

Consulate General of India
New York

Press Release

Visit of Mr. M.J. Akbar, Honorable Minister of State of External Affairs, to New York, August 15-16, 2016

Mr. M.J. Akbar, Honorable Minister of State for External Affairs, visited New York from August 15-16, 2016.

2. During the visit, Honorable Minister participated in the celebrations of India's 70th year of independence as the Chief Guest and hoisted the flag and interacted with the Indian American community at the Consulate. Around 250 people representing different sections of the society including elected representatives, Indian – American community, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), professionals & media personnel participated in the event. In his address, Hon'ble Minister spoke of the importance of Indian Independence as a landmark event for the whole world as it brought an end to the colonial era. He noted the contribution of the Indian - American community in furthering India-US relations and congratulated them on their many achievements. He also met the elected representatives who had come to participate in the event.
3. The Minister also participated in the Independence Day celebrations & commemorative Birth Centenary of Dr. M. S. Subhalakshmi and the 50th anniversary of her recital at the United Nations General Assembly. Besides, he also rang the closing bell at the historic NASDAQ bell ceremony & delivered a short message of goodwill to the public via satellite.
4. The Honorable Minister addressed a gathering of experts from various think tanks at the Asia Society Policy Institute on "India – USA Relations: Partnership for Future". He spoke of the dynamics of India-US relationship in the 21st century.
5. Hon'ble Minister also met with former Secretary of State Mr. Henry Kissinger and exchanged views.