

**Embassy of India  
Kabul**

**KAB/815/2/10(55)**

**March 7, 2010**

**SECURITY ADVISORY**

Attacks on the IMM residential compound and Park Residency Hotel on 26 February

1. The attack on the residential compound of the Indian Medical Mission began at 0632 hrs with a suicide Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (SBVIED) that detonated just outside its main gate, bringing down its front wall, killing the three guards at the gate, and blowing out the windows of Park Hotel, 30 metres from that location. A terrorist wearing a suicide vest and armed with grenades and a Kalashnikov entered the compound following the bombing, trying to take out the surviving residents. He was neutralised when Medical Officer Major L. Jyotin Singh pinned him down, forcing the terrorist to detonate his suicide vest. At Park Hotel, with its front gate ajar, two terrorists entered the place, shooting their way in and searching for victims, especially Indians, many of whom escaped harm. This attack ended when one of them detonated his suicide vest and the other managed to run away after discarding his vest and weapons.

2. The precious Indian lives lost were those of Medical Officer (Major) L. Jyotin Singh from Manipur, attached to the Indira Gandhi Centre for Child Health, the largest speciality hospital for children in Afghanistan; Major Deepak Yadav and Major Nitesh Roy of the Indian Army's Education Corps, teaching English to Afghan officers at the Military Academy in Kabul; Constable Roshan Lal, security guard at our Consulate in Herat, on his way to India on leave; Mr. Bhola Ram, the Project Director of Power Grid Corporation of India, helping with the final transfer of the Chimtala sub-station (the largest in Afghanistan, with capacity to handle 300MW of electricity) to Afghan hands – he had been in Afghanistan for two and a half years; 30-year old Nitin Chibber, a personal assistant from our Consulate in Kandahar, in Kabul on courier duty; and Nawab Khan, the tabla accompanist and younger brother of Dilruba player Ustad Alauddin Khan, who had performed concerts at Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif and was on his way back to Delhi with the rest of the group.

Lessons from the attacks

3. The main features of the attack were as follows:

- Ø The attack specifically targeted Indian officials and cooperation experts and workers, serving the Afghan people and earning goodwill for India.
- Ø After the SBVIED explosion came a follow on attack by three suicide terrorists using grenades and Kalashnikovs.
- Ø The targets selected were soft.

- Ø The attack appeared carefully timed, on Friday morning when the victims were likely to be in their residential quarters.
4. There indications that the terrorists are likely to mount such attacks against high value targets in Kabul and elsewhere.
5. All Indian nationals in Afghanistan are advised to remain extra-vigilant at all times and take the following precautions:
- Ø They should seek to live in secure accommodation, with proper access control system, a possible place for hiding or refuge and an escape route in case the location comes under attack.
  - Ø The place of work and residence should both have grills, anti-shatter film on window panes and the work table or bed placed away from the main road or entrance to the property.
  - Ø It is advisable to reduce concentration of many persons of Indian origin at the same location.
  - Ø Where it is avoidable, especially at places of work, Indians should be kept to the minimum possible number.
  - Ø In case of movement or travel, it is advisable to keep a partner or organisation head or security informed of it.
  - Ø While travelling, as advised earlier, a safe distance must be kept from vehicles or convoys of the Afghan National Security Force (Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police) and NATO / International Security Assistance Force.
  - Ø Keep movements unpredictable, information about it restricted and the route variable.
6. Indians are requested to encourage their unregistered compatriots to update our databank by providing us with their email address and telephone numbers. For registration with the office and residential address, the form may be downloaded from our website and sent to us by mail or by hand. Those who have left Afghanistan may inform us about their move to enable us to discontinue dispatch of the advisories to them. For any assistance required, please contact Dr. Manmohan Singh (0706131586) or Mr. TS Kanakasabesan (0706131588).

**Public Affairs Wing  
Embassy of India**

**All Indians in Afghanistan**