

Centre ‘in the dark’ on detentions, curbs

To an RTI query, Home Ministry says it has no info and directs applicant to the J&K administration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry does not have information on any orders passed to block telecommunications and Internet, suspend radio and satellite television services, evacuate tourists and detain political leaders and activists in Jammu and Kashmir in August. The Ministry says it has no information on the names and locations of the detainees, and directed any queries to the State administration.

In response to a recent Right to Information request to share copies of such orders, directions or advisories, two Central public information officers of the Ministry’s J&K division said the information was not available with them.

The Ministry said, “The information might be available with the State government of J&K.”

J&K police arrest Jaish operative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir police arrested the third member of a newly formed Jaish-e-Mohammad module that was raised to carry out terrorist activities in Baramulla district of North Kashmir. The alleged terrorist identified as Mohsin Manzoor Salhea is a resident of old town Baramulla.

One of the members of the group was killed in an encounter with security forces in August, days after the revocation of Article 370.



Out in the open: Security personnel outside the residence-turned-jail of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Sunday. ■NISSAR AHMAD

However, the RTI application could not be forwarded to the J&K government as the RTI Act, 2005 is not applicable in the State, said the response.

According to it, a separate application could be filed under the State’s RTI law. This option is only available to the State’s residents.

A senior official in the J&K

government said Central laws, including the RTI Act, 2005, would come into effect in J&K only when it became a Union Territory on October 31.

Venkatesh Nayak, the activist who filed the RTI request, noted that the State of J&K had been under President’s Rule since December 19, 2018 and how was it possible that the Home Ministry

did not have information on orders imposing travel and telecom restrictions.

“Any order imposing curbs on travel and telecommunications will at least be copied to the Union Home Ministry in which the J&K Division is housed, if not actually directed by the MHA. So the CPIOs’ replies that

they have no information about the curbs imposed and the arrests and detention of residents of J&K are not based on truth and reality,” he said on Sunday.

Pass the question

The first CPIO, T. Sreekanth, said no information was available with them, and passed on the query to the second CPIO. She responded that the “information sought by you is not available with the undersigned CPIO.”

Instead, she directed the RTI applicant to the J&K State government for further queries.

An earlier request by RTI activist Nutan Thakur for a copy of the Ministry’s file on the decision to amend Article 370 had been denied, citing exemptions allowed under the RTI Act without specifying the specific reason for exemption being claimed.

Police block JKLF’s protest march from PoK to LoC

Agitators staging a sit-in at Jaskool, 8 km from the frontier

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JASKOOL

The police have blocked a march by thousands of people in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir to the Line of Control in protest against the lockdown on the Indian side.

The forces placed shipping containers on the road and deployed a large contingent of officers near Jaskool, 8 km from the LoC, to stop the supporters of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, which announced it intended to cross the line to help Kashmiris under “Indian oppression”.

Abdul Hameed Butt, a JKLF leader, said on Sunday that the protesters would



Long march: Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front supporters marching to the LoC on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad. ■AP

stage a sit-in until the blockade was removed.

Arshad Naqvi, a police officer, said the protesters

would not be allowed to continue because the threat of an “unprovoked enemy fire”.

U.S. team visits PoK to study ‘ground situation’

Senators share ‘rights concerns’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

A high-level U.S. Congressional delegation visited Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Sunday.

The Pakistan Foreign Office said the purpose of the visit was to see the ground situation and gauge the public sentiment following India’s August 5 decision to revoke Jammu & Kashmir’s special status.

The delegation comprising Senators Chris Van Hollen and Maggie Hassan, and U.S. Charge d’Affaires Ambassador Paul Jones visited Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

“The U.S. Senators said that they shared the human rights concerns and would continue to urge India to lift the curfew and release all prisoners as a first step.

They also expressed their resolve to remain engaged for the resolution of the dispute,” according to the FO.

The delegation also met PoK’s leaders Sardar Masood Khan and Raja Farooq Haider.

Mr. Khan and Mr. Haider asked the U.S. Senators to press India to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

‘About 300 militants active in J&K’

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
POONCH

Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbagh Singh on Sunday said that 200-300 militants are presently active in the region.

“There are 200-300 terrorists presently active, but the number keeps fluctuating,” he said in a press conference.

