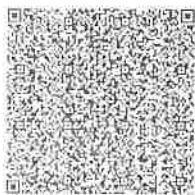


Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

e-Stamp

Certificate No.	: IN-DL19419059876411X
Certificate Issued Date	: 23-Dec-2025 03:44 PM
Account Reference	: IMPACC (SH)/ dlshimp17/ HIGH COURT/ DL-NDD
Unique Doc. Reference	: SUBIN-DLDSLHIMP1764119642956029X
Purchased by	: BHARAT S KUMAR
Description of Document	: Article 12 Award
Property Description	: Not Applicable
Consideration Price (Rs.)	: 0 (Zero)
First Party	: BHARAT S KUMAR
Second Party	: Not Applicable
Stamp Duty Paid By	: BHARAT S KUMAR
Stamp Duty Amount(Rs.)	: 100 (One Hundred only)



BEFORE BHARAT S KUMAR, SOLE ARBITRATOR
NATIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE OF INDIA (NIXI)

INDRP ARBITRATION

INDRP Case No. 2073

DISPUTED DOMAIN NAME: <COINBASE.IN>

ARBITRATION AWARD DATED JANUARY 25, 2026

Arbitrator
Bharat S
Kumar
Arbitrator

BEFORE BHARAT S KUMAR, SOLE ARBITRATOR
.IN REGISTRY
NATIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE OF INDIA (NIXI)
INDRP ARBITRATION
INDRP Case No. 2073
DISPUTED DOMAIN NAME: <COINBASE.IN>
ARBITRATION AWARD DATED JANUARY 25, 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Coinbase Inc.

248 3rd Street, #434,

Oakland, California - 94607

United States of America

Complainant

VERSUS

Adam Costin

Strada Filote Claudiu Bloc 445-28,

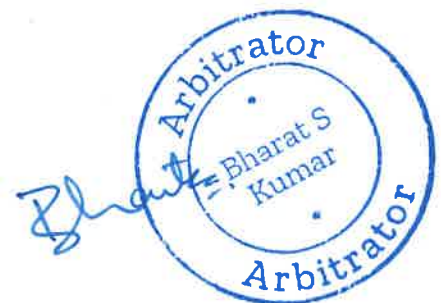
Vaslui- 730003

Romania

Respondent

1. **The Parties in the proceeding:**

The complainant in this administrative proceeding is Coinbase Inc., having its office at 248 3rd Street, #434, Oakland, California, 94607, USA. The complainant has authorized Ms. Sujata Chaudhri, Urfi Roomi, and a few more employees from Sujata Chaudhri IP Attorneys, as its authorized representative in the present proceedings. The complainant has filed as **Annexure 1**, the Power of Attorney ("POA") in the name of the above-mentioned individuals.



The Respondent in the present proceedings is Mr. Adam Costin, having his address at Strada Filote Claudiu Bloc 445-28, Vaslui- 730003, Romania. The complainant has also filed the publicly-available WHOIS record, for the domain name < www.coinbase.in >.

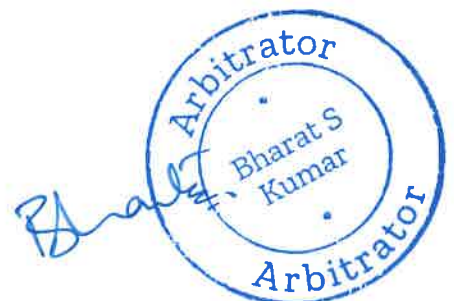
2. Domain Name and Registrar:-

The disputed domain name is < www.coinbase.in >. The domain name was created/registered on June 22nd, 2014. The registrar with which the domain name is registered is Nctlynx Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Tirupati Udyog Premises, 103, IB Patel Rd, near I JP Petrol Pump, Jay Prakash Nagar, Goregaon, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400063. The email address of the registrar is abuse@netlynx.com ; susheel@netlynx.com and info@netlynx.com .

3. Procedural History:

3.1 This arbitration proceeding is in accordance with the .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy") adopted by the National Internet Exchange of India ("NIXI") and the INDRP Rules of Procedure (the "Rules"). The arbitration proceeding is approved in accordance with the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. By registering the disputed domain name with a NIXI accredited Registrar, the respondent has agreed to the resolution of disputes pursuant to the said Policy and the Rules.

