

**Embassy of India
Kabul**

KAB/815/2/07

March 28, 2007

SECURITY ADVISORY

- **Suicide attack in Kabul on March 28, 2007**
 - **Attack on Indian Engineers in Farah province**
 - **Militant activity on the increase**
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Details

Today on March 28, 2007 at around 0830 hours, a suicide bomber attacked a senior NDS official in charge of Crime Investigation in Asmayee Watt, Joisher Area of Kabul. Reportedly, three persons are dead and 10 others injured in the explosion. All Indians in Kabul are advised to restrict their movement to that area till the situation stabilizes.

2. On March 24, 2007, a convoy of Indian Engineers working with M/s Consulting Engineering Services India Limited, engaged by Afghan Government to study the feasibility of a dam over Farah River was attacked in Farahrud district. The convoy also included two Bangladeshi engineers and one Afghan national. In the ensuing gunfight, the Farah police along with the locals were able to kill three militants and the Indian Engineers are safe. Earlier, on March 16, 2007, a convoy of Indian Engineers escorted by Farah police also came under small arms fire in Baksh Abad area of Bala Buluk district of Farah province. Some media reports have also mentioned that an attempt was made to kidnap the Indian Engineers, which has not been substantiated and they are safe and have reached Kabul.

3. In the recent past, during the abduction of an Italian journalist Daniele Mastrogiacomo, the Afghan Government had to release 5 Taliban militants in exchange for his safe return. However, an Afghan driver kidnapped along with the journalist was beheaded. Various media reports after the incident have been suggesting that Taliban may adopt kidnapping and abduction of foreigners as a method to seek release of their captured cadres. Indians nationals working in remote areas of Afghanistan are perceived as soft targets; hence, it would be advisable for all Indians to maintain extra vigilance during their road journeys within the country. It is also recommended that a proper armed security complement travels along on road journeys.

4. In view of increase in militant activity in the past week, all Indian nationals in Afghanistan are advised to remain vigilant at all times and avoid unnecessary exposure/movement during road journeys for their own safety and security. It is reiterated that they must maintain safe distance from Military/Police/NATO/CF convoys as they still continue to remain primary targets of militants. Indians are also requested to keep themselves aware about the security scenario in the country through local print/visual media.

5. The Embassy of India maintains a database of Indians in Afghanistan that needs to be constantly updated. Therefore, a fresh Registration Form for Indians is attached with the advisory which may be sent back to us to update your particulars. It is also requested that you may ask other Indians known to you to register with the Embassy so that all important developments concerning safety and security of Indians are disseminated to them directly.

(Pranab Nanda)
Counsellor (PA)

Encl.: **Registration Form**