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FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

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THE HINDU

# Can India refuse summons in Pannun case?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Internal Security challenges related to the management of borders and the impact of terrorism on security.

## Why in Focus?

- A U.S. court has allowed **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**, a Khalistani separatist, to serve legal summons on India's **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** and former **RAW chief Samant Goel** over their alleged involvement in an assassination plot against him in the U.S. in June 2023.

**Summons:** A formal notice issued by a court asking a person to appear or respond to legal proceedings.

## Key Highlights:

- The **Hague Service Convention, 1965**, formally known as the **Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters**, provides a framework for serving court documents across countries.
- Both **India and the U.S.** are parties to it.
- Under the Convention, each member country must designate a **Central Authority** to receive and process service requests.
- In India, the **Ministry of Law and Justice** is the designated Central Authority.
- Under **Article 13**, India can reject a request if it threatens its **sovereignty or security**, but **not merely because Indian law does not recognise the claim**.
- **India has also placed reservations against certain alternative methods** of service under **Article 10**.
- For example, **U.S. diplomatic or consular officials cannot directly serve legal documents in India unless the recipient is a U.S. national**.
- In 2009, **the Union Government issued a notification** extending **Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908 to civil courts in countries that are members of the Hague Convention**.
- It **allows summons issued by courts in these countries to be transmitted to Indian courts for delivery** to defendants living within their jurisdiction.
- In simple words, a **U.S. court can send its summons to an Indian court, which can then deliver it to the concerned person**, following the prescribed procedure.
- Relying on **Article 19 of the Hague Convention** and **Section 29(c) of the CPC**, read with the 2009 notification, the **American judge**

**authorised summons against Ajit Doval and Samant Goel** to be sent to three Delhi district courts: **Patiala House, Dwarka and Tis Hazari**.

**Article 19 of The Hague Convention:** Allows foreign court documents to be served through other methods permitted under the receiving country's domestic law.

- **India maintains that foreign requests for serving judicial documents must be routed** through its **designated Central Authority, the Ministry of Law and Justice.**
- Thus, the disagreement is **over whether foreign summons can be sent directly to Indian courts under Section 29(c) and the 2009 notification**, or **must be routed through India's Central Authority**, the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.

## Implications:

- India may refuse service of summons if it threatens its **sovereignty or security**.
- India must balance its national interests with its obligations under the **Hague Service Convention**.
- The **absence of a fixed deadline under the Convention** can delay the delivery of foreign court documents.
- The case highlights the **difficulty of balancing international legal procedures** with India's domestic laws and security concerns.

## Way Forward:

- **India should clearly explain its reasons for rejecting any request**, as required under the Convention.
- Improve the efficiency of the **Ministry of Law and Justice** in processing foreign service requests.
- **Engage in diplomatic talks with the U.S. to resolve procedural issues** while protecting India's sovereignty.
- Review legal aspects to **balance international cooperation with national security**.

**Mains Question:**

Examine the legal and diplomatic implications for India in responding to international summons under the Hague Service Convention, with reference to the Pannun case. (250 Words,15 marks)

# How Microsoft outage affected millions

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

## Why in Focus?

- Microsoft experienced a widespread **outage** affecting its **Microsoft 365** service on **November 13**.
- The **outage impacted users globally,** including professional sectors and educational services.

## Key Highlights:

- **Users worldwide faced connectivity issues** with **Microsoft 365 services**, particularly **Exchange Online**, a cloud-based platform for emails, calendars, contacts and tasks.
- The outage disrupted several services, including **Microsoft Teams** & **Microsoft 365 Education**, affecting features such as calls, assignments and Safe Links.
- The disruption affected businesses in at least **74 countries and territories** as Microsoft has around **450 million paid Microsoft 365 subscriptions**.
- Microsoft attributed the outage to **cascading failures** (one failure triggering a chain of failures) and **thundering herds** (many users trying to reconnect simultaneously) at its **network perimeter** (infrastructure handling incoming and outgoing network traffic).
- **Microsoft confirmed** that the outage was **not caused by a cyberattack operations.**

## Implications:

- The **outage highlighted the vulnerability of relying** on a **single IT provider for critical services**.
- The incident demonstrated the **complexity**

**and interdependence of modern IT systems**.

- **Service interruptions can affect access to critical information** and security features.