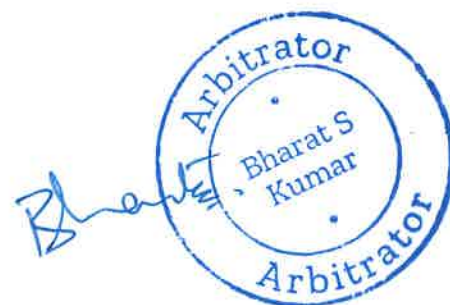
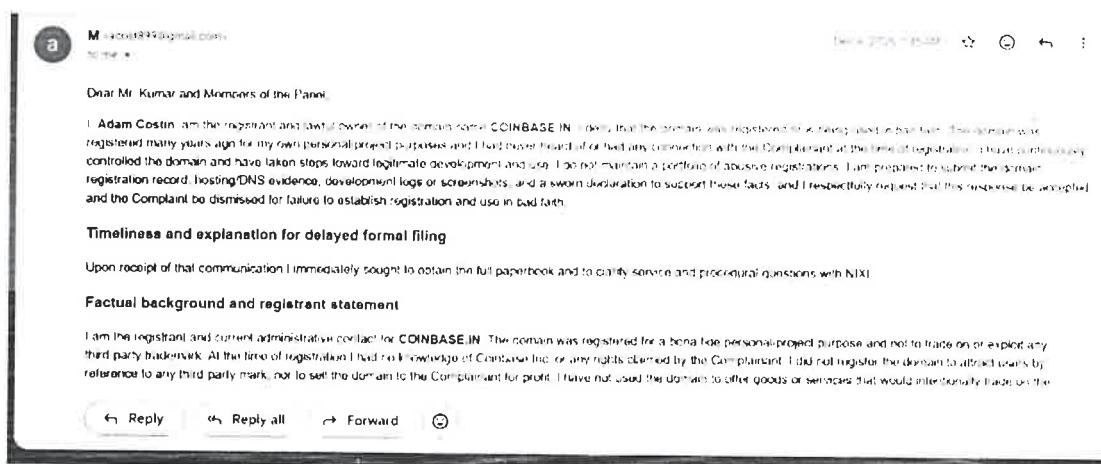
3.2 The complaint was filed by the complainant with NIXI against the respondent. On 11.11.2025, to ensure compliance, I had submitted statement of acceptance and declaration of impartiality and independence as required by the Arbitrator's Empanelment Rules (Rule 5). On 17.11.2025, I was appointed as the sole arbitrator to decide the disputes between the parties. NIXI notified both the parties of my appointment as arbitrator *via* email dated 17.11.2025. NIXI had also served by email an electronic copy of the



complainant with annexures, on the respondent at his email address, acost899@gmail.com, whilst appointing me as an arbitrator.

3.3 On 17.11.2025, I had issued notice to the respondent and directed the complainant to serve the complete paperbook on the respondent, i.e. the amended complaint which was filed by the complainant and the complete annexures (annexures 1 to 17). Pertinently, I had also on 19.11.2025, asked both the parties if they wish to confirm my appointment and should the same not be the case, it can approach NIXI for another arbitrator. That, the confirmation of my appointment and even the service, was done by the complainant's counsel, Mr. Jaskaran Singh, on 20.11.2025. The service through both post and on email, through address present through a WHOIS lookup, i.e. acost899@gmail.com. It may be noted that I had on 17.11.2025 also granted the respondent a time period of 15 days, to file a response to the complaint, from my email and the delivery of service of the complete paperbook.

3.4 That the respondent had responded vide email dated 06.12.2025 responded to me and stated the following:



← 📧 🕒 🗑️ 📧 📧 ⓘ

Factual background and registrant statement

I am the registrant and current administrative contact for COINBASE.IN. The domain was registered for a bona fide personal/project purpose and not to trade on or exploit any third-party trademark. At the time of registration I had no knowledge of Coinbase Inc. or any rights claimed by the Complainant. I did not register the domain to attract users by reference to any third party mark, nor to sell the domain to the Complainant for profit. I have not used the domain to offer goods or services that would intentionally trade on the reputation of the Complainant. My intent has always been legitimate development and use for my own project.

Legal positions and grounds for dismissal

- 1. Failure to prove bad faith registration and use.** The Complainant bears the burden of proving that the domain was registered and is being used in bad faith. There is no evidence that I registered the domain to take advantage of the Complainant's reputation, to sell the domain to the Complainant for profit, to prevent the Complainant's use of the name, or to disrupt the Complainant's business. I deny any allegation of bad faith.
- 2. Registrant has legitimate rights or legitimate interest.** I registered the domain for a bona fide personal/project purpose and have a legitimate interest in the domain. I have not attempted to sell the domain to the Complainant or to any third party for an improper profit, nor have I used the domain to mislead consumers.
- 3. No pattern of abusive registrations.** I do not maintain a portfolio of domain names registered to mock trademark owners or to engage in cybersquatting. There is no pattern of abusive registrations that would support a finding of bad faith.
- 4. Longstanding registration and bona fide development.** I have maintained control of the domain continuously and have acted in good faith with respect to its registration and intended use.

← Reply ← Reply all → Forward 🗑️

← 📧 🕒 🗑️ 📧 📧 ⓘ

4. Longstanding registration and bona fide development. I have maintained control of the domain continuously and have acted in good faith with respect to its registration and intended use.

