

# The Splendour of Lodi Road



My brush with heritage

Ravi Batra



# An Appreciation



Ravi Batra is an extremely innovative individual, and throughout his association with TERI going back to 1992, has always provided me with pleasant surprises. He is a remarkable combination of someone who has excelled in management of technology and business, writing perfect English, raising laughter through his skills as a cartoonist, and most recently as a painter with enormous talent. His zest for all the good things in life is an example, for all those who know him, to be inspired by. The most significant feature of his skill as an artist is that he is self-taught, which is a genuine reflection of his inborn talent.

This particular book is of great value, because it reveals an important part of Delhi which many of the city's residents generally ignore. Ravi's fascination with monuments is, perhaps, an outcome of his education as an engineer and his highly developed aesthetic sense which is certainly rare and purely native to his talent and intellect. Interestingly, he has not only

painted some of the most wonderful monuments that Delhi can boast of, but he has also carried out a study of the history behind them. This is provided in the following pages of this valuable publication, and possibly also gets reflected in the quality of the paintings themselves. After all, any building or monument is a product of the times, and therefore an understanding of the historical context in which it was constructed, I am sure, sharpens the perceptions of the artist.

As mentioned earlier, Ravi has been associated with TERI since 1992, and it gives me great satisfaction that his talents have continued to grow and find expression. It is a matter of pride for all of us in TERI to surmise that the Institute provides a congenial environment for talent in various fields to grow and flourish. I am sure it would be a matter of joy for the readers of this publication to go through the richness of the following pages.

– Dr R K Pachauri