## Way Forward:

- **Diversifying IT providers is advisable** to reduce dependency on a single service provider.
- **Enterprises should consider investing in backup systems and alternative solutions** to enhance resilience.
- **Governments and critical sectors need to develop strategies** for IT infrastructure diversification.

**Mains Question:**

Analyse the implications of the Microsoft outage on global IT infrastructure reliability and discuss measures to enhance resilience against such disruptions. (250 Words,15marks)

# Potent perovskites demand domestic manufacturing push

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

## Why in Focus?

- On **October 16**, China proposed adding **12 photovoltaic technologies**, including **perovskite and tandem solar-cell manufacturing technologies**, to its export control list.
- This has **raised concerns in India**, as its **solar industry depends heavily on Chinese imports**.

**Perovskite Solar Cell:** A type of thin film solar cell that uses a special material called perovskite to absorb sunlight and convert it into electricity.

**Tandem Solar Cell:** A high efficiency solar cell that combines two different materials, such as perovskite and silicon, in layers to capture more sunlight and produce more electricity.

## Key Highlights:

- China has proposed restricting the export of advanced **perovskite and tandem solar manufacturing technologies**, which **could limit India's access** to these technologies.
- India has no **polysilicon manufacturing capacity** and **imports most solar wafers and manufacturing machines**, making its solar industry dependent on external supplies.

**Polysilicon manufacturing:** It is the process of producing highly purified silicon, which is used to make solar wafers and solar cells.

- **To reduce this dependence**, companies like **P3C Technology** and **ART-PV** are **developing domestic technologies for manufacturing perovskite solar cells and high-efficiency perovskite-silicon tandem cells**
- Research is also progressing in India, with **IIT Mumbai** setting up a 6,300 sq. ft. Research facility and **IISc Bengaluru** working on large-scale manufacturing techniques.
- However, **commercialisation remains a challenge due to the need for large-scale manufacturing**, reliable performance and long-term stability.
- **Moisture and heat raise concerns about the durability** of perovskite cells.
- The use of **lead** in many perovskite formulations also **raises concerns about potential environmental contamination**.

## Implications:

- **China's export controls may restrict India's access** to advanced solar manufacturing technologies.
- **Dependence on China** makes **India's solar supply chain vulnerable**.
- **Dependence on imported materials** such as **iodide salts, lead iodide and coated glass** may limit domestic production.

## Way Forward:

- **Support pilot and megawatt-scale manufacturing facilities** through the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
- **Establish national testing facilities and certification standards** for perovskite solar cells.

- **Promote demonstration projects** on public buildings.
- **Develop high-purity raw materials and manufacturing equipment** within India.
- **Support Indian researchers and manufacturers** to develop the technology and reduce import dependence.

**Mains Question:**

Examine the potential of perovskite solar technology and discuss how India can develop domestic manufacturing capacity amid China's export controls. (250 words, 15 marks)

## KEYWORDS

### India's Deep-Sea Exploration Contracts

- **Why in News?:** India's three exploration contracts with the **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** for deep-sea minerals have brought attention to its deep-sea exploration programme, including the development of **MATSYA-6000** under the **Samudrayaan Project**.
- India has signed **three exploration contracts** with the **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** to explore mineral resources in the Indian Ocean.
- India signed its first contract in **2002** to explore **polymetallic nodules** in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin.**
- It signed two more contracts to explore **polymetallic sulphides** in **the Central Indian Ridge region (2016) and Carlsberg Ridge (2025).**
- This made **India the first country in the world to hold two separate PMS exploration contracts** with the ISA
- **Polymetallic nodules** contain nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese, while **polymetallic sulphides** contain copper, zinc, silver, gold and platinum.
- These contracts allow India to explore deep-sea mineral resources, but **commercial mining has not yet begun**.

