

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 24, 2019

His Excellency Harsh Vardhan Shringla  
Embassy of India  
2107 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We write to follow up on the meeting of October 16, 2019, during which you briefed members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Thank you for your willingness to come and meet the Committee and provide an update. We would like to use this opportunity to request more specific information regarding some of the questions raised at that time.

As was discussed during the meeting, many of our constituents have painted a much different picture of the situation than what you shared with us. They have raised concerns about the repeal of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, as well as suspended internet and telecommunications access, arrests of local politicians and activists, and the imposition of a curfew. We therefore ask for your response to the following questions:

- Has 100% of landline service been restored inside Jammu and Kashmir, or are there any remaining outages? When will all mobile phone service be restored, including for those who use prepaid mobile phones? When will full internet access be restored (not just access at kiosks)?
- How many people have been detained under the Public Safety Act or other legal provisions since August 5th? Please be as specific as possible. Of those, how many are minors? What is the standard judicial procedure for someone detained under the Public Safety Act?
- What is the status of the curfews that have been imposed in Jammu and Kashmir? What are the government's plans to allow residents to return to uninhibited movement? When can we expect that?

- Please lay out the reasons that foreign journalists are still not allowed inside Jammu and Kashmir. When will they be allowed to enter the region?
- We have heard reports that rubber bullets are being used for crowd control by authorities inside Jammu and Kashmir, and that there have been instances where protesters are blinded by the use of rubber bullets. Can you confirm whether there are any known cases of protesters being blinded by rubber bullets, including the number of children? Are rubber bullets still being used for crowd control? What is the Indian government doing to ensure the rights of peaceful protesters?
- Will the Indian Government welcome visiting members of the United States Congress or other foreign officials who wish to visit Jammu and Kashmir?

We believe true transparency can only be achieved when journalists and Members of Congress are allowed free access to the region. We encourage India to open Jammu and Kashmir to both domestic and foreign journalists, and other international visitors, in the interest of open media and increased communication.

Thank you in advance for your responses to these questions.

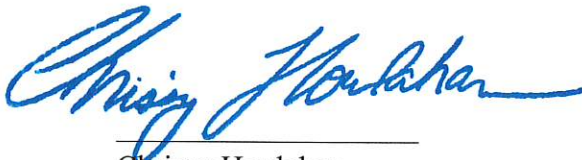
Sincerely,



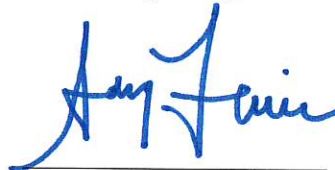
David N. Cicilline  
*Member of Congress*



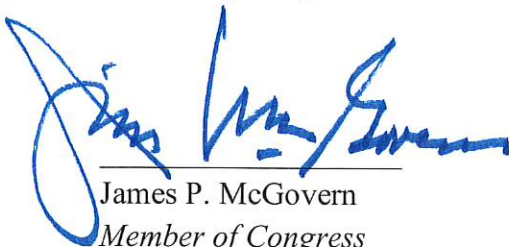
Dina Titus  
*Member of Congress*



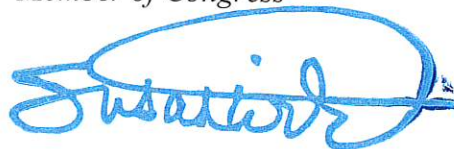
Chrissy Houlahan  
*Member of Congress*



Andy Levin  
*Member of Congress*



James P. McGovern  
*Member of Congress*



Susan Wild  
*Member of Congress*