



PREFACE

The indiscriminate utilisation of natural resources for meeting development demands, rapid industrialisation and unplanned urbanisation are adversely impacting the environment. Dumping of wastes into our rivers and lakes, clearing forest land for cultivation and increased emission of harmful pollutants into the environment have all contributed to degrading our environment. Trends towards environmental degradation can, however, be slowed and even reversed by active governmental interventions. Over the last decade in India, there has been an increase in efforts in the area of conservation of the environment. Funds allocated for environmental programmes have also been increasing.

In this context, this Report for the year ended 31 March 2009 has been prepared for submission to the President under Article 151(1) of the Constitution. Our objective, through this Report, is to create awareness and urgency about conservation and protection of the environment which need to be addressed by the Government. This Report contains audit findings relating to the themes of afforestation, biodiversity, pollution control and environmental education. We have made several recommendations in our Report which would serve as an aid to management in better governance of environment. This Report would also help in sensitising policy makers to look at environmental issues with a holistic approach and address the deficiencies in programmes/schemes/policies so that our environment is conserved more effectively.