Relief requested

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Arbitrator

1. Accept this response and consider it on the merits.
2. Dismiss the Complaint in its entirety on the grounds that the Complainant has failed to prove (a) lack of rights or legitimate interest in the domain by the Respondent and (b) registration and use of the domain in bad faith.

I am prepared to provide any additional documentation the Arbitrator may request and to cooperate fully with the proceedings.

Declaration

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On: 20 Nov 2025 at 16:29, Bharat <law.bharat@gmail.com>

← Reply ← Reply all → Forward 🗑️

3.5 That since the respondent had in his email stated that the complainant has not served the complete paperbook on him, I asked Mr. Jaskaran Singh vide emails dated 06.12.2025 and 08.12.2025 to again serve the complete complaint and documents on the respondent, Mr. Adam. Mr. Singh had confirmed the service being done again, on 09.12.2025 and 20.12.2025. That Mr. Adam, the respondent had vide email dated 17.12.2025, shared an unsigned 4 page document which he claimed is his statement of defence. I had vide email dated 17.12.2025 then given both the parties opportunities to argue their case through virtual hearings (VCs). Both the complainant and the respondent had vide emails dated 22.12.2025 and 23.12.2025 confirmed

Bharat

Arbitrator
Bharat S
Kumar
Arbitrator

that they do not wish to argue the case though VCs and their written submissions be considered. Since the complaint was not in a OCR format, I had requested the complainant's counsel to re share the complaint with me on 17.01.2026.

3.6 That, all the communications to the complainant, respondents and NIXI by this tribunal have been through email. None of the emails sent on acost899@gmail.com (respondent) have bounced or returned. He has infact filed his statement of defence and responded too through the same. I therefore hold that the service is complete as per the INDRP rules as all correspondences effectively took place on acost899@gmail.com.

3.7 I wish to highlight Clause 13(b) of the INDRP Rules of procedure requires that the arbitrator shall at all times treat the parties with equality and provide each one of them with a fair opportunity to present their case.

3.8 The respondent has been given a fair opportunity to represent itself, respond to the complainant's assertions & contentions and counter the same, if it so wishes to. That Clause 18 of the INDRP Rules of procedure mandate that an arbitrator shall decide a complaint on the basis of the pleadings submitted and in accordance with the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 amended as per the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 read with the Arbitration & Conciliation Rules, Dispute Resolution Policy, the Rules of Procedure and any by-laws, and guidelines and any law that the arbitrator deems to be applicable, as amended from time to time.

4. **Legitimate rights under which a complainant can approach NIXI:**

4.1 The complainant has invoked Clause 4 of the INDRP policy to initiate the arbitration proceeding. Clause 4 reads as under:



The block contains a handwritten signature in blue ink and a circular blue stamp. The stamp has the word 'Arbitrator' at the top and bottom. In the center, it reads 'Bharat S Kumar'.

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

- (a) the Registrant's domain name is identical and/or confusingly similar to a Name, Trademark or Service Mark etc. in which the Complainant has rights; and*
- (b) the Registrant has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the domain name; and*
- (c) the Registrant's domain name has been registered or is being used either in bad faith or for illegal/unlawful purpose.*

The complainant therefore has to satisfy this arbitral tribunal on all the three aforementioned clauses/conditions, i.e 4 (a), (b) and (c).

5. Case of the complainant

5.1 Founded in the year 2012, the complainant, Coinbase, avers that is a leading provider of end-to-end financial infrastructure and technology for the crypto economy. It states that Coinbase offers a trusted and easy-to-use platform to access the crypto economy and allows users to invest, store, spend, earn, and use crypto assets, including Bitcoin (BTC) and Ethereum (ETH), among many others.

5.2 The complainant avers that it is the owner of the trade mark COINBASE, which it has been using in relation to its services and products as early as May 2012. The complainant states that it has been using, and continues to use, the mark COINBASE as a trade mark, both alone and/or in combination with other word and/or design elements, and also as part of the corporate name(s) Coinbase, Inc., Coinbase Global, Inc., etc. (hereinafter, collectively, the "COINBASE Name and Marks").



5.3 The complainant avers that in its inaugural year, Coinbase achieved immediate success, as shown by its March 2013 metrics of more than 60,000 customers and many tens of thousands of transactions handled every month. It avers that since that time, Coinbase's business and success have grown exponentially. The complainant avers that it has millions of verified retail users who use its products and services, thousands of institutional investors, and approximately 245,000 ecosystem partners in more than 100 countries. For retail users, the complainant claims to offer a platform to invest, store, spend, earn, and use crypto assets. For institutional investors, the complainant claims to provide a one-stop shop for accessing crypto markets through advanced trading and custody technology, built on top of a robust security infrastructure, as well as a state-of the art marketplace with a deep pool of liquidity for transacting in crypto assets. For ecosystem partners, the complainant states that it provides a platform with technology and services that enables them to build applications that leverage crypto protocols, actively participate in crypto networks, and securely accept cryptocurrencies as payment.

