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Purchased by	:	S S RANA AND CO
Description of Document	:	Article 12 Award
Property Description	:	AWARD
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First Party	:	LUCY RANA
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Stamp Duty Paid By	:	LUCY RANA
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**BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR UNDER THE .IN DOMAIN NAME DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY  
(Appointed by the National Internet Exchange of India)**

**ARBITRATION AWARD**

**Disputed Domain Name: <belmondhotel.in>**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Belmond Management Limited**  
Wogan House, 99 Great Portland Street,  
London, England, W1W 7NY

.....Complainant

-----versus-----

**Shailesh Singh**  
Belmond Hotel  
Purkul Road 304,  
Dehradun,  
Uttarakhand - 248001, India  
**Email : belmondhotel01@gmail.com**

..... Respondent

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### 1. The Parties

The **Complainant** in this arbitration proceeding is **Belmond Management Limited** of the address *Wogan House, 99 Great Portland Street, London, England, W1W 7NY*.

The **Respondent** in this arbitration proceeding is **Shailesh Singh** of the address *Belmond Hotel Purkul Road 304, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248001, India*, as per the WHOIS records.

### 2. The Domain Name, Registrar and Registrant

The present arbitration proceeding pertains to a dispute concerning the registration of the domain name < **belmondhotel.in** > with the .IN Registry. The Registrant in the present matter is, and the Registrar is HOSTINGER operations, UAB.

### 3. Procedural History

The arbitration proceeding is in accordance with the .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (INDRP), adopted by the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). The procedural history of the matter is tabulated below:

Date	Event
December 29, 2025	➤ NIXI sought the consent of Ms. Lucy Rana to act as the Sole Arbitrator in the matter.
	➤ The Arbitrator informed of her availability and gave her consent vide email. ➤ Arbitrator provided the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence in compliance with the INDRP Rules of Procedure.
January 01, 2026	➤ NIXI handed over the Domain Complaint, Annexures and Power of Attorney thereto to the Arbitrator. ➤ NIXI further mentioned in their hand-over email that in case the Complainant has failed to submit a notarized Power of Attorney or annexures, they can submit the same directly to the Ld. Arbitrator marking all others in cc.
January 02, 2026	➤ The Arbitrator directed Complainant's counsel to serve a full set of the domain complaint and annexures upon the Respondent (by email as well as physical mode) and provide proof of service within <b>seven (7) days</b> .



January 07, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Respondent sent an email to the Arbitrator claiming that someone is committing fraud with them. This was sent without keeping NIXI and the Complainant in CC.</li> </ul>
January 08, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Arbitrator directed Complainant's counsel to confirm whether a complete set of the domain complaint, together with annexures, has been duly served upon the Respondent in physical form, and to provide proof of such delivery.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator requested the Parties to clarify whether any discussions towards settlement have taken place and further granted the Parties leave to engage in settlement negotiations and to inform of the outcome within <b>seven (07) days</b>.</li> </ul>
January 08, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Respondent sent an email to the Arbitrator providing his contact number and requesting the Arbitrator to contact him. Subsequently, the Respondent sent an email to the Arbitrator requesting to send the emails in Hindi as he is unable to understand. These were sent without keeping NIXI and the Complainant in CC.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator directed the Parties to ensure that for all communications directed to her, all relevant parties (NIXI, Complainant and Respondent) are kept in loop.</li> <li>➤ In response to the Respondent's request for communication in Hindi, the Arbitrator clarified that in accordance with Rule 14 of the INDRP Rules of Procedure, the language of the arbitration proceedings is prescribed as English and the present proceedings shall be conducted exclusively in the English language.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator once again directed Complainant's counsel to confirm whether a complete set of the domain complaint has been duly served upon the Respondent.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator once again called upon the Parties to clarify whether any discussions towards settlement have taken place and granted leave to the parties to engage in any such discussions and inform of the outcome within <b>seven (07) days</b>.</li> </ul>
January 08, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Complainant's counsel sent an email to the Arbitrator confirming that the complaint along with the annexures has been duly served upon the Respondent and provided proof of service.</li> <li>➤ The Complainant's counsel confirmed that there have been no discussions between the parties regarding settlement. However, if</li> </ul>

