

A LIFE IN THE BALANCE**India must use all available channels with Pakistan to negotiate a reprieve for Jadhav**

More than three and a half years after Pakistan announced it had arrested Kulbhushan Jadhav on charges of espionage and terrorism, India finally received consular access to him on Monday. The path to receiving the access, which should technically have been provided shortly after the arrest, had to be bitterly fought for by India. Despite being a signatory to the Vienna Convention of 1963, which mandates that arrested foreign nationals be allowed to meet consular officers, Pakistan refused the access until it was ordered to by the International Court of Justice at the Hague this July 17 in response to an Indian petition. Even after India won the case for consular access, Pakistan took weeks to respond, offering to allow the meeting only in the presence of video cameras, and Pakistani officials. India rejected this at first, and it is unclear why the government finally accepted those same terms, and nominated its Charge d'affaires to meet Mr. Jadhav despite the conversation being recorded, and Pakistani officials being present. According to the officials who met him, Mr. Jadhav's responses during the meeting seemed to be tutored and coerced, much like his "confessional" statements that were released by Pakistan during his trial in a military court. The MEA concluded that he was under "extreme pressure to parrot a false narrative". As a result, Pakistan's consular access appears to be as much of a sham as the trial itself, which was held in complete secrecy. And Mr. Jadhav, who was not allowed to choose a competent lawyer, was pronounced guilty and handed a death penalty in a matter of months.

Despite the disquiet over the process thus far, the consular access provided on Monday marks Pakistan's initial compliance with the ICJ ruling, and it is hoped that Islamabad will follow through with the next part of the court's verdict. This includes a review of the trial process and a reconsideration of the death sentence, pending which Mr. Jadhav's execution must be stayed. This will clearly be complicated by the present breakdown in bilateral ties, including rising rhetoric over the government's moves in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's daily efforts to raise the issue at global fora, and its leadership's repeated reference to the threat of nuclear conflict. While it may be difficult to imagine such a scenario at present, the two sides must use their diplomatic channels to negotiate a possible reprieve for Mr. Jadhav, or discuss conditions under which Pakistan may be prevailed upon to release him to India. New Delhi has been able to secure access to Mr. Jadhav by appealing to international processes, but the road ahead must be negotiated bilaterally, with the understanding and empathy that a man's life hangs in the balance.

Words

Negotiate
Reprieve
Announce
Apprehend

Kind

Verb
verb
Verb
Verb

Meaning

Arrange, workout, thrash out, agree on
Cancel, postpone, put off, defer
Pronounce, aver, avow, herald, profess
Arrest, catch, capture, seize

Espionage	Noun	Spying, undercover, work, surveillance, reconnaissance Eavesdropping
Consular	Adj.	Commission, consulate, legation, delegation
Bitter	Adj.	Sharp, acid, acidic, pungent, resentful, embittered, disgruntled, aggrieved, splenetic
Signatory	Adj.	Certifier, endorser, scrivener, registrar
Mandate	Noun	Instruction, directive, direction, decree
Repudiate	Verb	Reject, rebuff, jettison, turn down
Tete-a-tete	Noun	Conversation, discussion, parley, consultation
Tutor	Verb	Teach, instruct, educate, coach, drill, up skill
Coerce	Verb	Pressurize, constrain, prevail, upon, dun
Trail	Noun	Court case, case, lawsuit, suit, hearing, tribunal
Sham	Noun	Pretence, fake, act, fiction, simulation, fraud
Pronounce	Verb	Announce, declare, aver, avow, herald
Disquiet	Noun	Uneasiness, worry, anxiety, distress
Compliance	Noun	Agreement, acquiescence, acceptance, accession
Execution	Noun	Implementation, accomplishment, performance
Rhetoric	Adj.	Oratory, eloquence, expression, diction
Forum	Noun	Meeting, assembly, gathering, convocation, conclave, symposium
Prevail upon	Verb	Pressurize, pressure, dun, crowd
Access	Noun	Entrance, way in, ingress
Empathy	Noun	Affinity with, sympathy with, togetherness
Tie	Noun	Bind, tether, hitch, strap, truss, fetter
Tie up		Bind
Tie down		Restrict, shackle, limit, fetter, condition, circumscribe
Tie in		Agree with, comply with, go along with, acquiesce in, come round, defer to
Tie-in	Noun	Connection
Side with		Favour, speak for, smile on
Side step	Verb	Avoid, shun, parry, circumvent, abstain, retrain
Side line	Verb	Avoid
Side line	Noun	Secondary occupation
On the side lines	Noun	Without taking part
Broad side	Noun	Criticism, obloquy, stick, calumny, opprobrium, brickbats, recrimination, diatribe, stricture
Odd	Ajd.	Strange, singular
Odds	Noun	Challenges, gauntlets, chances
Odds on	Ajd	Possible
Over the odds	Ajd	Expensive
Odds and ends	Noun	Equipment, impedimenta