

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](#)

