Revised Green India Mission Plan

Mains: *GS-III - Environment, Conservation, Climate Change.*

Why in news?

Recently the Union Government released the Revised Green India Mission (GIM) Plan for 2021-2030.

What is the Green India Mission (GIM)?

- The National Mission for a Green India or GIM is a key component of India's strategy to address climate change.
- **Launch** – 2014
- **Parent framework** – National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
- **Nodal ministry** – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- **Objectives** – It aims to *increase forest and tree cover on 5 million hectares* and to improve quality of forest cover on another 5 million hectares.
- To restore degraded ecosystems and improve livelihoods dependent on forest produce
- To improve various ecosystem services, including water availability, biomass production, and biodiversity, alongside carbon sequestration.
- Emphasizes on active participation of local communities in planning, decision-making, implementation, and monitoring of the mission's activities.

What are the Key Features of the Revised GIM Plan?

- **Revised Green India Mission (GIM)** – It is a ***10-year plan*** focused on increasing of forest and tree cover, restoration of ecosystem, improving ecosystem services, and enhancing the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.
- **Mission duration** – *2021-2030* (unveiled in June 2025).
- **Micro-ecosystem approach –** It will be done by region-specific approach, planting native species, soil and moisture conservation.
- It focuses on the vulnerable landscapes such as,
    - The Aravalli Mountain range
    - The Western Ghats
    - The Indian Himalayan region
    - Mangrove ecosystems
    - Arid regions of North-West India
- **Integration with other initiatives** – Restoration efforts will be coordinated with, State governments, for localized implementation.
- It is implemented in synergy with other national initiatives like the National Action

Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and Aravalli Green Wall Project.

- **Carbon sink target** – The plan targets to achieve an additional *3.39 billion tonnes of carbon sink* through restoration activities by 2030.
- This will require an increase in forest and tree cover over an estimated 24.7 million hectares.
- **Native species plantation –** Preference is given to native tree species with high carbon sequestration and ecological value.
- It also *avoids monoculture or non-native species* that may harm biodiversity.
- **Integration for forest-dependent communities –** The plan emphasizes improving livelihoods for communities dependent on forests through,
    - Sustainable use of forest produce.
    - Eco-tourism and conservation-linked livelihoods.
    - Participatory forest management.
- **Scientific mapping & planning** – Visualization and Accurate collection of geospatial data and *ecological vulnerability mapping* enabling the creation of *detailed forest maps* to,
    - Identify suitable areas for national and international projects,
    - Afforestation programs and Restoration of degraded open forests,
    - Agroforestry and
    - Plantation along railways

What is the Need for the Revised Plan?

- **India's forest cover growth remains sluggish** – Net Forest cover increased by only 156.41 sq. km as per 18th India State of Forest Report 2023.
- **Limited progress under earlier plan –** The progress was slow and scattered, with only about **11.22 million hectares** covered under plantations till 2020-21.
- **Degradation of critical ecosystems** – India State of Forest Report 2023, highlighted worrying trends that,
    - Western Ghats faces Illegal mining, deforestation, pollution, habitat loss.
    - Aravallis faces desertification, soil erosion, biodiversity loss.
    - Mangroves faces coastal degradation, rising vulnerability to cyclones.
    - Himalayas faces landslides, glacial retreat, habitat fragmentation.
- **India's global commitments** – India has made an ambitious commitment *to restore 26 million hectares* of degraded land by 2030 in UN Desertification Summit in Riyadh.
- **Address gap in monitoring & implementation –** Previous phases of GIM lacked robust data integration, monitoring mechanisms, and scientific assessments.
- **Landscape-specific solutions –** Vulnerable ecosystems require *region-specific restoration strategies*, rather than a one-size-fits-all plantation model.

What lies ahead?

- Strong coordination between the Centre, State governments, and local communities.
- Mobilising funds from private sector and international climate finance mechanisms.
- Innovative mechanisms like carbon credits and payment for ecosystem services.
- Adoption of Best Practices and Technology from global restoration success stories and adopting nature-based solutions can be critical.

- Public disclosure of restoration progress to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

References

1. The Indian Express | Green India Mission
2. The Indian Express | Revised Green India Mission plan