

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### Visit to Egypt: MOS E. Ahamed meets the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa, Dr. Elbaradei and the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyib

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahamed who is on a two-day visit to Egypt met the Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Essam Sharaf, the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Yehiah Al Aziz El Gamal and the Secretary General of The League of Arab States, Mr. Amr Moussa in Cairo today.

The visit represents the first ministerial level contact between India and Egypt since the January 25 events.

During the meetings, Minister Ahamed conveyed to PM Sharaf and Deputy PM Gamal India's continued support to Egypt during its historic transition process. India looks forward to further strengthening its relationship with Egypt that would contribute to peace and prosperity in the region.

The Minister held detailed discussions with the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nabil El-Araby yesterday. In addition to strengthening and deepening the bilateral relations, both the Ministers decided to have increased coordination on international issues. The next round of Political Consultations between the two countries would take place in May 2011 in New Delhi. A visit to India by the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Nabil El-Araby is also being planned. A delegation led by the Election Commissioner of India is also expected to visit Egypt to explore cooperation in the electoral process which would include demonstration of the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM).

During the visit, Minister Ahamed also called on the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, His Eminence Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyib in which he invited the Grand Sheikh to visit India to attend an important conference in Kerala in May 2011 which the Grand Sheikh has accepted.

The Minister also had a meeting with Nobel Laureate Dr. Elbaradei on the democratic transition process in Egypt.