

**Embassy of India**

**Tunis**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC)**

**(Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 1730 hrs at Sheraton Hotel, Tunis)**

To celebrate the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, the Embassy of India in Tunisia is organising a **Reception and Cultural programme** on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 1730 hrs - 1930 hrs at Marhaba Hall, Sheraton Hotel, Tunis.

2. The Reception will be attended by former Tunisian beneficiaries of the ITEC Scholarships and Training programmes, and Tunisian Ph.D. scholars who have taken part in the C.V. Raman Scholarship programme organised by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Reception will be graced by senior Government Officials and H.E. Mr Prashant Pise, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tunisia. The reception will be an opportunity to all those present to exchange and share their views and experiences of the ITEC programme.

3. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet on 15 September 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India.

4. Under ITEC programme, 161 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience acquired over six decades of India's existence as a free nation. As a result of different activities under this programme, there is now a visible and growing awareness among other countries about the competence of India as a provider of technical know-how and expertise as well as training opportunities, consultancy services and feasibility studies. These programmes have generated immense goodwill and substantive cooperation among the developing countries. ITEC is a demand driven programme, therefore, assistance offered under ITEC is usually in response to requests received from friendly countries and the commitments made by India's political leadership. ITEC has created a **large network of alumni** across the continents who have become ITEC torch-bearers in their respective countries and in the process, developed a powerful cultural bridge between India and the country concerned. ITEC alumni have carved a niche for themselves, with many of them becoming ministers, senior diplomats, academics, government officials and leading entrepreneurs.

5. The ITEC Programme has the following main components :

-Training (civilian and defence) in India of nominees from ITEC partner countries;

- Projects and project related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancy services;
- Deputation of Indian experts abroad;
- Study Tours;

6. Over the decades, Tunisia has been one of the largest beneficiaries of the ITEC programme. With increasing interest from Tunisia, the number of beneficiaries from Tunisia is increasing every year. In last six years, about 30-35 Tunisians have undergone various training programmes in India. The highest utilization of the ITEC programme was last year with 50 participants.

7. It is our pleasure to cordially invite you to attend and cover this event, which will be followed by a cultural programme and light refreshments.

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**04 February, 2016**  
**Tunis**