



**Embassy of India
Tunis, Tunisia**

PRESS RELEASE

His Excellency Mr. Salman Khurshid, the External Affairs Minister of India paid an official visit to the Republic of Tunisia, 2-3 February 2014. It was the first bilateral visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to Tunisia since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Minister Khurshid called on the President H.E. Dr. Moncef Marzouki, Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Mehdi Jomaa and met with Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Mongi Hamdi. He also met with Sheikh Rashid Ghannouchi, President, Ennahda party and Mr. Beji Caid Essebsi, President, Nida Tounes party. He also met with H.E. Mr. Mohamed Shafik Sarsar, President of ISIE. Minister Khurshid conveyed the felicitations of the government and the people of India to the Tunisian leadership on the historic achievement of the adoption of the Constitution by the democratically-elected National Constituent Assembly. He also conveyed India's wholehearted support for the people of Tunisia in their struggle for democracy and India's admiration for the significant progress made by the government and leadership of Tunisia in the transition towards a durable democracy. He informed the Tunisian leadership of India's readiness to share its expertise in building durable institutions of democracy, particularly in connection with voting methods and the work of the Election Commission.

During his call on Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa, Minister Khurshid also handed over a letter from Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India felicitating him on his assumption of office and congratulating the people and government of Tunisia on the historic achievement of the adoption of the Constitution.

In his discussions with Foreign Minister Hamdi, Minister Khurshid reviewed bilateral relations and had an exchange of views on regional and international issues. He expressed his happiness at the smooth operation of TIFERT, the bilateral joint venture in phosphatic fertilizers, and also held discussions on further diversifying trade and investment ties.

**3rd February, 2014
Tunis**