5.4 The complainant states that since its inception in 2012 to this day, it has generated widespread public interest and substantial publicity from numerous and diverse media sources reaching many millions of people. It avers that since 2012, various national and technology news outlets have been regularly publishing reports pertaining to the Complainant, including outlets like *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post*, *TNW The Next Web*, *Ars Technica*, *All Things Digital*, *BiteMyCoin*, *Investing.com*, among many others. Over the years, the complainant claims to also have received media attention from news outlets reaching many millions of people such as *Bloomberg*, *CNBC*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Yahoo Finance*, and so on. As evidence of the same, i.e media attention in India and other countries, it has filed the requisite documents **Annexure- 2**. The complainant has also



averred its net revenue in a tabular form, from the 2019 till 2024. It claims that in 2024, its net revenue is USD 6.56 billion. Filed as **Annexure – 3** are printouts exhibiting the complainant's revenue figures.

5.5 The complainant states that by virtue of its inherent strength and distinctiveness, and also by virtue of the extensive use and promotion by it of its COINBASE name and marks for many years, and further on account of the its tremendous commercial success, the COINBASE Name and Marks are unquestionably commercially strong. Further, owing to the extensive and continuous use of the complainant's COINBASE name and marks all over the world, the same have developed stellar reputation, and this reputation has spilled over into India. It states that thus, by virtue of such spillover of goodwill, its COINBASE name and marks are vested with significant goodwill and reputation in India.

The Complainant's Business in India

5.6 The complainant states that it has had close ties with India for many years, which have only strengthened considerably in the recent past. The complainant avers that it has set up an Indian subsidiary, namely, Coinbase India Services Pvt. Ltd., in the year 2021, which has its registered office in Netaji Subhash Place, New Delhi. Printout of the particulars of the incorporation details of Coinbase India Services Pvt. Ltd. from the online records of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, are annexed as **Annexure - 4**. The complainant avers that its COINBASE marks have also received extensive media coverage in India over the years, including in leading dailies/periodicals like Livemint, Business Insider India, The Economic Times, Times of India, Forbes India and Businessworld. The complainant has attached representative printouts of some media articles published by Indian media houses/news outlets, which



it alleges have contributed to the goodwill and reputation of the complainant and its COINBASE Marks, as **Annexure - 5**.

5.7 The complainant states that recently, with a view to reinforce its commitment to, and expanding its presence in the Indian market, the complainant got itself registered with India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). With this, the complainant is now enabled to offer crypto trading services in India. The registration with the FIU offers a significant boost to the its plans of launching its retail services in India, followed by the complainant's proposed roll out of additional investments and products in India thereafter. The complainant has attached printouts of online articles attesting to its presence and efforts at expanding business in India are annexed as **Annexure – 6**.

5.8 The complainant avers that by virtue of the complainant's immense trans-border reputation which has spilled over into India, coupled with the its substantial and ever-increasing direct presence in India, the complainant's COINBASE name and marks qualify as 'well-known trade marks', as per Section 2(1)(zg) and Section 11(6) of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 (hereinafter the "Act") and Article 6bis of the Paris Convention that deals with well-known marks.

The complainant's rights in the COINBASE Name and Marks:

5.9 The complainant claims to enjoys strong common-law rights in the COINBASE Name and Marks. It states that the same is owing to substantial, continuous, and successful use thereof since at least as early as May 2012. The complainant avers that due to such long and extensive use, the complainant's COINBASE name and marks have undoubtedly acquired secondary meaning in the marketplace. The complainant has also filed copies of its US trademark registrations as **Annexure – 7**.



5.10 The complainant states that additionally, it also owns numerous trade mark registrations of the COINBASE name and marks in many other jurisdictions, including Japan, New Zealand, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and so on. It has filed copies of certificates of registration issued by the Trade Marks Offices of some of these countries and/or printouts from the online databases of Trade Marks offices of these countries in respect of its COINBASE marks as **Annexure – 8**.

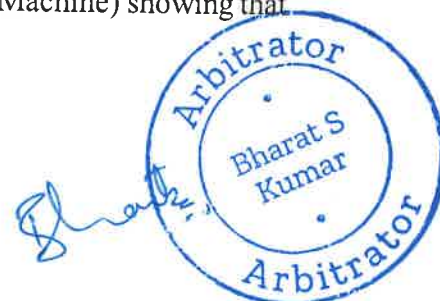
Trademark registrations in India

5.11 The complainant states that it owns the following trademark registrations of “COINBASE” in India. Furthermore, attached as **Annexure – 9**, are certified copies/ online records from the Indian Trademark Registry. **Furthermore, the complainant asserts that its proprietary rights predate the respondent’s acquisition of the disputed domain name.**

