



THE HINDU



GS Paper 2-Governance

CAG report on excise policy referred to PAC

The panel will examine it in detail and submit its report within three months, says Speaker; PAC will be formed in the third week of March after budget presentation: CM; AAP's Amanatullah Khan points out report mentions 'losses, not scam'; Atishi, 20 AAP legislators protest over suspension from House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Speaker Vijender Gupta on Thursday said in the Delhi Assembly that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the previous AAP government's now-scrapped excise policy has been referred to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for examination.

The CAG report, which was tabled in the House on February 25, stated that

incurred huge losses so that private firms could profit illegally at the expense of the government," Mr. Gupta said.

The CAG report will be examined in detail by the PAC, which will submit its report within three months, the Speaker said.

According to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the PAC will be formed in the third week of March after the budget presentation.

While discussing the findings of the report, Vish-



Mohan Singh Bisht felicitated by Speaker Vijender Gupta, CM Rekha Gupta after being elected as Deputy Speaker. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

working on the policy during the COVID-19 pandemic when there was no cer-

liquor shops were not allowed to open in these areas fearing overconsump-

"easily available".

Responding to the allegations, AAP legislator Amanatullah Khan said if his party "was allowed to implement the policy properly", the loss would not have occurred.

Mr. Khan highlighted that the CAG report mentions "loss, not a scam". He said the BJP by using the cover of the CAG report was indulging in "character assassination" of his party's government in the debate on the policy.

the House. They were suspended for disrupting Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena's inaugural address to the House on Tuesday.

In a letter to President Droupadi Murmu, Ms. Atishi said, "The BJP government in Delhi has removed the pictures of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh from various offices of the Delhi government."

Meanwhile, the BJP shared purported photos of Ms. Gupta's office, where the portraits of the

KEY POINTS

The CAG report on the AAP government's excise policy has been referred to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for review, with a report due in three months. Established in 1921, the PAC audits government revenue and expenditure, ensuring parliamentary control over executive spending. It consists of up to 22 members, with no ministers allowed, and is chaired by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 2-IR

The SEC and Hague Service Convention

What is the Hague Service Convention, and how does it work? How is the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission attempting to serve summons on the Adanis? What are India's reservations under the Convention? How long does the service process typically take?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

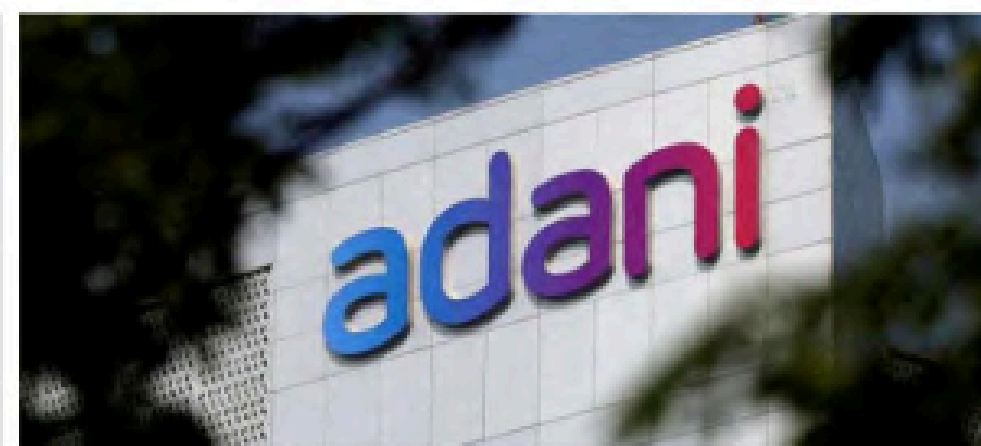
The story so far:

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) informed a New York court on February 18 that it has sought assistance from the Indian government under the Hague Service Convention – formally known as the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965 – to serve summons on billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani in a securities and wire fraud case.

What did the SEC say?

The SEC informed the court that it had invoked Article 5(a) of the Convention to request India's Ministry of Law and Justice to facilitate the service of summons on the defendants. It further stated that it is exploring alternative service methods permitted under Rule 4(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which governs civil litigation in U.S. federal courts.

