



बौद्धिक संपदा

भारत

एकस्व / अभिकल्प / व्यापारचिह्न
ओरिगिनलउपदर्शन /
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

कार्यालय महानियंत्रक एकस्व, अभिकल्प और व्यापार चिह्न

Office of The Controller General
Patents, Designs & Trade Marks

वाणिज्यऔरउद्योगमंत्रालय

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

उद्योगसंवर्धनऔरआंतरिकव्यापारविभाग

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

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No: CG/F/CGPDTM/DL-11/1814

November 27, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Subject: Public Hearing regarding online IP services

It has come to the attention of this office that certain online service providers are engaging in **advertising and solicitation of legal services** related to IP registration / grant through various digital and online platforms, which is *prima facie* prohibited under the Advocates Act, 1961 and the Bar Council of India Rules. Allegations have also been made regarding misrepresentation and fraudulent activities by certain online service providers. Such unauthorized practices, if are being practiced, create confusion, erode trust in the statutory IPR framework, and undermine the confidence of genuine IP applicants in the legitimacy of Indian IPR ecosystem.

Such actions are against the law laid down by the Hon'ble Madras High Court. In the case of *P.N. Vignesh vs. The Chairman and Members of the Bar Council 2024 SCC Online Mad 2770*, the Hon'ble Court observed that Advocates are prohibited from directly or indirectly soliciting clients, including through third-party online platforms or advertisement, and that such conduct amounts to professional misconduct under the Advocates Act, 1961 and the Bar Council of India Rules. Further to it the online legal service providers are also not eligible to practice before Trademarks Registry as per the provisions of the TM Act 1999.

In light of the above, **an online public hearing** is scheduled on **4th December, 2025 from 15:30 to 17:00 Hrs** to seek the views to safe guard the interests of stakeholders and to ensure the maintenance of a transparent and healthy IP ecosystem.

The meeting can also be joined by **any interested stakeholder** through the following link:

<https://cgpdtn.webex.com/cgpdtn/j.php?MTID=mb5378a4ebf7835ce58778a2e53eb5695>

Platform :WebEx

Meeting number:2518 882 1150

Meeting password:ip@2025

Note: The participation may experience platform limited so advisable to join 5 min before the scheduled meeting time, in case of any representation to be made during the public hearing please use the raise hand facility on WebEx meeting so we can sequentially call the participants (as appearing on host's display) to invite for their views, concerns and suggestions. (2 min to each participant) Appeal to avoid submission of repeated views / concerns / suggestions.

Advance submission can also be done on the official email ID :cgoftice.in@gov.in

Sd/-
Prof (Dr) Unnat P Pandit
CGPDTM RoC&GI

To:

1. MakenIndia
2. Sonis Vision
3. INTA Members
4. IPAA Members
5. All Online Legal Service Providers

Copy to:

1. Practicing Trademarks Agents / Attorneys of India
2. Individual Applicants who directly file their applications before TMR

(Attention to spread awareness and participation of Legal Media like Spicy IP, Banana IP, Bar & Bench, LiveLaw etc.)