Security Advisory for Indian Nationals in Afghanistan (24 July 2021)

1. This advisory reiterates advice of 29th June 2021, which remains valid for all India citizens.

2. Security situation in Afghanistan remains dangerous in several provinces. Terror groups operating in Afghanistan have escalated violent activities including targeting of civilians. Indian nationals are not exceptions, and they additionally face a serious threat of kidnapping.

3. Targeted attacks include incidents of roadside IED blasts and magnetic IEDs against civilian vehicles, thus due care must be taken during all vehicular movements.

4. All Indian nationals visiting, staying and working in Afghanistan are advised to exercise utmost vigilance and caution with regard to security at work place, place of residence and also during movement to their places of work. It is recommended that all types of non- essential movements be avoided. Movements especially during peak commuting hours should also be avoided. While traveling on roads, maintain distance from possible targets like military convoys, vehicles of Govt. Ministries/ offices, high ranking officials, law enforcement agencies, and avoid visiting crowded markets, shopping complexes, mandis, restaurants and other public places. All essential movement may please be kept as discrete as possible.

5. Traveling outside the main cities should be strictly avoided

6. All Indian nationals arriving in Afghanistan are advised to register with the Embassy/Consulates on the website: <u>https://eoi.gov.in/kabul/</u> or by email to <u>paw.kabul@mea.gov.in</u>. Those already present in Afghanistan, but have not registered, are requested to do so.

7. Indian companies operating in Afghanistan are advised once again to make special security arrangements in respect of their Indian employees deployed at project sites. 8. Special attention is drawn to members of the Indian media travelling to Afghanistan to cover events through ground reports. As recent tragic events showed, it is essential that all Indian press-persons covering events on the ground establish contact with the Public Affairs& Security Wing of this Embassy for a personalized briefing including specific advice for the locale they are traveling to. This will not only help media persons make a better assessment of the risks involved, but also make it easier for the Embassy to render speedy assistance if needed.

- 9. Contact Details:
 - Embassy of India in Kabul. Public Affairs & Security Wing Official Mobile numbers (available on WhatsApp also): +93706131611, +93705127863
 Email: paw.kabul@mea.gov.in
 - (ii) Consulate General of India, Kandahar Mobile Number: +93-703750087 Email: <u>cons.kandahar@mea.gov.in</u>
 - (iii) Consulate General of India, Mazar-e-Sharif Mobile Number: +93-785891303 Email: <u>cons.mesharif@mea.gov.in</u>
