

KULBHUSHAN JADHAV CASE

After India calls for action on ICJ order, Pak says will grant consular access

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

HOURS AFTER New Delhi asked Islamabad to "immediately" grant consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, the former Indian Navy officer whose death sentence by a Pakistani military court was suspended by the International Court of Justice a day earlier, Pakistan Thursday night announced it "will grant consular access... according to Pakistani laws, for which modalities are being worked out".

In a press release from Islamabad, the Pakistan government's official spokesperson also said: "Pursuant to the decision of the ICJ, Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav has been informed of his rights under Article 36, Paragraph 1(b) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations."

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who as Foreign Secretary had played a key role in taking the matter to the ICJ, made a statement in both



S Jaishankar in Lok Sabha on Thursday. PTI

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

PAK'S WEB OF LIES CRASHES DOWN
BY TILAK DEVASHER
PAGE 14

Houses of Parliament where he also asked Pakistan to "release and repatriate Jadhav forthwith".

The official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Raveesh Kumar, said the ICJ has said that steps have to be taken "immediately". "Pakistan is obliged to take steps immediately. It's time for them to act,"

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MAROONED IN ASSAM

Rhinos move to higher ground in the flood-affected area of Kaziranga National Park, in Assam, on Thursday. Reuters

EXPLAINED: BEHIND ASSAM'S FLOOD FURY, PAGE 13

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

In 40 of 41 Muzaffarnagar riot cases, including murder, all accused are acquitted

Hostile witnesses, missing evidence — court records of the 10 murder cases show glaring gaps in prosecution

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
MUZAFFARNAGAR, JULY 18

■ Five prosecution witnesses did a U-turn in court to say they weren't present when their relatives were murdered — when the FIRs mentioned otherwise.

■ Six prosecution witnesses turned hostile and deposed that police forced them to sign blank papers.

■ Police did not produce murder weapons in court in five cases.

■ The prosecution never cross-examined police on these.

■ In the end, all witnesses turned hostile.

THESE ARE among the several glaring holes *The Indian Express* found in the Uttar Pradesh government's prosecution cases in 10 murder cases filed on the violence that swept through Muzaffarnagar in 2013, killing at least 65 people. Based on the testimonies, and holding that witnesses, mostly relatives of those killed, had turned hostile, the courts acquitted all in the 10



A mosque in Shamli district from where Islam (65) was chased and killed on September 8, 2013. Gajendra Yadav

TOMORROW DETAILS OF THE 10 MURDER CASES — AND ACQUITTALS IN RAPE, RIOTING

murder trials that ended between January 2017 and February 2019.

In fact, since 2017, Muzaffarnagar courts have delivered verdicts in 41 cases linked to the riots — and delivered a conviction in just one case of murder.

All the 40 acquittals have come in cases involving attacks on Muslims.

All these cases were registered and investigations launched under the Akhilesh Yadav government. The trials spanned both his and the current BJP government.

The only conviction came on February 8 this year, when the sessions court sentenced seven accused — Muzammil, Mujassim, Furkan, Nadeem,

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'WRAP BY 1.30 PM TODAY'

Governor sets a deadline as Karnataka vote goes into limbo



BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa with party MLAs in the House. ANI

BJP protests by spending night in House, trust debate adjourned

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JULY 18

WITH PROCEEDINGS in the Karnataka assembly descending into chaos over a confidence motion moved Thursday by Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy who has been battling dissidence to save his government, and Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar still undecided on the resignations of the rebel Congress and JD (S) MLAs, Governor Vajubhai Vala stepped in, directing Kumaraswamy to prove his majority on the floor of the House by 1.30 pm Friday.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, copied to the Speaker who had earlier adjourned the House until Friday, the Governor said "the fact that 15 members have met me and tendered their resignations and coupled with 2 members have withdrawn their support and other attendant circumstances do prima facie indicate that you have lost majority/confidence of the House".

"In my capacity as the Head

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of the State, I had not intervened in the matter having regard to the fact that the House was called and Trust vote has been moved. However, it has been reported to me that the proceedings of the House on 18-07-2019 for vote of confidence has been stalled and consequently adjourned without

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RELATED REPORT

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IL&FS hosted top executive of credit agency, got high ratings

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

INVESTIGATING HOW the IL&FS Group companies were able to retain high credit ratings even as they faced a severe liquidity crunch and ultimately defaulted in September 2018, officials have found evidence pointing to conflict of interest.

Sources confirmed that Brickwork Ratings — an agency promoted by Canara Bank — allegedly gave favourable ratings to debt instruments of IL&FS group companies as its founder director D. Ravishankar allegedly received IL&FS Group's hospitality in Spain along with his family. This included watching a football match in Madrid in the "IL&FS Box".

Sources confirmed to *The Indian Express* that investigating authorities are probing this alleged nexus and will "take action accordingly". When contacted, Ravishankar denied any link and said: "We have responded to the authorities and we have said that no favour was taken and there was no influence on ratings."