Mark	Reg No.	Class	Date of Application
COINBASE	5480364	9,36,41,42	December 4, 2021
COINBASE	5429575	35,42	April 12, 2022

The complainant’s internet presence:

5.12 The complainant claims to be the owner of the generic top-level domain name COINBASE.COM, which it got registered back in 2011, and which has resolved to an active website located at www.coinbase.com since at least 2012. The said website has been used by the complainant for advertising and offering its services under the complainant's COINBASE name and marks. The website has been, and continues to be, accessible to users all around the world, including India. Extracts of the WHOIS records of the complainant's domain name, displaying registration date of the domain name, and extracts from the complainant's website as accessible as on date, have together been annexed as **Annexure- 10**. The complainant has also attached as **Annexure – 11** screenshots from the Internet Archive (Wayback Machine) showing that



the its domain name COINBASE.COM has been active since 2012. The complainant has also as **Annexure – 12** shared details of the domain names complaints with 'COINBASE' trademark, which it had instituted and successfully won.

5.13 The complainant states that its services are also offered via its highly popular COINBASE mobile applications that are available on iOS and Android platforms. These applications, it states that, are used by many millions of its customers. The complainant has filed screenshots of its COINBASE applications as advertised/offered on Apple's App store and Google's Play store are annexed as **Annexure- 13**.

5.14 The complainant avers that it has expanded its reach on the World Wide Web by establishing official accounts on prominent social media platforms, including Facebook (415K followers), X (formerly Twitter) (6.5 million followers), and Instagram (531K followers). The complainant states that COINBASE marks feature prominently on these platforms/websites. It has attached printouts of pages from its social media accounts as **Annexure-14**.

The respondent's defence:

5.15 The respondent had vide emails dated 06.12.2025 and 17.12.2025 filed its defence and its statement of defence. Vide email dated 17.12.2025, the respondent had specifically filed the statement of defence. **Pertinently, though there were no documents filed by the respondent, Mr. Adam Costin,** he stated that he'll produce the same 'if it is required'. Following are the respondent's assertions:

- i. The respondent denies all allegations of bad-faith registration and use and submits that the complaint fails to satisfy the cumulative



- requirements for transfer or cancellation under applicable domain dispute principles;
- ii. The respondent is the lawful registrant and has maintained continuous administrative control of the domain name since acquisition. The domain was acquired in the ordinary course and has remained under the respondent's independent possession without interruption.
 - iii. The domain consists of the words "coin" and "base", both of which are common English terms. In combination, the phrase is **descriptive and generic**, particularly in the context of numismatics, commerce, and repositories or marketplaces for coins. The descriptive nature of the domain supports a legitimate interest and weighs against any inference of bad faith.
 - iv. At the time of acquisition, the respondent had **no knowledge of the complainant, its business, or any trademark rights claimed by it.** The domain was not registered to exploit the complainant's reputation, to sell the domain to the complainant, to prevent the complainant's use, or to disrupt its business. The complaint provides no evidence to the contrary.
 - v. **The domain has been used only in a limited and non-infringing manner, including placeholder and parked states. The respondent's bona fide plans involved lawful activities in the field of coins and numismatics, including educational content, collectible coin retail, a moderated collectors' marketplace, and charitable initiatives. These plans remained at a preparatory stage for reasons unrelated to the complainant.**



- vi. The respondent has not engaged in conduct characteristic of cybersquatting. There is no evidence of mass registrations, typosquatting, impersonation, diversion to competing services, or targeted solicitation of the Complainant. Any marketplace listing of the domain resulted from automated third-party platform settings, not from active efforts to sell or profit from the complainant's mark.
- vii. Routine administrative actions, such as domain parking or nameserver changes, are consistent with legitimate ownership and do not establish bad faith. The absence of an active website does not, by itself, demonstrate bad faith where a plausible, lawful development intent exists. Transfer or cancellation is an extraordinary remedy and is unwarranted in the absence of clear, specific, and convincing evidence, particularly of priority rights in India;
- viii. Dismiss the complaint of the complainant.

The Registrant and the Disputed Domain Name

5.16 The complainant has averred that the disputed domain name is COINBASE.IN. The details of the Registrant have been annexed as **Annexure- 15**. The complainant further states that the disputed domain name does not resolve to an active site. A printout evidencing the same is attached as **Annexure – 16**.



