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

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

5. Hon’ble Minister also met with former Secretary of State Mr. Henry Kissinger
and exchanged views.