

Govt to evaluate Iran-Israel conflict impact on trade

SHREYA NANDI

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The commerce department is closely monitoring the Iran-Israel conflict, and will meet shipping lines, container firms, and other stakeholders later this week to evaluate the impact on trade, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said.

"We are watching the situation. We are also calling a meeting (this week) of all the shipping lines, the container organisations and the concerned departments, and stakeholders to understand from them what are the kind of issues they are facing and how we can sort it out," he said, adding that there will be clarity on the impact of the conflict, depending on how the situation unfolds.

Exporters have flagged that the conflict will result in disruption and escalate freight costs.

Nearly two-thirds of India's crude oil and half of its LNG imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has now threatened to close. This narrow waterway, only 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, handles nearly a fifth of global oil trade and is indispensable to India, which depends on imports for over 80 per cent of its energy needs.

According to Delhi-based think tank GTRI, any closure or military disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would sharply increase oil prices, shipping costs, and insurance premiums, triggering inflation, pressuring the rupee, and complicating India's fiscal management.

Meanwhile, Israel's June 14-15 strike on Houthi military leadership in Yemen has also

India in touch with students in Iran to ensure safety: MEA

Amid the Iran-Israel conflict, the Centre on Monday said the Indian Embassy in Tehran was continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety while also relocating them to safer places in some cases.

The Ministry of External Affairs' statement read, "The Indian Embassy in Tehran is continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety."

The statement continued, "In some cases, students are being relocated with Embassy's facilitation to safer places within Iran. Other feasible options are also under examination. Further updates will follow. Separately, the Embassy is in touch with community leaders regarding welfare and safety." The Indian embassies in Israel and Iran have issued advisories on their X handles in view of the situation.

"In view of the current situation in Iran, all Indian nationals & persons of

Indian origin in Iran are requested to remain vigilant, avoid all unnecessary movements, follow the Embassy's Social Media accounts & observe safety protocols as advised by local authorities," the Indian Embassy in Iran's post on X read.

Meanwhile, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday asked the MEA to take immediate steps to ensure the safe return of Indian students stranded in Iran. Hundreds of Kashmiri students, enrolled in various universities for professional courses in Iran, are stranded due to the escalated tensions with Israel. The families of the students have appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take steps for their safe evacuation just like the government did at the time of the Russia-Ukraine War.

"If Indian students were evacuated from Ukraine within days during the war, why are our children not being rescued from Iran? They are also Indian citizens," a worried parent said. PTI

heightened tensions in the Red Sea region, where Houthi forces have already attacked commercial shipping.

For India, this poses another serious risk. Nearly 30 per cent of India's west-bound exports to Europe, North Africa, and the US East Coast travel through the Bab el-

Mandeb Strait, now vulnerable to further disruption, the GTRI has said.

Indian export consignments gradually started moving through the Red Sea route but now again it may get impacted.

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With inputs from PTI