On February 10, the Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) – one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged – for 180 days. The FCPA prohibits U.S. entities and individuals from bribing foreign



Legal tussle: The Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged, for 180 days. FILE PHOTO

Convention operate?

With the rise in cross-border litigation, the need for an effective and reliable mechanism to serve judicial and extrajudicial documents on parties residing in foreign jurisdictions became imperative. As a result, countries adopted the Convention at the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1965. Building on the 1905 and 1954 Hague Conventions on Civil Procedure, this multilateral treaty ensures that defendants sued in foreign jurisdictions receive timely and actual notice of legal proceedings while facilitating proof of service.

Eighty-four states, including India and the U.S., are parties to the Convention. Its procedures apply only when both the

direct contact between an interested party and judicial authorities in the receiving state, and direct communication between government authorities.

How is service effectuated on defendants in India?

India acceded to the Convention on November 23, 2006, with certain reservations, expressly opposing all alternative service methods under Article 10. It prohibits the service of judicial documents through diplomatic or consular channels, except when the recipient is a national of the requesting country. For instance, a U.S. court cannot serve documents in India through U.S. diplomatic or consular channels, unless the recipient is a U.S. national residing in

jurisdiction over the subject matter under its domestic law. Similarly, under Article 29, a request cannot be refused simply because the state's internal law does not recognise a right of action.

If the central authority raises no objections, it proceeds with serving the defendant. The service is then treated as a summons issued by an Indian court under Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Once completed, the central authority issues an acknowledgement to the requesting party. The entire process typically takes six to eight months.

Can a default verdict be rendered?

A default judgment may be issued under the Convention if a foreign government refuses to cooperate in serving summons on a defendant residing within its jurisdiction. However, Article 15 prescribes specific conditions that must be met before such a judgment can be rendered: (a) the document must have been transmitted through one of the methods outlined in the Convention; (b) at least six months must have elapsed since the transmission, with the court determining this period to be reasonable in the given case; and (c) no certificate of service has been received despite all efforts to obtain it through the competent authorities of the recipient state.

Notably, India has expressly declared that its courts may issue a default judgment in cross-border disputes even if

THE GIST

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has invoked the Hague Convention to serve summons on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani through India's Ministry of Law and Justice.

India has reservations under the Hague Convention, prohibiting alternative service methods. It can reject the request under Article 13 if it believes national security or sovereignty is at risk.

In *Duong v. DOG BIM Services LLC* (2023), a U.S. court underscored that if India's central authority fails to act under the Hague Convention, default judgment could be entered.



KEY POINTS

- The SEC has requested assistance from India under the Hague Service Convention to serve summons on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani in a fraud case. The SEC is exploring alternative service methods, while a pause on enforcing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) may not affect the investigation.
- The Hague Service Convention facilitates cross-border service of documents, requiring cooperation from designated central authorities. In India, service is done through the Ministry of Law and Justice





THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Economy

Govt. unveils move to boost port efficiency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 'One Nation, One Port Process' to standardise and streamline port operations across India's major ports and improve efficiency was unveiled by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways on Thursday.

The Ministry said the move aimed at removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.



Sarbananda Sonowal

stakeholders meeting.

"By enhancing port performance and streamlining logistics, we are reducing inefficiencies, cutting car-

KEY POINTS

The Ministry of Shipping launched the 'One Nation, One Port Process' to standardize port operations and improve efficiency. The 'Sagar Ankalan' Logistics Port Performance Index was also introduced to track port efficiency.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 2-IR

Climate crisis revives Soviet-era hydro projects in Central Asia

The Kambar-Ata-I project on Kyrgyzstan's Naryn river is a rare example of regional collaboration outside two neighbouring superpowers Russia, China; at a trilateral meeting, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan praised the project for its potential benefits

Agence France-Presse
TOKTOGUL

Central Asian countries are setting rivalries aside to build a giant hydroelectric plant originally planned in Soviet times, a bid to strengthen energy and food security and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Kambar-Ata-I project on the Naryn River in Kyrgyzstan is a rare example of collaboration in the region that does not involve the two neighbouring superpowers Russia and China.

The plant is "very important for Central Asia", Kyrgyz Energy Minister Taalaibek Ibrayev said on a visit to the project site.



electricity deficit of around 3.9 billion kWh.