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	<p>the Respondent agrees to transfer the disputed domain name to the Complainant, they shall be willing to proceed with a settlement.</p>
January 09, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As the Complainant's counsel confirmed that the domain complaint along with the annexures has been duly served upon the Respondent, the Arbitrator accordingly commenced arbitration proceedings in respect of the matter.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator granted the Respondent a period of <b>fourteen (14) days</b> to file their response to the said Complaint and forward a copy of the same to the Arbitrator, the Complainant and to NIXI within the said time period.</li> <li>➤ Simultaneously, the Arbitrator granted leave to the Parties to engage in settlement negotiations regarding the disputed domain name in light of the Complainant's Counsel's statement that should the Respondent be willing to transfer the domain, they would be happy to proceed with a settlement. The Arbitrator directed the Parties to inform of any such outcome within <b>fourteen (14) days</b>.</li> </ul>
January 09, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Respondent again sent an email to the Arbitrator requesting to contact them on their personal phone number. This was again sent without keeping NIXI and the Complainant in CC.</li> </ul>
January 13, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Arbitrator reiterated that both parties must strictly ensure that for any communication directed to her, all relevant parties (i.e. NIXI, Complainant and Respondent) are in loop.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator explicitly stated that no requests to accommodate personal telephonic conversations shall be entertained.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator reiterated that the Respondent has time of <b>fourteen (14) days</b> to file their response to the said Complaint and forward a copy of the same to the Arbitrator, the Complainant and to NIXI within the said time period.</li> <li>➤ The Arbitrator reiterated that the Parties have leave to engage in settlement negotiations and inform of the outcome within <b>fourteen (14) days</b>.</li> </ul>
January 16, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Respondent sent an email to the Arbitrator attaching a screenshot of their website, and stating that they have removed everything from their website.</li> </ul>

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January 25, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Complainant's counsel confirmed that they have discussed the dispute with the Respondent however, the parties are unable to reach a settlement, thereby requesting continuation of the INDRP proceedings.</li> <li>➤ The Complainant's counsel further submitted that contrary to the Respondent's email dated January 16, 2026, the Respondent continues to host content relating to "Belmond Hotel" on the domain name &lt;belmondhotel.in&gt; and attached screenshots of the disputed website in this respect.</li> </ul>
January 27, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Given that the parties have not been able to settle the matter and the time provided to the Respondent to file their reply has elapsed, the arbitrator concluded the proceedings and reserved the present award.</li> </ul>
January 28, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Respondent sent an email to the Arbitrator requesting to send the emails in Hindi as he is unable to understand.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Factual Background – Complainant

The Complainant in the present matter has submitted as follows:

- That the Complainant is a world leader in the hospitality, travel, leisure and tourism industries, operating under the mark "BELMOND" in relation to its multinational portfolio of properties, which include hotels.
- That the Complainant is a registered limited company, incorporated on November 24, 1982, under the laws of England and Wales and uses "BELMOND" as the prominent and essential part of its corporate name.
- That the Complainant operates a website on the domain name www.belmond.com which prominently features the Complainant's trade mark "BELMOND". The domain name <www.belmond.com> was registered on March 5, 1998. Copy of the WhoIs extract of the domain registration was attached as **Annexure 2**.



- That the Complainant is the registered proprietor of the mark “BELMOND” in various classes in India. Registration certificates issued by the Trade Marks Registry in favour of the Complainant was attached as **Annexure 3**.
- That the Complainant’s exclusive rights over the trade mark “BELMOND” have also been upheld by the Indian Courts more particularly in **Belmond Interfin Ltd v. Ritesh Rana & Ors.**, CS(COMM) 863/2017, **Belmond Interfin Ltd. v. Rajiv Sood & Ors.** CS(COMM)685/2017 and **Belmond InterBn Ltd v. Hotel Belmond Alias Aura Belmond** CS (COMM) 693/2019 wherein the defendants were restrained from using the trademark "BELMOND" and/ or any mark deceptively similar thereto.
- That the Complainant has also secured trade mark registrations for the trademark “BELMOND” and/or its variants in several classes in various jurisdictions. List of trade mark registrations obtained by the Complainant in foreign jurisdictions was attached as **Annexure 5**.

