



Hague Service Convention

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The US **Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** has invoked the **Hague Service Convention** to issue summons to Indian billionaire **Gautam Adani** and his associates in a securities and wire fraud case.

- **Hague Service Convention (1965):** A **multilateral treaty** that facilitates the **cross-border service of legal documents** in **civil or commercial** matters among **84 signatory states**, including **India** (acceded to the Convention in 2006 with certain reservations) **and the US**.
- **SEC's Request to India:** The SEC invoked Convention to request India's **Ministry of Law and Justice** to serve summons on Adani and his associates.
- **India's Stance on Service of Process:** India rejects alternative service methods under the **Article 10 of the Convention**, including postal service, diplomatic channels, or direct service by foreign courts.
 - All requests must go through the **Law Ministry**, which can **reject them if they threaten sovereignty or security**.
- **Judicial Precedents on Alternative Service:** Courts worldwide have debated using **email and social media** for summons.
 - **US courts** allowed service through Facebook and email. In **Punjab National Bank v. Boris Shipping Ltd. (2019)**, a **UK court invalidated a summons served through alternative means**, reaffirming India's strict adherence to the Convention.

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