent by the third party to the panel, it was made clear that the registrant did not want to pursue any action in case of the disputed domain name. The Respondent has not replied to content and as such the panel has to decide the present dispute on the documents provided by the Complainant.

Consequently it is established that the disputed domain name was not registered in bad faith or used in bad faith.

Decision

The disputed domain name is not identical and confusingly similar to trademark of the Complainant. The Complainant also has failed to prove that the Respondent does not have any right or legitimate interest in the domain name. The Respondent has not registered the disputed domain name in bad faith. Therefore the Complainant is not entitled to transfer of domain name to him, as he has also not established his bonafide rights in the disputed domain name as per law discussed above. However, the Respondent through the third party has categorically claimed that they are not the owners of the disputed domain name and the dispute is unrelated to them. Also it is pertinent to note that despite repeated reminders the third party did not submit the requisite documents. The situation that has arisen is the Complainant has failed to prove its rights in the disputed domain name and the Respondent does not want to be related to the domain name.

Hence it is the decision of the panel that the Domain name may be confiscated by registry and the same may be kept with it. In accordance with Policy and Rules, the Panel directs that the disputed domain name [www.lens.in] be cancelled.

JAMES M.

Sole Arbitrator

Date: June 29, 2015