**5. Disputed Domain Name- <belmondhotel.in>**

The disputed domain name <belmondhotel.in> was registered on **November 27, 2024**. A copy of the said WHOIS report has been provided as **Annexure 8**.

**6. Contentions And Legal Grounds Submitted By The Complainant**

In support of the requirements under the captioned provisions of the INDRP (combined with the relevant Rules of Procedure) the Complainant has submitted that:

**A. The domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights**

- That the Disputed Domain Name wholly subsumes the Complainant’s trade mark “BELMOND”, rendering it deceptively and confusingly similar to the Complainant’s trade mark.

In support of their submissions, Complainant has relied on the below prior decisions/ cases:

- i. *Royal Multisport Private Limited. v. Deepak Jawade Case No. D2023-0048*

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ii. *LEGO Juris A/S v. Domain Administrator, Rich Premium Limited / c/o WHOIS trustee.com Limited, WIPO Case No. D2014-1565*

- That the Disputed Domain Name reproduces the Complainant's trademark "BELMOND", in entirety with the mere addition of the descriptive term "hotel" and the term does not serve to distinguish the disputed domain name from the Complainant's trade mark.
- That incorporation of the term 'hotel' rather increases the likelihood of confusion, as the Complainant is widely known for operating luxury hotels under the mark "BELMOND". Further, that this confusion is further compounded by the fact that the website to which the disputed domain name resolves purports to promote an alleged luxury hotel under the name "Belmond Hotel", which directly corresponds with the Complainant's well-known services.

In support of this submission, Complainant has relied on the prior decision of the Panel in:

- i. *Belmond Management Limited v. Golrito oPtikola Case No. D2024-0662*
- ii. *Trivago N.V. v. Hildegard Gruener, Case No. D2019-3095*
- iii. *Montage Hotels & Resorts, LLC v. Aleksey Maksimov, Case No. D2022-4872*

- That an Internet user who carries out a WhoIs search for the disputed domain name will find that the registration of <belmondhotel.in> is in the name of "Belmond Hotel", further exacerbating the severe confusion in the mind of such a user.

**B. The Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the domain name**

- That the Respondent has no proprietary or contractual rights in the Complainant's trademark "BELMOND" in whole or in part.
- That the Respondent is using a domain name that prominently comprises of a term identical to the Complainant's prior registered trademark "BELMOND", without the Complainant's consent or authorization and with no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. In support of the above submissions, the Complainant submitted the following:
  - a. **Misrepresentation of Hotel's Address:** That the Respondent has added an incorrect address, referring to streets in New York.

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- b. **Website does not accept bookings:** That the disputed domain name is not being used for a bona fide business as no hotel bookings are being made through the website. The Complainant placed reliance on prior decision of the Panel in *MHG IP Holding (Singapore) PTE. LTD. v. Ramesh K Patel, Krish softweb Solution, Case No. D2022-4155*, in support of the above submission.
  - c. **Incomplete details on website:** That the website associated with the disputed domain name appears to be incomplete with no links to book the hotel or correct address details, placing reliance on *Commonwealth Bank of Australia v. Gaurav Kumar, 360 Digital Marketing Services / Bankwest Financial Loan WIPO Case No. D2020-1362*.
  - d. **Social media handles lead to third party listing:** That the social media links lead to a page for “ENVATO”, which appears to be a software developing company located in Melbourne.
  - e. **Blogs and reviews on the disputed domain name:** That the respondent has used system generated texts and copied reviews from New York based websites to promote its alleged “hotel” in Dehradun.
  - f. **Misleading images used on the disputed domain name:** That the property snapshots provided by the entity under the “Gallery” Tab appear to be from a seaside destination.
- That the Complainant is the registered proprietor of the trade mark “**BELMOND**” in India and globally. As such, the trade mark “**BELMOND**” has become highly distinctive of the Complainant’s services, including its luxury hotels and restaurants, trains and river cruises, safaris and package tours.
  - That the Respondent is not commonly known by the disputed domain name nor does the Respondent engage in any business or commerce under the trademark and/or trade name “**BELOND**”. Further, that the Respondent is in no way related to the Complainant or its business activities nor has the Complainant entered into any agreement granting the Respondent any right, license, or authorization to make use of its registered trade mark “**BELMOND**”.
  - That given the distinctiveness of the Complainant’s trade mark “**BELMOND**”, immense goodwill and reputation, the Respondent has registered the disputed domain name to prevent the Complainant from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name.

