

Green India Mission

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Why is in news? India is lagging behind in the targets to increase the number and quality of tree- and forest-cover plantations set in the Green India Mission

The National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is **one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.**

It was **launched in February, 2014** with the objective to safeguard the biological resources of our nation and associated livelihoods against the peril of adverse climate change and to recognise the vital impact of forestry on ecological sustainability, biodiversity conservation and food-, water- and livelihood-security.

It aims at **protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover** and responding to climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures.

The target under the Mission is **10 m ha on forest and non-forest lands** for increasing the forest/tree cover and to improve the quality of existing forest.

It envisages a **holistic view of greening that extends beyond tree planting**. GIM focusses on multiple ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, biomass, preserving mangroves, wetlands, critical habitats etc. along with carbon sequestration.

The Mission would strive for **enhancing carbon sinks** in sustainably managed forests and other ecosystems, adaptation of vulnerable species/ecosystems to the changing climate and adaptation of forest-dependent communities.

The goals include increased forest/tree cover and improved quality of forest cover in millions ofhectares of forest/non-forest lands, improved ecosystem services including biodiversity, carbon sequestration and hydrological services along with provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non-timber forest produces and increased forest-based livelihood income of households living in and around forests.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge of communities, along with forestry science and state-of-the-art technology would improve the Mission interventions.

GIM also aims at convergence with complementary schemes and programmes for better coordination in developing forests and their fringe areas in a holistic and sustainable way, which is required to address the challenges being faced in environment, forest and wildlife sectors