



**Embassy of India
Tunis, Tunisia**

PRESS RELEASE

**Monuments of India
Maisons des Arts, Belvedere, Tunis - 1-7 October, 2015,**



Monuments are the most enduring and tangible witnesses of human civilization. The exhibition **Monuments of India** unites two separate collections – a set of watercolour paintings depicting monuments from every epoch of Indian history, starting from ancient India till contemporary India, along with an exhibition of photographs of Islamic monuments of India which displays India's rich heritage of Islamic architecture.

The watercolours bring to life the timeline of Indian history from paintings in caves, from the urban structures of Lothal, Dholavira and Ropar from the famous Indus valley civilization (circa 2500 B.C.); the advent of Buddhism which produced stupas and sculptures and cave paintings represented by the marvels at Sanchi, Ajanta, Ellora and others. The rise of temple architecture produced stone edifices of devotion including Mahabalipuram, Konark and Khajuraho. The Sultans of Delhi and then the Mughal rulers originating from Central Asia produced poems in marble and sandstone: Qutab Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Agra Fort and the exquisite Taj Mahal. European influences mixed with the indigenous style to produce the churches of Goa, the forts of Chennai and Kolkata, the Gateway of India and the imperial architecture of New Delhi.

The photographs of the Islamic Monuments of India reveal the great beauty and diversity within this mixed style. The Mughal monuments shown here are world famous. The exhibition will also showcase the mosques and *zaouias* of what is known as the Deccan, or south-central India, which reveal the artistic

influences of Persia and the Arab world more than the monuments of North India. The 45 photos of this exhibition are by famous Indian photographer and film maker Benoy K. Behl.

These monuments reflect the culture, heritage and glory of India.

This exhibition is being jointly organized by Ministry of Culture of the Government of Tunisia and the Embassy of India, Tunis. It will be inaugurated at 1700 hours at the Maisons des Arts, Belvedere by H.E. Madame Latifa Lakhder, Minister of Culture of the Government of Tunisia and by H.E. Madame Nagma M. Mallick, Ambassador of India to Tunisia. It will be open to the public until 7th October, 2015.

29 September, 2015
Tunis