



**Embassy of India
Tunis**

Press Release

Celebration of 61st ITEC Day in Tunisia

The Embassy of India in Tunisia celebrated 61th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme Day on 15 September 2025 at Movenpick Hotel, Gammarth, Tunis. His Excellency Mr. Najmeddine Lakhel, Director of Asia department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, was the chief guest on this occasion.

2. In her video message on this occasion, H.E. Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade, Ambassador-designate of India to Tunisia extended warm greetings to ITEC alumni, friends of India, and Tunisian ministries. She highlighted the ITEC programme, launched in 1964, as India's flagship capacity-building initiative. Over the years, ITEC has supported India's vision of being a development partner, not a donor, especially to countries like Tunisia. The Ambassador also emphasized that ITEC as more than a training — but also a symbol of solidarity and cooperation within the Global South, promoting mutual growth and shared progress. The Ambassador thanked ITEC alumni for their contributions to their societies and to India-Tunisia relations, and invited continued collaboration to further strengthen bilateral ties. She encouraged alumni to spread the word and promote this programme for future applicants.

3. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Mahendra Singh Patiyal, Chargé d'affaires a.i. highlighted that Tunisia is a valued partner, with around 1000 professionals, including 200 through e-ITEC, having benefited from the programme. Reflecting its success, India has raised Tunisia's training slots to 100 per year. However, 62 officials trained in 2023–24 and only 34 officials in 2024–25 availed the benefit. Mr. Patiyal requested the Tunisian Ministries and departments to increase the participation in the upcoming training programmes. He highlighted that in addition to the regular calendar-based training programmes India offers customized training programmes in key areas of governance as per the requirement of the host country.

4. He further stated the ITEC programme is guided by India's civilizational value of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means, 'the world is one family'. In this context, he quoted the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, who said:

"India is a country which has always played a constructive role on the world stage. Our offer of development aid, our development model is not based on 'give and take', but is guided by the developmental requirements of partner countries. Our focus has always been on capacity building and resource development. We have always strived for collective teamwork at all forums of our developmental partnerships." This statement truly captures the spirit of ITEC - a model built on collaboration, not conditionality, and on shared goals rather than narrow interests.

5. His Excellency Mr. Najmeddine Lakhal, Director of Asia department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, considered that the celebration of ITEC Day, surrounded by a remarkable alumni network, is a valuable opportunity to reconnect, share experiences, and renew our commitment to mutual progress. He highlighted that the expansion of the ITEC initiative will offer participants an opportunity to strengthen their expertise across various key development sectors. Together, through knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and enduring friendships, we can shape a brighter future for our people and our two nations. The long-term goal is to monitor the application of skills gained in the field and refine methodologies to maximize impact.

6. The event was attended by 40 Tunisian beneficiaries of the ITEC Training programmes from different Tunisian Ministries. Three ITEC alumni from different ministries spoke about their valuable experiences within this programme. A short film with Hon'ble Prime Minister's remarks on ITEC programme and its utility as a capacity building programme was also screened.

7. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme of Government of India covers a wide range of subjects (for more details please visit <https://www.itecgoi.in/index>). The event report was also put up on our social media in FB, X and Insta and may be accessed at the following links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/IndiainTunisia/posts/pfbid0wjjSLcUTC9bpU5mkUrqagMyDp3dUAAXGD2xUZFDjeZFd9cqwjYXQDWmxEs8rieQTI>
- <https://x.com/IndiainTunisia/status/1967982556974100776>
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DOq0_UujHqv/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
