

Regarding need to ensure safe evacuation of Indian nationals from West Asian countries-Laid

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): India has significant concerns regarding the ongoing conflicts in West Asia, given its strategic, economic, and diaspora interests. The region, including countries like Iran, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, is crucial for India's energy security. Any escalation threatens oil supply routes, leading to price volatility and inflationary pressures on the Indian economy. Another major concern is the safety of the large Indian diaspora in the Gulf region. Millions of Indians live and work in countries such as United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Conflict situations increase risks to their lives, livelihoods, and may require costly evacuation operations. Trade and connectivity are also affected. West Asia is a key partner for India's exports and imports, and instability disrupts shipping routes, especially through strategic chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz. This impacts India's trade balance and economic growth. Escalation complicates India's diplomatic stance and challenges its policy of strategic autonomy. Overall, peace and stability in West Asia remain vital for safeguarding India's economic interests, diaspora welfare, and foreign policy objectives. I would request the Central Government to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of lakhs of Indians residing in the area.