

PREFACE

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) had undertaken (2012-13) a Performance Audit of Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiquities and the Report (No. 18 of 2013) containing the findings of the Performance Audit was tabled in Parliament in August 2013. The Performance Audit Report was discussed by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and several recommendations based on concerns raised by Audit were made vide its Reports No. 39 (April 2016) and 118 (December 2018).

This Report of the CAG for the year ended March 2021 is a follow-up of the previous Performance Audit Report (No. 18 of 2013). The Report contain the results of examination of the action taken by the Ministry of Culture/ASI on the areas of concern reported earlier, recommendations made by the PAC and assurance given by the Ministry/ASI. The audit was conducted during November 2020 to March 2021. Auditee units covered during the audit include Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), National Monument Authority, National Culture Fund, National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities and six National level Museums. Seven States *viz.* Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal were selected for examining the monuments, sites and offices of ASI *viz.* Circles, Branch offices, Institute of Archaeology, Site-Museums, Monuments and Excavation sites.

The Report has been prepared for submission to the President of India under Article 151 of the Constitution and the audit was conducted in conformity with the auditing standards issued by the CAG.