Mr. Singh said that “many ceasefire violations are taking place in Uri, Rajouri, Poonch and several other areas of Jammu and Kashmir.” “During these violations, Pakistan attempts to push in greater number of infiltrators. Our anti-infiltration grid have foiled many such attempts,” he added.



Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina during a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. ■PTI

Hasina invites Sonia to Mujibur centenary

The event will be held in March

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invited Congress president Sonia Gandhi for the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to be held in March next year and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Liberation which will be marked by year-long commemorations.

According to a Congress statement, Ms. Gandhi, along with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, met Ms. Hasina here on Sunday.

They were accompanied by Rajya Sabha member Anand Sharma and later Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra joined them.

Ms. Hasina was accompanied by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Momen, senior Ministers and her advisers.

“Indian National Congress and the Awami League share a historic relationship. We had a long meeting where a wide range of issues were discussed. The two families also share a special bond going back to the days of Mujibur Rahman and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi,” Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu*. He denied that

the two sides spoke about NRC. “It’s an internal matter and neither side broached the topic,” Mr. Sharma said.

Impressive growth

The two sides spoke at length about the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s role in Bangladesh liberation, the Congress statement said.

It said Dr. Singh, during the meeting, complimented Ms. Hasina for the impressive economic growth made by the country and her initiatives that had led to commendable improvement of social indicators particularly health and education.

Both Ms. Gandhi and Ms. Vadra had a closed-door meeting with Ms. Hasina too. The two families share a close bond from the time the Hasina family had to live in exile in the capital, after the assassination of Mujibur Rahman.

After the meeting, Ms. Vadra tweeted, “In overdue hug from Sheikh Hasina Ji whom I have been waiting to meet again for a long time. Her strength in overcoming deep personal loss and hardship and fighting for what she believed in with bravery and perseverance is, and always will be a great inspiration for me.”

In China, Imran to take up J&K issue

Next steps of collaboration on Afghanistan and CPEC on his agenda

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

The visit of Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan to China has added another twist to the upcoming visit to India and Nepal of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Analysts say the special relationship between Islamabad and Beijing will be in focus when Mr. Khan and the Chinese leadership discuss, in all likelihood, the next steps of their collaboration – on Kashmir, Afghanistan and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Ahead of President Xi’s visit, the Chinese and the Indian side appear to be pursuing two divergent narratives on the upcoming talks. The Chinese Foreign Ministry is



Collaboration on the cards: China President Xi Jinping shaking hands with Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan. ■FILE

signalling that Beijing is not interested in raking up Kashmir during President Xi’s visit to Mamallapuram near Chennai that starts on October 11, though an official announcement about the second informal summit, as a

follow up to last year’s Wuhan meeting, is yet to be made.

“I think for those things like Kashmir, I don’t think it will be a major topic occupying the talks, that is my understanding,” Chinese Fo-

India starts sharing maritime data

Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) was set up last year

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) set up last year has started functioning as an information sharing hub of maritime data and “cuing incident responses” to maritime security situations through a collaborative approach, Navy sources said.

At the just concluded Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC), National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had offered countries in the IOR use of the facility to track movement of vessels on the high seas.

“The centre is actively interacting with the maritime community and has already built linkages with 18 countries and 15 multinational/maritime security centres,” one official said.

Major centres

The major centres with which regular exchange of maritime security information is being undertaken in-

In real time

The Navy’s Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram is the single-point centre linking all coastal radar chain networks along the 7,500-km Indian coastline and in some neighbouring countries

- The IFC tracks and monitors 75,000 -1.5 lakh shipping vessels in real time round-the-clock
- The IFC actively interacts with the maritime community and has already built linkages with 18 countries and 15 multinational and maritime security centres
- The major centres with which regular exchange of maritime security information is being undertaken include Virtual Regional Maritime Traffic Centre, Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa, Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery, Information Fusion Centre-Singapore, and International Maritime Bureau-Piracy Reporting Centre

clude Virtual Regional Maritime Traffic Centre (VRMTC), Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery (ReCAAP), Information Fusion Centre-Singapore (IFC-SG), and International Maritime

Bureau-Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC).

“The centre is administering a website to undertake collation and dissemination of information on a daily basis and also hosts the Monthly Maritime Security Update (MMSU) highlighting analysis on incidents, warnings and advisories in IOR,” the

reign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying had said on September 17, during an interaction with media from Asia and Africa.

