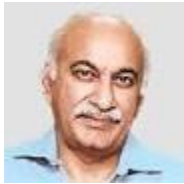


## **M J Akbar – Editor and Author**



Mobashar Jawed or MJ (as he is popularly known) Akbar is a leading Indian journalist and author. The 62-year-old Akbar is a gifted writer and regarded as one of India's most brilliant journalists.

He launched *The Sunday Guardian*, a weekly newspaper, in January 2010 and continues to serve as its Editor-in-Chief. From September 2010 to 2012 until he resigned, he served as Editorial Director of *India Today*, India's leading weekly English news magazine. He is the Founder and former Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director of *The Asian Age*, a daily multi-edition Indian newspaper with a global perspective launched in February 1994.

Akbar is a frequent interlocutor with the High Commission and incoming delegations from Canada, providing insight to India's regional relations and key security concerns. Akbar met Minister Baird in September 2012 and also with Defence and Public Safety Deputy Ministers Fonberg and Guimont in January 2013. Akbar spoke of the nexus between Pakistan-based terrorist groups and the Khalistan movement in Punjab, stating that the impact is limited: sufficient to destabilize the calm and to extend back into Kashmir, but unlikely to rekindle a secessionist movement in the Punjab. Akbar also provided views on Afghanistan after troop withdrawal in 2014, underlining the need for the international community to assess Kabul's influence on Islamabad. Akbar attended the Halifax International Security Forum in November 2012.

Akbar has written several non-fiction books, including *Byline*, a biography of Jawaharlal Nehru, a book on Kashmir, *Riot After Riot*, and *India: The Siege Within*. He also authored *The Shade of Swords*, a cohesive history of jihad. Akbar's *Blood Brothers*, a family saga covering three generations and packed with information of events in India and the world, particularly the changing Hindu-Muslim relations, is a best-seller in Pakistan and other Islamic countries. He published his latest book *Tinderbox: The past and future of Pakistan*, in January 2012, which discusses the themes of identity crisis and class struggles in Pakistan.

He was associated with the Congress party more than 20 years ago, when he represented Bhagalpur constituency from Bihar in Parliament from 1989 to 1991. In 1991 he joined the government as advisor to the Ministry of Human Resources for one year. In 1993, he returned to journalism and full time writing.

MJ Akbar belongs to a Kashmir-Muslim family and was educated at Presidency College, Kolkata where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English.

He is married and has a son and a daughter.