6. Analysis

6.1 It is pertinent to note that Paragraph 4 of the INDRP Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy, mentions about class of disputes, which grants any person who considers that a registered domain name conflicts with his/her legitimate rights or interests, the right to file a complaint with the .IN Registry. There are 3 conditions which an aggrieved right holder may file the complaint under. The complainant has in the present complaint mentioned that its rights under all the three conditions have been violated:

- i. Condition 4(a) - The Registrant's domain name is identical and/or confusingly similar to a name, trademark or service mark in which the complainant has rights;

The complainant states that it is well-settled that a domain name has all the characteristics of a trademark. For the same, it relies upon *MIS Satyam Infoway Ltd. v. MIS Siffynet Solution (P) Ltd.*, JT 2004 (5) SC 541, *Infiniti Retail Ltd. v. Croma, through Us Proprietor* [order dated May 12, 2023, in CS (COMM) 71/2022}. It states that a trademark and a domain name, although used in a different manner, can be identical or confusingly similar for a user. The complainant avers that it has demonstrated prior statutory and common law rights in the COINBASE name and marks, **which it has been continuously using since, at least May 2012**. The complainant further states that its generic TLD, COINBASE.COM was registered as far back as on July 2, 2011, which has resolved to an active website since at least 2012. It also avers that it has statutory trademark registrations for “COINBASE” across myriad countries, including in India, with its earliest trade mark registration of the complainant having been filed on December 6, 2013, in the United States of America. **The complainant states that clearly, such use as part of the domain name, and the filing of the trade mark applications, are much prior to the date of registration of the disputed domain name by the respondent, i.e., June 22, 2014.**



I have gone through the pleadings and documents filed by the complainant. With regard to the fulfilment of paragraph 4(a) of the INDRP policy, it is evident that the complainant has been continuously and extensively using the registered trademark COINBASE in the course of trade and commerce since the year 2012. Evidence to the same can also be seen at **Annexure – 11**, which are screenshots from the Internet Archive (Wayback Machine). The complainant has also registered its trademark COINBASE across myriad jurisdictions, including in India. Its statutory rights thus, in the trademark COINBASE is well established. It is pertinent to note that the disputed domain name coinbase.in was registered on 22.06.2014, almost two years after the adoption and the registration of the complainant's trademark, COINBASE.

It is noteworthy that a perusal of the disputed domain name 'coinbase.in' of the registrant/respondent shows that the respondent has used the complainant's trademark COINBASE in its entirety. Though the respondent in its statement of defence states that the intent of registration is to make sales and the same is unrelated to the complainant's success, there are no documents filed by it to confirm an honest and independent use. Neither is there any document to affirm that it has any sales and is not passing off the complainant's trademark, COINBASE. The disputed domain name 'coinbase.in' is thus deceptively similar, or some may say near identical to the 'COINBASE' trademark of the complainant. It is well established that the mere addition of a TLD such as ".in", to a registered trademark(s), are not significant in distinguishing a domain name. It has been held by prior panels deciding under the INDRP, such as in *Kenneth Cole Productions v. Viswas Infomedia INDRP/093*, that there is confusing/deceptive similarity where the disputed domain name wholly incorporates a complainant's trade mark. It is further noteworthy that, a TLD/ccTLD such as ".in " is an essential part of domain name. Therefore, it cannot be said to distinguish the respondent's



domain name 'coinbase.in' from the complainant's trademark COINBASE. In **Satyam Infoway Ltd vs Siffynet Solutions Pvt. Ltd AIR 2004 SC 3540**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India stated that the law pertaining to the Trademark Act, 1999 shall be applicable to domain names in India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also observed that domain names have the same characteristics of a trademark and thus act as a source and business identifier. In *M/s Retail Royalty Company v. Mr. Folk Brook INDRP/705*, wherein on the basis of the complainant's registered trademark and domain names for "AMERICAN EAGLE", having been created by the complainant much before the date of creation of the disputed domain name <americaneagle.co.in> by the respondent, it was held that:

"The disputed domain name is very much similar to the name - and trademark of the complainant. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has recently held that the domain name has become a business identifier. A domain name helps identify the subject of trade or service that an entity seeks to provide to its potential customers. Further that there is a strong likelihood that a web browser looking for AMERICAN EAGLE products in India or elsewhere would mistake the disputed domain name as of the complainant."

The complainant has rights in the trademark COINBASE by way of trademark registrations across myriad classes, and by virtue of use in the course of trade, as part of their company. Pertinently, their use globally is also much prior to the date on which the respondent created the impugned domain <coinbase.in> incorporating the complainant's trademark and trade name COINBASE in totality and as a whole. I agree that a potential web user may believe that this may well be associated with the complainant. This is specifically so because the complainant itself is in the business of trading crypto currencies.



The respondent has not filed any documents to the assertions put forth by it.

In view of the above facts and submissions of the complainant, on perusal of the documents filed and annexed with the complaint, I therefore hold that the disputed domain name < coinbase.in> of the registrant (respondent) is identical and/or confusingly/deceptively similar to the trademark COINBASE of the complainant.

- ii. Condition no.4 (b) the Respondent (Registrant) has no rights or legitimate interest in respect of the domain name:

The complainant asserts that the respondent is unable to invoke any of the circumstances set out in Paragraph 6 of the .IN Policy to demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in the domain name. To further its claims, the complainant states that the Registrant cannot have any right or legitimate interest in the disputed domain name because the disputed domain name incorporates the COINBASE name and marks in which the complainant has sole and exclusive rights, which have allegedly become well-known owing to its continuous use and efforts.

