

## **Advisory to the Indian Community on Fraud Calls**

The Embassy of India, Brussels would like to draw kind attention of Indian Community in Belgium/Luxembourg about fraudulent calls being received by members of Indian community, especially Indian students and professionals from unscrupulous elements using name of Indian Embassy and spoofed telephone numbers. The callers generally speak English and sometimes Hindi. It is requested that in the event of receiving such calls, the number from which call has originated, date and time of call, contact number on which call was received and nature of demand or threat may be furnished to Police as well as Embassy of India, Brussels at [consular@indembassy.be](mailto:consular@indembassy.be). In some instances, the criminals have allegedly used the telephone numbers of Belgian Immigration/Foreign Office. The modus operandi adopted by the criminals are as follows:

- Most of the calls originate from 0032-2-640-9140. It may be mentioned that it is the registered Embassy number but callers have spoofed this number.
  - These fraudsters intimate the unsuspecting victim about some wrong or inadequate information in his/her passport or immigration records due to which a case is registered by Police in India or in Belgium and also cases are pending in the Courts at India or Belgium. Hence, perpetrators demand that a fine or penalty needs to be paid through Western Union money transfer/purchase I-tune Cards through their credit/debit cards or else deportation proceedings would be initiated.
2. All concerned, are therefore, advised to be vigilant and to be on guard against these fraudsters and their nefarious designs to extract money from unsuspecting victims.
  3. It is reiterated that Embassy does not call up people to ask for money, etc, and hence such calls be ignored and reported promptly.