The deficit is growing because of water shortages that mean the hydroelectric stations that Kyrgyzstan depends on are running low.

The Eurasian Development Bank said that "building new hydroelectric power stations while renovating existing ones will mitigate the impact of climate change".

Costly subsidies

The Kyrgyz government is also expecting Kambar-Ata-I to have a positive effect on power stations further downstream.

The main one is Toktogul, which supplies 40% of the country's electricity.



KEY POINTS

Central Asian countries are collaborating on the Kambar–Ata–1 hydroelectric plant in Kyrgyzstan to address energy shortages, strengthen security, and combat climate change. The project, requiring \$3.5 billion in investment, aims to improve electricity exports and reduce Kyrgyzstan's growing energy deficit.

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The Indian EXPRESS

GS Paper 2-IR

The India-EU partnership

The visit of a delegation of the EU's College of Commissioners led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen marks a significant new phase in the bilateral relationship between India and Europe

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

AT A time when ties between Europe and the United States are facing great pressure, a large delegation of European Commission College of Commissioners is in New Delhi for a two-day visit.

Twenty-two of the 27 Commissioners are part of the delegation led by European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen. This is the first trip out of Europe by the College that took office in December, and the first-ever visit to India by the Commissioners together.

Indian officials said the visit of the College of Commissioners marks a significant new phase in bilateral relations, as India and the EU enter the third decade of their Strategic Partnership.

Meetings of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), bilaterals between Indian Ministers and EU Commissioners, and the meeting at the leaders' level will diversify engagement and promote trade and investments in a range of areas, the officials said.

These include artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductors, as well as green hydrogen, sustainable urbanisation, water management, resilient supply chains, de-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a bilateral meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi on Thursday. PIB via PTI

November 2023, the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding on semiconductor R&D cooperation. The following month, the EU participated in the Global Partnership on AI Summit in New Delhi.

Green energy solutions

Under the India-EU Green Hydrogen Cooperation initiative, India was the exclusive partner country at the European Hydrogen Week in Brussels in November 2024. The EU was a major partner in the International Conference on Green Hydrogen in Delhi that September.

The European Investment Bank has committed to supporting Indian hydrogen projects with funding of 1 billion euros. Indian and European companies are collaborating in the renewable and hydrogen sectors with the aim of developing a green hydrogen ecosystem in India by 2030.

People-to-people ties

Strong and growing people-people ties is one of the foundations of the India-EU relationship. The growing Indian diaspora in the EU contains large numbers of students, researchers, and skilled professionals. Indian professionals received the largest share — more than 20% — of EU Blue Cards issued in 2023-24.

Meetings and initiatives

The India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025, was adopted at the last India-EU Summit in July 2020.

Trade and investments

India and the EU have been negotiating a Free Trade Agreement for the last decade and a half.

KEY POINTS

1. The European Commission delegation, led by President Ursula von der Leyen, is visiting New Delhi to strengthen India-EU relations. Key discussions include trade, AI, green hydrogen, defense, and space. India and the EU aim to enhance cooperation in technology, renewable energy, and global security. Bilateral trade has surged, with ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement.





PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Miscellaneous

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying



Union Ministers of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel and Shri George Kurian Confer “Prani Mitra” and “Jeev Daya” Awards for Animal Welfare and Protection

Four Key Handbooks for Strengthening Animal Welfare Laws and Policies Released

Livestock Census to Play Key Role in Shaping Animal Welfare Policy in India: Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel

Posted On: 27 FEB 2025 8:37PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

1. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) organized the "Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award Ceremony" in New Delhi. The "Prani Mitra Award," established in 1966, recognizes individuals and organizations for exceptional contributions to animal welfare, with 54 recipients to date. The "Jeev Daya Award," introduced in 2001, honors animal lovers, with 12 recipients so far.





PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



GS3-S&T

Ministry of Science & Technology



National Science Day to be celebrated with theme 'Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for Viksit Bharat'

Posted On: 27 FEB 2025 8:26PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

Dr. Jitendra Singh will attend the National Science Day (NSD) 2025 celebration on February 28, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan. The theme, "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for Viksit Bharat," reflects PM Modi's vision.

. NSD, celebrated since 1986 to honor the discovery of the Raman Effect, aims to boost scientific awareness and inspire youth to pursue science.