Despite the attempt to shift focus from Kashmir, *The Hindu* has authoritatively learnt that India had politely declined China’s proposal at the Bishkek summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in June to play a role to ease India-Pakistan tensions on Kashmir.

Observers point out that India has already signalled displeasure on Beijing’s support to Pakistan in the United Nations on Kashmir.

Reports in the Indian media suggest that China is upset by Him Vijay, a military exercise in Arunachal.

official added.

The IFC-IOR was inaugurated in December 2018 within the premises of the Navy’s Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram.

New joiners

Several Indian Ocean littoral states have joined the coastal radar chain network.

Addressing the GMC hosted last week by the Navy and attended by 10 Indian Ocean littoral states, Mr. Doval stated that India aspires to be a “major contributor” to maritime safety in the region with active cooperation of all and “we would like our neighbours to draw upon it, consider it as their own facility” he stated and added that rather than “duplicating it” we can augment it further by their cooperation. His comments on avoiding duplication are important in the context of reports that Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are considering setting up similar fusion centres.

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY

The following e-tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to www.ireps.gov.in and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing and Opening time for all tenders are 14:30 hrs and 15:00 hrs respectively.

| Sl. No. | Open Tender No. | Short description of work | Value (Rs.) | Date of Tender | |
|---------|-----------------|---|---------------|----------------|------------|
| | | | | Closing | Opening |
| 1. | EW/1041 | Improvement to track structure inside Shell & Furnishing factory. | 30,97,776/- | 28.10.2019 | 28.10.2019 |
| 2. | EW/1042 | Provision of Plinth protection allround the building in East Colony | 49,23,472/- | 28.10.2019 | 28.10.2019 |
| 3. | EW/1043 | Re-roofing with non-asbestos sheet in Furnishing Division | 1,38,78,743/- | 28.10.2019 | 28.10.2019 |

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE No.TBM-SG-CN-2019-2020-10-OT
Dated: 01.10.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works :

| Item No | Name of the Work | | | | |
|---|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 | | | | |
| Provision of Computer based Large Format Display System in Control Office at Trichy, Madurai, Chennai divisions and GSM/GPRS communication from RTU to CMU at control office. | | | | | |

| Item No. | Cash value in ₹ | Earnest Money Deposit ₹ | Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site | Cost of Tender Document ₹ | Period Completion in month(s) |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| 1 | 6,22,21,825/- | 4,61,100/- | 25.10.2019 upto 14:00 Hrs | 10,000/- | FOUR |

Tenderers may keep seeing the website during the Advertisement Period for any update / corrigendum / revised date of opening.

Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.

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Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Construction, Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
NOTICE No. 33-CECNMS-19-20-TBM-CGL-15 Dated : 04.10.2019
NOTICE No. 34-CECNMS-19-20-TBM-CGL-16 Dated : 04.10.2019
NOTICE No. 35-CECNMS-19-20-MTK-141 Dated : 04.10.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and **only online tenders will be accepted.** The Cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

| NAME OF THE WORK | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Proposed third line between TAMBARAM and CHENGALPATTU - Proposed construction of Protective Retaining wall and Yard drains etc. from Ch: 29500 to Ch: 58800 between TAMBARAM (Excl.) and CHENGALPATTU (Excl.) - Balance works. | | | | |
| Proposed third line between TAMBARAM - CHENGALPATTU - Proposed earth work in forming bank, cutting & Blanketting between TAMBARAM (Excl.), GUDUVANCHERRI(Excl.) and SINGAPERUMALKOVI(Excl.) - CHENGALPATTU (Excl.) - Balance works. | | | | |
| Proposed Gauge Conversion between THIRUTHURAI PUNDI - PATTUKKOTTAI section: Goods Platform with Approach road and other miscellaneous works at THIRUTHURAI PUNDI. | | | | |
| Approximate cash value ₹ | Earnest Money Deposit ₹ | Cost of tender Form ₹ | Period of Completion in months | Closing Office @15.30 hrs. |
| 79176861.51 | 545900.00 | 10000 | FOUR | 30.10.2019 |
| 67431362.8 | 487200.00 | 10000 | FOUR | 30.10.2019 |
| 81264948.12 | 556300.00 | 10000 | TEN | 30.10.2019 |

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Chief Engineer, Construction, Egmore, Chennai-8.