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1. Pakistan to grant consular access to Kulbushan Jadhav by Aug 2, India says will respond 'diplomatically'

- What is consular access?
- Why is consular access so important for India in the Jadhav case?



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In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

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What is the context about?



Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, who is on death row in Pakistan, will be granted consular access by August 2.



Jadhav, 49, a retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of "espionage and terrorism" in April 2017. Following which India had moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ), seeking a stay on his death sentence and further remedies.



The ICJ in its verdict has ordered Pakistan to make an “effective review and reconsideration” of Jadhav’s conviction and death sentence and also grant consular access.



What is consular access?



India had demanded consular access to Jadhav under the rules of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963. This is an international treaty that defines consular relations between independent states. A consul, who is not a diplomat, is a representative of a foreign state in a country and works for the interests of his countrymen in the host country.



Article 36 of the Vienna Convention states that foreign nationals who are arrested or detained be given notice without delay of their right to have their embassy or consulate notified of that arrest.



If the detained foreign national so requests, the police must fax that notice to the embassy or consulate, which can then check up on the person. The notice to the consulate can be as simple as a fax, giving the person's name, the place of arrest, and, if possible, something about the reason for the arrest or detention.



Why is consular access so important for India in the Jadhav case?



Jadhav was awarded death sentence after a secret trial. There is every chance that the trial was a fake. If India gets consular access to Jadhav, it can demolish the Pakistani case by advising Jadhav on the various aspects of the case.



Consular access might also mean that Jadhav's own views would get heard. Pakistan had extracted a video confession from Jadhav under force. It could pull off such stunts only by denying consular access to India.



Consular access would have come in the way of sentencing of Jadhav after a secret trial. Even if Pakistan gives India consular access to Jadhav at this stage, India can help Jadhav and his family extend their legal fight. India will also get access to Jadhav's real version of events leading to his arrest. This information can help India expose Pakistan.