The complainant states that registration for the COINBASE.COM domain name predates registration of the disputed domain name. The registrant is not a licensee of the complainant, nor has the Registrant ever been authorized by the complainant to use the COINBASE name and marks or register the disputed domain name.

The complainant also avers that the respondent's use of the disputed domain name is unauthorised. Therefore, it states that the respondent has no legitimate interest in the disputed domain name, rather the sole purpose of its registration is to misappropriate the reputation



associated with the complainant's known trademark, COINBASE. The complainant claims that it has therefore established a *prima facie* case that the respondent has no rights and legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.

I agree with the assertions put forth by the complainant. I believe that the complainant has established its rights in the trade mark COINBASE.

It is significant to note that the use of COINBASE in the respondent's domain name is definitely likely to give a false impression to internet users that the disputed website is either owned by the complainant or is affiliated to the complainant in some manner. The respondent cannot conceivably claim that its use of the complainant trademark is *bona fide* as per paragraph 6(a) of the .IN Policy or is commonly known by the domain name in accordance with paragraph 6(b) of the .IN Policy.

The mere fact that the disputed domain name is registered does not imply that the respondent has any rights or legitimate interests in them. In *Deutsche Telekom AG v. Phonotic Ltd.* (WIPO Case No. D2005-1 000), it has been held that "*Registration of a domain name in itself does not establish rights or legitimate interests for purposes of paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy*". Therefore, any use of the disputed domain name by the respondent is not a legitimate, non-commercial or fair use. The respondent thus has no rights or legitimate interests in, the disputed domain name.

The adoption of word/mark "COINBASE", therefore in the disputed domain name affirms the malafide intention of the respondent to make use of and ride on the coat tails of the complainant for earning commercial benefits. Such a conduct demonstrates anything, but a



legitimate interest in the domain name. In the *Sports Authority Michigan, Inc. v. Internet Hosting*, NAF Case No. 124516, it was held *'It is neither a bona fide offerings of goods or services, nor an example of a legitimate non-commercial or fair use under Policy 4(c)(i) and (iii), when the holder of a domain name that is confusingly similar to an established mark uses the domain name to earn a profit without approval of the holder of the mark'.*

It is pertinent to note that the complainant has also not licensed the use of the mark, COINBASE, to the respondent. In such as situation, there is no reason for the respondent to use the same as its domain name. The use is therefore unauthorized. A decision of a previous panel, *Wacom Co. Ltd. v. Liheng*, INDRP/634, is relevant in this case. It was stated that:

"the Complainant has not licensed or otherwise permitted the Respondent to use its name or trademark or to apply for or use the domain name incorporating said name"

It is reiterated that the respondent (registrant) has not filed any documents to counter the complainant's assertions. A bare response has been filed. The respondent has thus failed to satisfy the conditions contained in clauses 6(a), (b) and (c) of INDRP Policy. Significantly, the respondent has never been identified with the disputed domain name or any variation thereof. The respondent's (Registrant) use of the disputed domain name will inevitably create a false association and/or affiliation with complainant and its trademark/label marks, COINBASE.

Therefore, in view of the submissions made in the complaint and on perusal of the accompanying documents, I am of the opinion that the respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the



disputed domain name. Accordingly, condition 4(b) of the INDRP policy is decided in the favour of the complainant.

- iii. Condition 4(c): The Registrant's domain name has been registered or is being used in bad faith:

To look into condition 4 (c) of the INDRP policy, clause 7 is to be looked into. Clause 7 of the INDRP policy states as under:

For the purposes of Clause 4(c), the following circumstances, in particular but without limitation, if found by the Arbitrator to be present, shall be evidence of the Registration and use of a domain name in bad faith:

(a) circumstances indicating that the Registrant has registered or acquired the domain name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the domain name registration to the Complainant, who bears the name or is the owner of the Trademark or Service Mark, or to a competitor of that Complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of the Registrant's documented out-of-pocket costs directly related to the domain name; or

