

## Preface

Ganga basin is the largest river basin in India constituting 26 *per cent* of the country's land mass and supporting about 43 *per cent* of its population. The River Ganga along with her tributaries has provided material, spiritual and cultural sustenance to millions of people living in the Ganga river basin.

Considering that the river Ganga has a very special place in the collective consciousness of this country, the Government of India approved (May 2015) the Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission namely *Namami Gange* as an umbrella programme with the aim of integrating previous and currently ongoing initiatives for the rejuvenation of the river. The priority is on key activities like pollution abatement, river front development, rural sanitation, biodiversity conservation, restoration of special properties of Ganga, river flow improvement, Ganga Task Force, capacity building, GIS mapping and Ganga Monitoring Centres.

The Performance Audit of the 'Rejuvenation of River Ganga (*Namami Gange*)' examined the adequacy of mechanisms and resources for various schemes for Ganga Rejuvenation, achievement of prescribed milestones, role of various agencies and their effectiveness in review and monitoring for realization of the objective of rejuvenation of the River Ganga as envisaged under *Namami Gange*.

The Performance Audit revealed deficiencies in financial management, planning, implementation and monitoring, which led to delays in achievement of milestones under the programme. There were delays in approval of projects, huge unspent balances under the schemes and other deficiencies, and shortage of human resources, leading to delay in achievement of planned targets. The main objective of Rural Sanitation programme to make all Ganga river basin villages 'Open Defecation Free' could not be achieved. There were shortfalls in forestry interventions for conservation of ecology and biodiversity of the River Ganga. The use of remote sensing data and mobile application was at nascent stage. The monitoring and evaluation was found to be inadequate.

This Report has been prepared for submission to the President of India under Article 151 of the Constitution of India, for being laid before the Parliament.

