

‘Deep concern’: MEA monitoring situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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India on Sunday voiced “deep concern” over the US capturing Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro and his wife in a military operation, and said it is closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the oil-rich South American country.

In its first reaction to the unprecedented American action in Venezuela’s capital, Caracas, early on Saturday, New Delhi also called for a peaceful resolution of the situation through dialogue to ensure stability in the region and reaffirmed its support for the well-being of the people of that country.

The United States brought Maduro and his wife, Lady Cilia

What MEA said

- India calls for peaceful resolution through dialogue to ensure stability in the region
- Embassy is in touch with Indian community, offers assistance
- Indians are advised to avoid non-essential travel; urged to exercise caution
- There are around 50 NRIs and 30 PIOs in Venezuela

Flores, to New York to face drug trafficking-related charges. Venezuela, denouncing the US action, has announced a state of national emergency.

“Recent developments in Venezuela are a matter of deep

concern. We are closely monitoring the evolving situation,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

“India reaffirms its support to the well-being and safety of the people of Venezuela,” it said.

New Delhi also called upon “all concerned to address issues peacefully through dialogue, ensuring peace and stability of the region”.

The US carried out the military assault on Caracas after consistently accusing Maduro of being involved in drug trafficking. The Venezuelan leader had stridently denied the charges.

In its brief statement, the MEA said the Indian embassy in Caracas has been in touch with members of the Indian community and will continue to provide

all possible assistance to them.

On Saturday night, India advised its nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to Venezuela and urged all those who are in that country to exercise extreme caution. “In view of recent developments in Venezuela, Indian nationals are strongly advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Venezuela,” the MEA said.

“All Indians who are in Venezuela for any reason are advised to exercise extreme caution, restrict their movements, and remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Caracas,” it said.

There are around 50 NRIs (non-resident Indians) and 30 PIOs (persons of Indian origin) in Venezuela, according to the embassy in Caracas.