**C. The domain name is registered or is being used in bad faith**

- That the Respondent has registered and is using the disputed domain name solely with an ulterior motive to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from

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reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name and disrupt the legitimate business of the Complainant's business.

- That a search through popular hotel booking websites including [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com), [www.makemytrip.com](http://www.makemytrip.com), [www.agoda.com](http://www.agoda.com), [www.goibibo.com/hotels](http://www.goibibo.com/hotels), [www.cleartrip.com](http://www.cleartrip.com) and [www.yatra.com/hotels](http://www.yatra.com/hotels) did not reveal any results for the Respondent's alleged hotel. As the Complainant is known for its luxurious resorts globally, the Respondent's deliberate use of the mark "**BELMOND**" more so in respect of a "luxury hotel" indicates an attempt to exploit the goodwill and reputation of the Complainant's brand.
- That the registration and use of the disputed domain name, which fully subsumes the Complainant's trademark "**BELMOND**", strongly suggest bad faith on the part of the Respondent. The Complainant placed reliance on the decisions of the panel in:
  - i. *Belmond Management Limited v. silkota vertika, Case No. D2023-3318;*
  - i. *Belmond Management Limited v. nik linandrei, vastaro asdimitrios Case No. D2023-3483;*
  - ii. *Belmond Management Limited v. he song, songhe Case No. D2023-4500.*
- That the date of registration of the disputed domain name, i.e., **November 27, 2024**, is significantly subsequent to the Complainant's adoption and use of the trade mark "**BELMOND**" since **1982** and that by no stretch of imagination can it be conceived that the Respondent was unaware of the staggering presence of the Complainant and its rights in the trademark "**BELMOND**".

#### **7. Reliefs claimed by the Complainant**

The Complainant has requested that the domain name < **belmondhotel.in** > be transferred to the Complainant, and further seeks an award for the costs of the proceedings.

#### **8. Respondent's Contentions**

The Respondent, vide its reply dated **January 16, 2026** attached a screenshot of their website apprising that they have removed everything from their website.



9. **Complainant's Submissions/ Contentions- vide email dated January 25, 2026**

The Complainant's counsel, vide email dated **January 25, 2026**, responded that contrary to the Respondent's submission, the Respondent continues to host content relating to "Belmond Hotel" on the domain name <belmondhotel.in>. The Complainant's counsel further attached screenshots of the domain name from January 20, 2026 and January 25, 2026.

10. **Settlement Between Parties**

The Complainant's counsel vide email dated **January 25, 2026**, stated that although the Parties attempted to settle the matter, they have not been able to arrive at a settlement with the Respondent.

11. **Discussion and Findings**

As mentioned in Paragraph 4 of the .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy, a Complainant is required to satisfy the below three conditions in a domain complaint:

- i. **The Registrant's domain name is identical and confusingly similar to a name, trade mark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights; and**
  - ii. **The Registrant has no rights and legitimate interest in respect of the domain name; and**
  - iii. **The Registrant's domain name has been registered or is being used either in bad faith or for illegal/ unlawful purpose.**
- i. **The Registrant's domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a name, trade mark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights.**  
(Paragraph 4(a) of the INDRP)
- The Complainant herein has provided details of their **BELMOND** and **BELMOND** figurative trade mark registrations globally (annexed as **Annexure- 5**) and in India (annexed as **Annexure- 3**). The Complainant has also provided details of their registered domain name **www.belmond.com** which was registered on **March 5, 1998** and prominently features the Complainant's trademark "**BELMOND**".



