

India's Green India Mission Revised: Forest Revival and Climate Goals Aligned

June 20, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Revised Green India Mission Latest News

- The Centre released a revised roadmap for the **National Mission for Green India (GIM)**.
- The updated plan emphasizes not just increasing and restoring forest and green cover, but also focuses on **ecological restoration in critical regions** such as the **Aravalli ranges, Western Ghats, Himalayas, and mangroves**.
- As a key part of India's climate action strategy, the revised GIM will also **address land degradation and desertification**, expanding its role in building environmental resilience.

Achievements of the Green India Mission (GIM)

- **Background**
 - Launched in **2014** under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**, the Green India Mission aims to:

- Increase forest and tree cover on **5 million hectares**
- Improve the quality of forest cover on **another 5 million hectares**
- Restore degraded ecosystems and enhance **livelihoods of forest-dependent communities**
- **Afforestation Progress**
 - From 2015-16 to 2020-21, the mission supported tree plantation and afforestation across 11.22 million hectares through various central and state schemes.
- **Funding and Utilisation**
 - Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the Centre allocated ₹624.71 crore to 18 states for GIM-related interventions, of which ₹575.55 crore has been utilised.
- **Targeted Implementation**
 - GIM activities are prioritized in states based on:
 - Ecological vulnerability
 - Carbon sequestration potential
 - Forest and land degradation levels
 - Restoration potential

Revised Green India Mission: Key Highlights

- **Need for Revision**
 - The **Green India Mission (GIM)** roadmap has been revised based on:
 - Ground-level climate impacts
 - Feedback from implementing partner states
 - Recommendations from scientific institutions
 - The updated plan adopts a **region-specific, ecologically tailored approach**.
- **Focus on Vulnerable Landscapes**
 - The revised mission prioritizes **restoration and saturation of vulnerable landscapes**, including:
 - Aravalli ranges
 - Western Ghats
 - Indian Himalayas
 - Mangrove ecosystems
 - Best practices will be adapted to local ecological conditions for effective restoration.
- **Integration with Aravalli Green Wall Project**
 - GIM will align with the Centre's **Aravalli Green Wall Project** to:
 - Combat degradation and desertification
 - Close 12 ecological gaps contributing to **dust storms in Delhi-NCR and Punjab**
 - Initially restore **8 lakh hectares across 29 districts and 4 states**
 - Use **native plant species**, restore **grasslands, forests, and water systems**

- Estimated cost: **₹16,053 crore**
- Aim: Create a **5-km buffer zone** covering **6.45 million hectares**
- **Action in the Western Ghats**
 - In the **Western Ghats**, GIM will focus on: Afforestation efforts; Groundwater recharge; Eco-restoration of abandoned mining zones.
 - This is in response to threats from deforestation, degradation, and illegal mining.
- The revised roadmap reflects a **strategic, region-sensitive approach to ecological restoration and climate resilience**.

Revised Green India Mission: Strategy to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification

- **Scale of the Challenge**
 - According to ISRO's **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas**, about **97.85 million hectares** (one-third of India's land) faced degradation in **2018-19**.
- **National Climate Commitment**
 - India has pledged to:
 - Create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ by 2030 through increased forest and tree cover
 - Restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 under its international climate commitments (UNFCCC)
- **Role of Natural Ecosystems**
 - Natural carbon sinks—**forests, wetlands, grasslands, and mountain ecologies**—will help:
 - Absorb greenhouse gas emissions
 - Act as **natural buffers** against the impacts of climate change
- **Contributions So Far**
 - Between **2005 and 2021**, India created an **additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes** of CO₂ equivalent, as per a statement in the Lok Sabha.
- **Focus on Restoring Open Forests**
 - The revised GIM identifies **impaired open forests** as key areas for restoration:
 - Cost-effective and high-impact for carbon sequestration
 - Forest Survey of India (FSI) estimates this strategy alone could sequester 1.89 billion tonnes of CO₂ across 15 million hectares.
- **Target for Expanded Tree Cover**
 - By integrating ongoing schemes and boosting afforestation:
 - GIM could expand **forest and tree cover to 24.7 million hectares**
 - This could generate a carbon sink of **3.39 billion tonnes CO₂** by **2030**, exceeding India's climate targets
- In essence, the **revised GIM aligns ecological restoration with India's climate goals**, making forests a cornerstone in the fight against land degradation and global warming.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/indias-green-india-mission-revised-forest-revival-and-climate-goals-aligned/>

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