On the specific query on whether he along with his family members watched a match in Madrid in the IL&FS Box, Ravishankar was unavailable for comment.

On Wednesday, Care Ratings intimated stock exchanges that its board decided to send its MD and CEO Rajesh Mokashi, on leave, with immediate effect "pending the completion of the examination of anonymous complaint received by the Securities and Exchange Board of India." On July 1, 2019, the board of ICRA had sent managing director Naresh Takkar on leave with immediate effect. CARE, ICRA, India Ratings and Brickwork have been the main credit rating agencies (CRAs) for ITNL, IFIN and IL&FS over the last decade.

Meanwhile, in a statement Thursday, IL&FS said it had completed the first phase of forensic audit on these agencies. While IL&FS board appointed Grant Thornton (GT) to undertake the

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Glitch sorted, says ISRO, moon mission July 22 with same landing date

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 18

CHANDRAYAAN-2, INDIA'S first lander mission to the moon, whose launch had to be aborted early Monday morning after a technical problem was detected with less than an hour to go, will now lift off on July 22, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said Thursday. This time, the launch has been scheduled at 2.43 pm.

The week-long delay will not impact the date of landing of the spacecraft on the moon's surface. The lander and rover modules will land on September 6, as scheduled, ISRO officials said.

"There is no change in the landing date as of now. But the intermediate journey would probably have to be altered. The changed path is being worked out right now," Vivek Singh,

EXPLAINED

Why Sept 6 will be crucial

IT IS crucial for ISRO to land on September 6 to maximise data collection by instruments on the lander and rover. The date has been chosen to avoid any lunar eclipse, and ensure illumination from sunlight.

who heads ISRO's public relations office, said.

ISRO had earlier said, in a statement on May 1, that the launch window of

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EXPRESS NETWORK



HANDED LIFE TERM, SARAVANA BHAVAN FOUNDER DIES

I-T DEPT ATTACHES MAYA BROTHER'S Rs 400-CR PLOT
PAGES 8, 9

Village counts 10 killed, land dispute hardens divide: 'Pradhan, 100 men came with guns'

MANISH SAHU
SONBHADRA, JULY 18

IN UMBHA village of UP's Sonbhadra district, four kilometres separate the houses of the Gond and Gujjar communities. Between the two is the 90 bighas of disputed land over which a clash led to firing and nine deaths Wednesday.

A day later, with another death in hospital and all the victims belonging to the Gond community, the divide has widened



Family members of those killed in Umbha village. Vishal Srivastav

further, filled with anger and mistrust. While Gujjars belong to the OBC segment, the Gonds are classified in the state as SC.

Police have arrested 26 persons, including village pradhan Yaghya Dutt Bhuriya who belongs to the Gujjar community and led the group that fired on villagers who were farming on the land. Those arrested include his two elder brothers, Dev Dutt and Nidhi Dutt, and two nephews, Ganesh and Vimlesh.

Eyewitnesses and families of

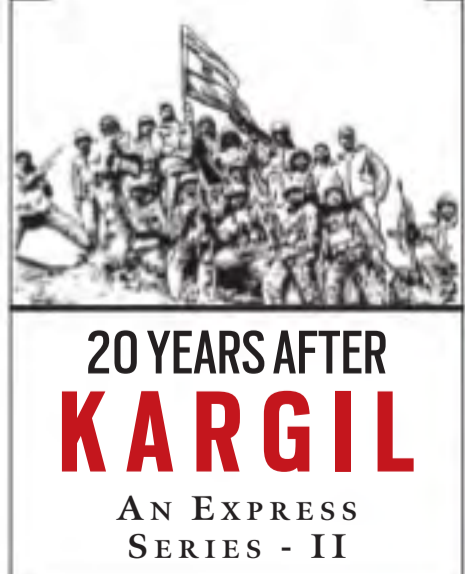
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When his box came home from Kargil, all it had was Rs 300 — and the chocolates he loved

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI
NOIDA, JULY 18

AT 8 AM everyday, when Colonel (retd) V N Thapar makes his way to work, dressed in a crisp white shirt and tie, there are many reminders of his son 'Robin' "who loved the outdoors, who was always dreaming" — his neighbourhood Vijayant Enclave, the Vijayant Thapar Park a few metres from his home, the Captain Vijayant Thapar Marg, the Vijayant Thapar Chowk, and finally his workplace, the



Vijayant Thapar Petrol Pump. "I named him after the Army battle tank Vijayant. It means victorious in the end. The motto of his unit, 2 Rajputana Rifles,



was also Ever Victorious. It was a perfect fit," says the 75-plus Army veteran, putting on a blazer, as he settles into a couch at his home in Noida. His wife Tripta gently brushes his hair



Col V N Thapar, wife Tripta, parents of Captain Vijayant Thapar. Gajendra Yadav

War's Knoll assault, the Thapars still feel the "vacuum" of his loss. "Time makes us proud of him, of his sacrifice, but it doesn't heal. We miss him everyday,"

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