- The disputed domain name <**belmondhotel.in**> is confusingly similar to the trademark **BELMOND** in which the Complainant has rights.
- In this regard, it is pertinent to point out that it has been held by numerous prior INDRP panels that there exists confusing similarity wherein the disputed name incorporates the Complainant's trade mark, including but not limited to in the decisions in *The Singer Company Limited v. Novation In Limited INDRP/905 <singer.co.in>*, *Tata Digital Private Limited & Tata Sons Pvt Limited v. Miiraj Miiraj INDRP/1876*, *Radisson Hospitality Belgium BV/SRL v. NAJIM INDRP/1818*, *Tata Communications Limited v. Chandan [INDRP/1880]*, etc. This has also been reiterated in recent INDRP decisions such as *Coinbase Inc. v. Adam Costin [INDRP/2073]*; *ZAPP AG v. Kartik Raichura [INDRP/2049]*, etc.
- In view of the aforesaid, the Arbitrator finds that Complainant has been successful in establishing its rights in the trademark **BELMOND**.
- In view of the aforesaid, the Arbitrator accepts that the Complainant's rights in its trademarks, under **Paragraph 4(a) of the INDRP** has been established.

ii. **The Registrant has no rights and legitimate interest in respect of the domain name (Paragraph 4(b) and Paragraph 6 of the INDRP)**

As per paragraph 6 of the Policy, a Registrant may show legitimate rights and interests in a domain name by demonstrating any of the following circumstances:

- (a) *before any notice to the Registrant of the dispute, the Registrant's use of, or demonstrable preparations to use the domain name or a name corresponding to the domain name in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services;*
- (b) *the Registrant (as an individual, business, or other organization) has been commonly known by the domain name, even if the Registrant has acquired no Trademark or Service Mark rights; or*
- (c) *the Registrant is making a legitimate non-commercial or fair use of the domain name, without the intention of commercial gain by misleadingly or diverting consumers or to tarnish the Trademark or Service Mark at issue.*

In this regard, in the absence of any cogent reply from the Respondent, and in light of the below assertions of the Complainant, the Arbitrator accepts the Complainant's assertion, that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name in accordance with Paragraph 4(b) of the INDRP.

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- That the Respondent has no proprietary or contractual rights in the Complainant's trademark "**BELMOND**" in whole or in part.
- That the Respondent is, using a domain name that prominently comprises of a term identical to the Complainant's prior registered trademark "**BELMOND**", without the Complainant's consent or authorization and with no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.
- That the Respondent is not commonly known by the disputed domain name nor does the Respondent engage in any business or commerce under the trademark and/or trade name "**BELOND**".

In the present domain dispute, the Respondent has not provided any substantial response despite being duly served with the domain complaint, and consequently, not come forward with any assertion or evidence to show any bonafides. Thus, as mentioned above, in view of the lack of assertions on part of the Respondent, coupled with the other contentions put forth by the Complainant, the Arbitrator accepts the Complainant's assertion, that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name in accordance with Paragraph 4(b) of the INDRP.

**iii. The Registrant's domain name has been registered or is being used in bad faith and for illegal/ unlawful purpose (Paragraph 4(c) and Paragraph 7 of the INDRP)**

In view of the consolidated submissions of the Complainant, the Arbitrator finds that the Respondent's registration and use of the disputed domain name prima facie appears to constitute conduct as mentioned in paragraph 7(c) of the Policy, namely "*(c) by using the domain name, the Registrant has intentionally attempted to attract Internet users to the Registrant's website or other on-line location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's name or mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the Registrant's website or location or of a product or service on the Registrant's website or location*".

The Complainant has successfully established that the Respondent acted with mala fide intent in registering and using the disputed domain name. The evidence demonstrates that the Respondent sought to freeride upon the Complainant's established goodwill and reputation by deploying the disputed domain for identical services, thereby creating a likelihood of confusion amongst consumers. Such conduct clearly indicates that the Respondent's adoption and use of the domain name was not in good faith, but rather intended to exploit the commercial value and recognition associated with the Complainant's mark.

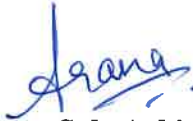
In view of the aforesaid, the Arbitrator concludes that the Complainant has satisfactorily proved the requirements of Paragraph 4(c) and Paragraph 7 of the INDRP.

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## **12. Decision**

Based upon the facts and circumstances, the Arbitrator allows the prayer of the Complainant and hereby directs the .IN Registry to transfer the domain <belmondhotel.in> to the Complainant.

The Award is accordingly passed and the parties are directed to bear their own costs.



**Lucy Rana, Sole Arbitrator**

**Date: January 29, 2026.**

**Place: New Delhi, India.**