### International Seabed Authority (ISA

- **Why in News?:** India's deep-sea exploration activities, including its three exploration contracts with the **International Seabed Authority (ISA)**, have brought the organisation into focus.
- The **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** was established in 1994 under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982**.
- Its headquarters is located in **Kingston, Jamaica**.
- It **regulates mineral-related activities in the international seabed** beyond the jurisdiction of any country, known as the **Area**.
- It **grants exploration contracts for deep-sea minerals** and ensures the protection of the marine environment.
- **All countries that are parties** to **UNCLOS** are members of the ISA.

### Wangala Festival

- **Why in News?:** The 50th edition (Golden Jubilee) of the **Wangala Festival**, also known as the **100 Drums Festival**, was celebrated in Meghalaya in November 2026.
- **Wangala Festival** is the major post-harvest festival of the **Garo tribe** of Meghalaya, mainly celebrated in the **West Garo Hills**.
- It is celebrated to thank **Misi Saljong (the Sun God)** for a successful harvest and blessings of fertility.
- The festival marks the end of the agricultural season and **is celebrated with traditional dances, music and the rhythmic beating of long drums** called **Dama**.
- **Men and women wear colourful traditional attire** and participate in cultural performances.



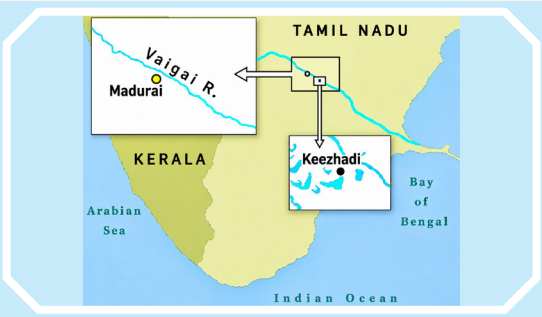
## VAHAN

- **Why in News?: VAHAN has been in the news in connection with efforts to identify** and monitor **end-of-life vehicles (ELVs)** contributing to air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
- **VAHAN** is a centralised vehicle registration database developed by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** with technical support from the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- VAHAN was **initially launched in 2002 under the National Transport Project** to computerize vehicle registration across India and **its latest version, VAHAN 4.0, was launched in 2015**
- It maintains **vehicle registration records, including details of vehicle ownership, registration, fuel type and fitness status**.
- It **helps authorities identify vehicles that violate age-based restrictions and emission norms**, supporting measures to control vehicular pollution.

# Places in News

## Keezhadi

- **Why in News?:** Keezhadi (Tamil Nadu) was in the news following a recent study published in **Heritage Science**, which found evidence of prehistoric cow milk consumption and advanced plant processing at the site during the **6th–2nd century BC**.
- Keezhadi is located near **Madurai**, along the **Vaigai River** in Tamil Nadu.
- It is a major **urban Sangam-era settlement**, estimated to date between the **5th century BCE and 3rd century CE**.
- Excavations reveal an **urban, literate and craft-oriented society**, suggesting early urbanisation in South India independent of North Indian influences.
- It is **considered one of the most significant archaeological findings in Tamil Nadu** since the **Adichanallur site**.




## Gottiprolu

- **Why in News?:** Gottiprolu (Andhra Pradesh) was in the news **following a recent study published** in Heritage Science, which **analysed pottery residues to understand the food habits of its inhabitants** during the **2nd–1st century BC**.
- Gottiprolu is located near **Naidupeta in Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh**, on the right bank of a distributary of the **Swarnamukhi River**.
- The **Swarnamukhi River** originates near **Pakala village in Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh**, in the Eastern Ghats, and flows eastward into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- It represents an important settlement of the **Early Historic Period**, with archaeological remains dating from the **1st century BCE to the 8th century CE**.
- Excavations by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** revealed a large settlement surrounded by a massive brick enclosure, indicating its importance as a **trade centre**.
- Important findings include a **life-size Vishnu sculpture, brick structures, terracotta figurines, beads, copper coins and different types of pottery**.