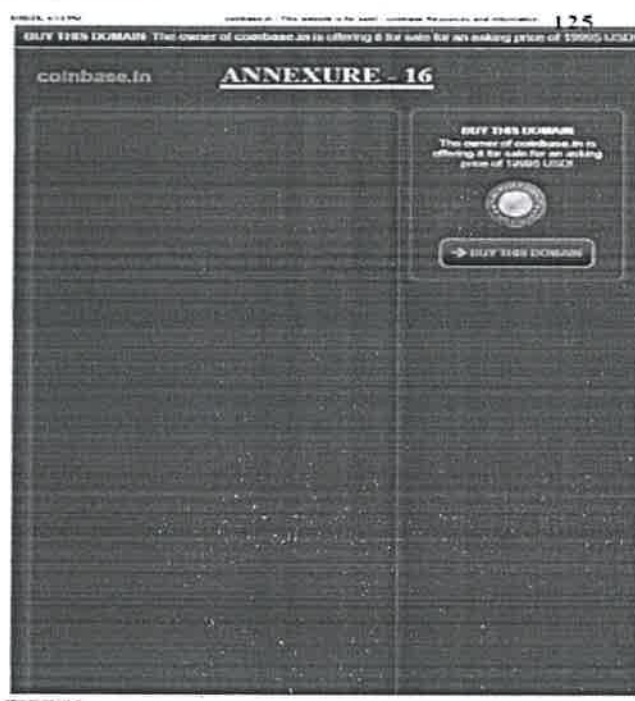
(b) the Registrant has registered the domain name in order to prevent the owner of the Trademark or Service Mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that the Registrant has engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or

(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; or

(d) The Registrant has registered the domain name primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor.



The complainant states that the issue at hand falls 7 (a) and (c) of the INDRP policy as the Registrant (respondent) has intentionally attempted to attract users to the Registrant's website. The complainant states that the Registrant's domain name does not resolve to any active web site, nor is it being used for any legitimate commercial use and has even in the past has not been used for any legitimate commercial use. It further states that it is well settled that registration of a domain name that incorporates a third-party mark without any legitimate commercial interest is evidence of bad faith. The complainant states that the Registrant's bad faith in registering the disputed domain name is leading to a parked page containing links to third-party websites, including links which offer the disputed domain name for sale for as much as USD 19995. It states that this is evident from the screenshots of the webpage located at the disputed domain name, which are filed with the complaint as **Annexure – 16 (affixed below)**



Arbitrator
Bharat S
Kumar

It is pertinent to reiterate that the complainant is vested with statutory rights across myriad classes in its COINBASE trademark in India. The use of the trademark COINBASE has been from the year 2012 across the world. The respondent's registration of a disputed domain name wholly incorporating the complainant's trademark is most certainly to ride on the coat tails of the complainant's commercial success which its COINBASE trademark has attained over the past 14 years. It is also noteworthy that the actions of the respondent seem to fall squarely within subclauses (a) and (c) hereinabove.

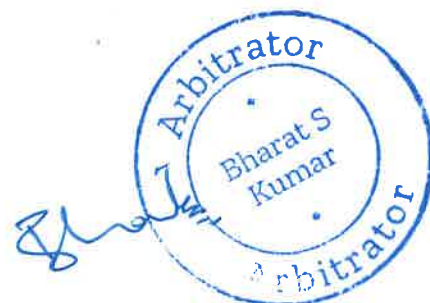
Given the success of the complainant's business, its trademark COINBASE, there seems to be no reason for the respondent to adopt an identical name/ mark with respect to the impugned domain name. This adoption by the respondent, of course seems to create a deliberate and false impression in the minds of users that the respondent is somehow associated with or endorsed by the complainant. A case by a previous panel, *M/s Merck KGaA v Zeng Wei JNDRP/323*, can be referred wherein it was stated that:

"The choice of the domain name does not appear to be a mere coincidence, hut a deliberate use of a well-recognized mark... such registration of a domain name, based on awareness of a trademark is indicative of bad faith registration. "

It is noteworthy that Rule 3 of .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (INDRP), casts obligations on a registrant, such as the respondent here. The same provides as under:

3. Registrant's Representations

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



(a) the credentials furnished by the Registrant for registration of domain name are complete and accurate;

(b) to the knowledge of Registrant, the registration of the domain name will not infringe upon or otherwise violate the rights of any third party;

(c) the Registrant is not registering the domain name for an unlawful and malafide purpose; and

(d) the Registrant will not knowingly use the domain name in violation or abuse of any applicable laws or regulations. It is the sole responsibility' of the Registrant to determine whether their domain name registration infringes or violates someone else's rights.

It is evident from above rule that rule 3(b) and (d) puts an obligation on the Registrant, the respondent herein, before registering a domain name. The registrant is to verify that the registration of the domain name will not infringe upon or otherwise violate the rights of any third party.

From a perusal of the averments and documents filed herewith, there is therefore no doubt that the respondent has got the disputed domain name registered in bad faith and to ride on the complainant's COINBASE trademark's goodwill and reputation. The actions of the respondent are thus in contravention with paragraph 4(c) of the INDRP policy. I therefore hold that the respondent's domain name has been registered in bad faith.



Decision

In view of the foregoing, I hold that the disputed domain name, <coinbase.in> is identical and/or confusingly similar to the complainant's 'COINBASE' trademark(s). I further hold that the respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name and that the same was registered in bad faith by the respondent.

In accordance with the INDRP Policy and Rules, I direct that the disputed domain name registration be transferred to the complainant.

No order as to costs.

Date: 25.01.2026

Place: New Delhi

