

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.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Negotiate	Verb	Arrange, workout, thrash out, agree on
Reprieve	verb	Cancel, postpone, put off, defer
Announce	Verb	Pronounce, aver, avow, herald, profess
Apprehend	Verb	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

ON THE EDGE

Far-reaching reforms may be inevitable to keep the economy from stalling

India's deepening slowdown has now left the economy on the verge of stalling. The latest estimates for GDP show year-on-year growth in the April-June period slid for a fifth straight quarter to 5%, the slowest pace in more than six years. Disconcertingly, the mainstay of demand — private consumption spending — slumped to an 18-quarter low, with the

expansion decelerating sharply to 3.1%, from 7.2% in the preceding quarter and 7.3% a year earlier. Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), a proxy for investment activity, grew a meagre 4%, less than a third of the 13.3% growth it posted 12 months earlier. The RBI had, in its annual report released on Thursday, noted that indicators of GFCF had shown either moderation or contraction in the fiscal first quarter and pointed specifically to gross value added (GVA) by the construction industry, which government data revealed had eased to a 5.7% pace, from 9.6% in the year-earlier period. With demand for manufactured products ranging from cars and consumer durables to even biscuits having sharply diminished, manufacturing GVA growth plunged to an eight-quarter low of 0.6%. In fact, save mining, electricity and other utility services and public administration and defence, all the five other contributors to overall GVA weakened from a year earlier. And as the RBI observed in its last monetary policy statement, consumer confidence gauged by its July survey has worsened appreciably, with 63.8% of respondents expecting discretionary spending to stay at the same level or shrink one year ahead. The comparable reading in June 2018 was 37.3%.

That the government is cognisant of the gravity of the situation is evident from its recent slew of policy pronouncements including tweaks to investment norms to draw more Foreign Direct Investment, moves to relieve the debilitating sales slump in the auto sector and a sweeping consolidation of public banks. Any beneficial impact from these measures will, however, take time to feed into the economy and time is a luxury that the faltering economy can ill afford, especially given the global headwinds. With the farm sector still stuck in a low income trap and this year's mercurial monsoon rains, leaving some parts flooded and others still facing deficits and engendering a shortfall in kharif sowing, rural demand is unlikely to return any time soon. Also, with the RBI's four interest rate reductions since the start of 2019 having, so far, failed to incentivise credit-fuelled consumer spending and business investment to any significant degree and with limited fiscal headroom to try and prime the pump with increased expenditure, big, bold structural reforms may be the only way out. The government must lose no time in consulting with the widest possible spectrum, including the Opposition, and then implement the agreed-on reforms prescriptions to reinvigorate demand and investment.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Inevitable	Adj.	Unavoidable, inescapable, bound to happen, inexorable, pre-ordained
Stall	Verb	Obstruct, impede, constrain, interfere with
On the verge of		Very near, imminent
Estimate	Verb	Roughly, calculate, approximate, evaluate
Disconcert	Verb	Unsettle, discomfit, unnerve, perturb
Expend	Verb	Spend, pay out, disburse, dole out
Slump	Verb	Flop, flump, collapse, sink, fall, substitute
Decelerate	Verb	Slow down, slow up, brake
Proxy	Noun	Deputy, representative, delegate, substitute
Meagre	Noun	Dearth, scarcity, paucity
Fiscal	Ajd.	Economical, economic

Diminish	Verb	Decrease, decline, reduce, lesson, shrink
Plunge	Verb	Jump, dive, throw oneself, sink
Gauge	Verb	Measure, calculate, compute, determine
Shrink	Verb	Decrease, decline, reduce, lesson
Cognisant	Adj.	Aware, conscious, apprised, abreast
Slew	Noun	A violent or uncontrollable sliding movement
Tweak	Noun	Sharp pull, twist, tug, adjustment
Debilitate	Verb	Enervate, devitalize, exhaust, weaken
Falter	Verb	Hesitate, dither, waver, oscillate, fluctuate, vacillate
Headwind	Noun	Blast, blow, squall, waft, zephyr
Engender	Verb	Cause, give rise to, create, arouse, provoke
Prime	Verb	To make someone behave in a particular way
Expenditure	Noun	Outlay, expenses, disbursement
Spectrum	Noun	Range, ambit, catalogue, area, diapason
Implement	Verb	Execute, apply, put into, effect, perform, enact
Reinvigorate	Verb	Enkindle, engender, revitalize, galvanize
Fast	Adj.	Faithful, loyal, true blue, speedy, expeditious, impure, salacious, libidinous
Anon		very soon, shortly, presently, before long
Mercurial	Adj.	Volatile, capricious, ecitable, changeable
Nonplus	Verb	Surprise, startle, astound, astound
Misgiving	Noun	Qualm, reservation, doubt
Disservice	Noun	Unkindness, bad turn, ill turn, mischief
Sacrilegious	Adj.	Irreligious, impious, profane, sinful, blasphemous, Unholy
Specious	Adj.	False, fallacious, made up, misleading
Weary	Adj.	Tried, fagged, exhausted, ready to drop
Wary	Adj.	Careful, cautious