

WONDERS OF INDIA

# Gems



## **A note by Dr R K Pachauri**

**I**ndia has made tremendous progress in the last century, with growth in business, industry, and science and technology. But our population has increased at a tremendous rate, and our cities are expanding rapidly into huge concentrations of human activity, often swallowing up forests and other natural spaces.

This series endeavours to acquaint children with India's natural and man-made heritage. We are endowed with a wide variety of flora and fauna and have also inherited beautiful monuments—forts, places of worship, palaces, and tombs—reflecting our glorious and multicultural past. Children, especially in towns and cities, are not very familiar with these. We need to take pride in these wonders around us, and preserve them for future generations. India has also been the birthplace of exceptional individuals—leaders, scientists, poets, and others. These luminaries, or gems, are an inspiration for us.

I hope that by highlighting the rich heritage and natural diversity of India, our youth will make personal and civic choices that are better for families, communities and our natural heritage. Children, being leaders of tomorrow, are ideally placed to create a beautiful, peaceful, and healthy future for the nation.



**R K Pachauri**

Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change