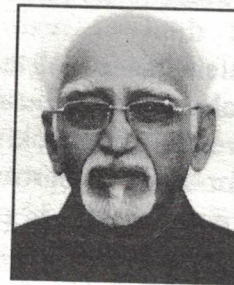


## Prologue

*Mohammad Hamid Ansari*



It is said that personal relations are the important thing for ever and ever, and not this outer life of telegrams and anger. This also holds good for the relationship with neighbours in personal and in societal life. Many decades back a living body was made to undergo surgery at the hands of an eminent 'amputationist'. With time it was amplified by zealots and, what E. M. Forster called, 'officialism'. Thus a normal relationship of newly created neighbours was gradually transmuted into a shapeless entity that goes beyond known cases of war and of cold war. The present state of India-Pakistan relations transcends both. Sanity and good sense urges us to rectify it, build on commonalities and live up to standards of civility and international conduct to which both notionally subscribe.

The writings in the present volume, diligently put together by O. P. Shah, is a commendable effort in this direction. It is my hope that its contents shall reach the reading public in both our countries and contribute to saner thinking and behaviour.

*Hamid Ansari was the Vice-President of India from 2007-2017*