Remarks by High Commissioner at Inauguration of 8th Karachi Literature Festival 2017

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends.

I am delighted to join all of you at this inaugural session of the 8th Karachi Literature Festival. The Festival has grown in size and scope over the past few years and is now an important prestigious event in the cultural life of your beautiful city Karachi. I congratulate the organizers of the Karachi Literature Festival on the great success of this event.

2. I am very happy that several writers and authors from India have been invited to the Festival. They come from all corners of India and hence truly represent my country. I thank the Indian Council for Cultural Relations who readily agreed to sponsor some of this Indian participation. I am sure they will contribute positively to your deliberations and interactions.

- 3. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am told that this year's Karachi Literature Festival commemorates the 70th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence. On such an occasion, perhaps some introspection may not be out of place. India wishes Pakistan well in its nation building process. India wishes to see a stable, moderate and prosperous Pakistan which is at peace with itself, at peace with its neighbours and at peace with the world. India wishes to see a Pakistan which abjures violence and takes strong preventive action against terrorists and extremists. India wishes to see a Pakistan which does not distinguish between good and bad terrorists but instead moves against all such elements irrespective of whom their hatred is directed against.
- 4. Friends, I am confident that over the next 2½ days you will debate and discuss all these and many other issues. I know your deliberations are followed widely and your recommendations carry weight. I extend my best wishes for the success of the 8th Karachi Literature Festival.

Thank you.