

Regarding need to take steps to raise value of rupee compared to US dollar-Laid

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Rupees sharp fall in recent days and the currency's exchange rate breaking past the 90-per-dollar mark for the first time. After flirting with the 90-per-dollar mark on Tuesday, rupee finally crossed the key psychological level on Wednesday to hit another fresh all-time low. So far this year, the rupee has fallen by over 5 percent against the US dollar and is the worst-performing Asian currency. Market experts citing the continued delay in the conclusion of a free trade agreement with the US as the primary reason. Since last August, Indian goods have faced a cumulative tariff of 50 per cent while entering the world's largest economy. India's merchandise exports were down 12 per cent year-on-year in October and the trade deficit ballooned to an all-time high of \$41.7 billion. The Reserve Bank of India also seemingly loosened its grip over the exchange rate over the last year or so and intervened to a lesser extent in the foreign exchange market to stem the rupee's decline. In 2024-25, net FDI inflows into India stood at a mere \$959 million. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to raise the value of Indian Rupee compared to US Dollar.