

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING
THE HINDU EDITORIAL FOR ENGLISH COMPREHENSION SET 7

Pakistan's sudden announcement on Monday that former Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav has been sentenced to death by a Field General Court Martial is a development **fraught with** danger. It could lead to a rapid **escalation** in bilateral tensions that the region **can ill afford**. The trial, sentencing, and its confirmation by the Pakistan Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, were carried out so secretly that the news took many in Pakistan as well by surprise. There are **glaring** holes in the procedures followed by Pakistan's government and military in the investigation and trial of Mr. Jadhav. His recorded confession that was broadcast at a press conference within weeks of his arrest in March 2016 appeared to have been **spliced**. At various points in the tape, and in the **transcript** of the **confession** made available, Mr. Jadhav contradicts his own statements, suggesting that he had been **tutored**. Even if the confession was **admissible** in a court of law, little by way of **corroborative** evidence has been offered by Pakistan to back up the claim that Mr. Jadhav, who was **allegedly** arrested in **Balochistan** last year, had been plotting operations against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's statement in Parliament detailing 13 requests by the government for **consular** access, and replies from the Pakistan government that made the access conditional on India cooperating in the investigation, further casts the procedures followed in a rather poor light. International human rights agencies too have **criticized** them. Mr. Jadhav must be allowed a **retrial**, preferably in a civil court and with **recourse** to appeal.

New Delhi must **step up** its responses in the matter, as it seems to **have kept it on** the **backburner**, **confining** itself to **fruitless**, repeated representations. India must also pursue the issue with Iran, where Mr. Jadhav is believed to have been based for more than a decade, and investigate how he was brought, by force or otherwise, into Pakistan. The timing of the announcement of the death sentence is also being seen in a spy versus spy context, with the recent disappearance of a former Pakistan Army officer in Nepal. These are matters best left to security agencies at the highest level, but the questions around Mr. Jadhav's arrest need to be **dispelled**. Moreover, this **escalation** highlights the consequences of the breakdown in the India-Pakistan dialogue process, limiting the channels of communication between the two governments to sort out matters in a **sober** manner. The government has stood fast on its decision to not hold bilateral talks after the Pathankot attack in January 2016, but this policy is hardly likely to bring the desired results when a man's life hangs in the balance. The Jadhav case requires a **proactive three-pronged** response from India: impressing on Pakistan that the death sentence must not be carried out, explaining to the international community the **flawed** trial process, and sending **interlocutors** to open backchannels for diplomacy for Mr. Jadhav's safe return home.

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- 1.
2. The **Insurgency in Balochistan** is a guerrilla war waged by [Baloch nationalists](#) against the governments of [Pakistan](#) and [Iran](#) in the [Balochistan region](#), which covers [Balochistan Province](#) in southwestern Pakistan, [Sistan and Baluchestan Province](#) in southeastern Iran, and the [Balochistan region](#) of southern [Afghanistan](#). Rich in natural resources like natural gas, oil, coal, copper, sulphur, fluoride and gold, this is the least developed province in Pakistan. Armed groups demand greater control of the province's natural resources and political autonomy. Baloch separatists have attacked civilians from other ethnicities in the province. In the 2010s, attacks against the [Shia](#) community by sectarian groups—though not always directly related to the political struggle—have risen, contributing to tensions in Balochistan.
3. **fraught with: full of unpleasant things such as problems or dangers:**
*The negotiations have been fraught with **difficulties/problems** right from the start.*
4. Rapid: fast

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5. Escalation: growth
6. Bilateral: two-sided
7. If you say that someone **can ill afford to do something, or can ill afford something**, you mean that they must prevent it from happening because it would be harmful or embarrassing to them.
8. Trial : (legal process) the hearing of statements and showing of objects, etc. in a law court to judge if a person is guilty of a crime or to decide a case or a legal matter
9. Glaring : too obvious to be overlooked
10. Confession: declaration of fault
11. Spliced: join (pieces of timber, film, or tape) at the ends.
12. Transcript: a written or printed version of material originally presented in another medium.
13. Tortured: the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.
14. Admissible: allowable
15. corroborative: to strengthen by evidence, to confirm
16. claim: state or assert that something is the case, typically without providing evidence or proof.

உரிமை பற்றி வாதாடு

17. allegedly: Used to convey that something is claimed to be the case or have taken place, although there is no proof.
18. Corridor: passage
19. Consular access agreement: துணைத்துாதரக அணுகல் ஒப்பந்தம்
20. Cast: throw (something) forcefully in a specified direction.
21. Rather: used to indicate one's preference in a particular matter.
22. Retrial: a second or further trial on the same issues and with the same parties.
23. A **recourse** is a legal agreement by which the lender has the rights to pledged collateral in the event that the borrower is unable to satisfy the debt obligation.
24. Step up : to make something go or run faster
25. Keep on : to maintain something in good order
26. Backburner: postpone consideration of or action on.
27. Confining: keep or restrict someone or something within certain limits of (space, scope, or time).
28. Fruitless: ineffective
29. Pursue: follow
30. Based: use (something specified) as the foundation or starting point for something.
31. Dispelled : make (a doubt, feeling, or belief) disappear.
32. Escalation: rise
33. Sortout: an act of tidying or organizing things by separating them into categories.
34. Sober: serious, sensible, and solemn.

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35. Stood fast : fight
36. The **2016 Pathankot attack** was a terrorist attack committed on 2 January 2016 by a heavily armed group which attacked the [Pathankot Air Force Station](#), part of the [Western Air Command](#) of the [Indian Air Force](#).
37. Four attackers and two security forces personnel were killed in the initial battle, with an additional security force member dying from injuries hours later. The gun battle and the subsequent combing operation lasted about 17 hours on 2 January, resulting in five attackers and three security personnel dead. A further three soldiers died after being admitted to hospital with injuries, raising the death toll to six soldiers. On 3 January, fresh gunshots were heard, and another security officer was killed by an [IED](#) explosion. The operation continued on 4 January, and a fifth attacker was confirmed killed. Not until a final terrorist was reported killed on 5 January was the anti-terrorist operation declared over, though further searches continued for some time.

Described as a terrorist incident in the Indian and foreign media, the attack received wide international condemnation. Though the [United Jihad Council](#), a Kashmir-based militant group, claimed responsibility for the attack on 4 January, the attackers, who were wearing [Indian Army](#) fatigues, were subsequently suspected to belong to [Jaish-e-Mohammed](#), an Islamist militant group designated a terrorist organisation by India, the US, the UK and the UN.

The attack led to a breakdown in [India-Pakistan relations](#), which remained largely unresolved as of June 2016. Media reports suggested that the attack was an attempt to derail a fragile peace process meant to stabilise the deteriorated relations between India and Pakistan, as several pieces of evidence were found linking the attackers to Pakistan

38. Proactive : (of a person or action) creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to it after it has happened.
39. (especially of an attack or operation) having three separate parts.
"a three-pronged attack from the north"
40. Flawed: defective
41. Interlocutors: a person who takes part in a dialogue or conversation.