

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4402
ANSWERED ON – 02/04/2026

WEST ASIA CRISIS & CITIZEN SAFETY

4402. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY
DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH
SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM
SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA
SHRI BRIJ LAL
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA
SHRI NARHARI AMIN
SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of Indian nationals evacuated from West Asia region by March, 2026;
- (b) how periodic advisory system has ensured the safety of Indian students in Iran;
- (c) the specific diplomatic measures taken to protect Indian mariners following the recent attacks on merchant shipping;
- (d) whether a dedicated 24/7 emergency helpline was established for Indian citizens in Gulf nations; and,
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) how collaboration with the Directorate General of Shipping has improved safety protocols for Indian seafarers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to f) Amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia and Gulf Region, Government has facilitated the travel to India of over 4.75 lakh Indian nationals by commercial flights from these regions till 25 March 2026.

Keeping in view the evolving situation in West Asia and the safety and security of Indian nationals in Iran, the Embassy of India in Tehran has issued several advisories since January 2026. These advisories have played a pivotal role in disseminating crucial information enabling Indian nationals to stay connected and advising them to leave Iran by all available means of transport. As a result, approximately 800 Indian students left Iran for India before the outbreak of the conflict in West Asia. The updated advisories issued by Indian Embassy in Tehran on 3, 9 & 16 March, 2026 informed about Government's arrangements for

relocation of Indian students in Tehran to places outside Tehran and arrangements for Indian nationals including students, pilgrims, short-term visitors, etc., to leave Iran through land borders. Several more Indian students and pilgrims were then facilitated in their departure from Iran.

The Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassies and Consulates in the region have been coordinating closely with the respective local authorities viz. Port officials, Coast Guards, Shipping Agencies and other relevant stakeholders in the impacted countries to ensure safety and welfare of Indian mariners. Indian Embassies and Consulates remain in continuous contact with Indian crew members on affected vessels, facilitate communication with their families in India and extend required guidance on travel options, including facilitating transit visas for cross-border movement to embark on available commercial flights.

Indian Embassies and Consulates in West Asia and Gulf regions have set up 24x7 emergency helpline numbers to assist Indian nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs has also set up a dedicated Special Control Room to monitor the situation, respond to queries from the affected Indian nationals and their families, and for real-time coordination with Indian Embassies and Consulates for emergency cases. Till 26 March 2026, the Special Control Room has addressed 1112 phone calls and 265 emails. Details of 24x7 emergency helplines issued by the Indian Embassies and the Ministry of External Affairs are attached at **Annexure-I**.

To ensure the safety and security of Indian seafarers, Ministry of External Affairs is closely coordinating with the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. All assistance in the form of coordination with local authorities for safe repatriation of the rescued personnel and other formalities related to the deceased Indian seafarers continue to be undertaken by the Indian Embassies and Consulates, while keeping Directorate General of Shipping closely informed on the matter.

Details of 24x7 Emergency helplines issued by the Indian Embassies and Consulates in West Asia and Gulf Region along with MEA's Special Control Room

Name of country	Details of the Control room and 24x7 emergency helplines by MEA and Indian Missions
MEA HQ	1800118797 (Toll Free) +91 11 2301 2123 +91 11 2301 4104 +91 11 2301 7905 Email: situationroom@mea.gov.in
Bahrain	+973 39418071 +973 38400433
Iran	+98 9128109115 +98 9128109102 +98 9128109109 +98 9932179359 Email cons.tehran@mea.gov.in
Iraq	+964 7716511185 +964 7704444899 (Arabic) Email: cons.baghdad@mea.gov.in Cons1.baghdad@mea.gov.in pol.baghdad@mea.gov.in
Israel	+972 547520711 +972 542428378 Email: cons1.telaviv@mea.gov.in
Jordan	+962 770422276 +962 786440990
Kuwait	+965 65501946 Email: community.kuwait@mea.gov.in
Lebanon	+961 76860128 Email: cons.beirut@mea.gov.in
Oman	8007 1234 (Toll Free) +968 9828 2270 (whatsapp) Email: cw.muscat@mea.gov.in cons.muscat@mea.gov.in
Palestine	+970 592916418 Email: repoffice@mea.gov.in Cons.ramallah@mea.gov.in
Qatar	+974-55647502 +974 55362508 +974 55384683 Email: cons.doha@mea.gov.in
Saudi Arabia & Yemen (EOI, Riyadh is concurrently accredited to Yemen)	Riyadh 800 247 1234 (Toll Free) +966 114884697 +966-542126748 (Whatsapp) Email: cw.riyadh@mea.gov.in

	Jeddah 800 244 0003 (Toll Free) +966 556122301 +966 126648660 +966 122614093 +966 536209704 (Whatsapp) Email: conscw.jeddah@mea.gov.in , vclab.jeddah@mea.gov.in
Syria	+963 993385973 Email: cons.damascus@mea.gov.in
UAE	800 46342 (Toll Free) +971 543090571 Email: pbsk.dubai@mea.gov.in ca.abudhabi@mea.gov.in
