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AUDIT REPORT ON GREEN INDIA MISSION TABLED

C&AG's Performance Audit Report No. 4 of 2026 on Green India Mission (Union Government: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) was tabled in the Parliament here on 12th August 2026.

The Performance Audit on Green India Mission (GIM) examined the planning, implementation and monitoring of the GIM interventions in 16 States and Union Territories for which physical and financial targets were approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, during the period 2015-16 to 2024-25. The broad objectives under the Mission were to increase forest/tree cover, improve the quality of forest/non-forest lands, improve ecosystem services, including biodiversity, hydrological services and carbon sequestration because of forest land/non-forest land and to increase forest-based livelihood income of households living in and around forests.

Key Audit Findings

The absence of convergence, central to the implementation strategy of the Green India Mission (GIM), was evident across all institutional levels. GIM activities lacked effective alignment with CAMPA, MGNREGS and other Central or State afforestation initiatives. This lack of coordination, alongside the operation of schemes like Nagar Van Yojana and School Nursery Yojana in silos and the non-receipt of collative Annual Plans of Operation (APOs), undermined potential synergistic outcomes. Furthermore, the envisaged bottom-up approach was not adhered to in both area identification and physical target assignment, leading to non-achievement of Mission goals. Despite vulnerability being a key criterion, landscapes with low to moderate priority were selected over those more vulnerable to climate change, indicating non-prioritisation of vulnerable landscapes.

Financial management remained a significant hurdle, as only six out of 68 sampled APOs were received by the Ministry before the start of the financial year and none were approved on time. The lack of convergence led to non-attainment in securing ₹10,600 crore in proposed funding support. Further, against an outlay of ₹2,000 crore approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs from the 12th Plan for the initial four years of the Scheme alongwith ₹400 crore from 13th Finance Commission grants towards states share, only ₹1,149.14 crore (47.88 *per cent*), was received through budgetary support during 10 years of implementation (2015-16 to 2024-25). Internal controls were also weak, as eight States/UT did not maintain Annual

Accounts and where accounts were prepared, they often remained unaudited or showed discrepancies against subsidiary records.

That the Mission implementation was hindered by these budgetary constraints is reflected in the non-achievement of forest cover targets. As against the target of 1.4 mha, improvement of forest cover quality was observed in only 0.11384 mha (91.87 *per cent* shortfall). Similarly, an increase in forest cover was observed in only 0.03409 mha as against the target of 1.4 mha (97.57 *per cent* shortfall). Furthermore, no State, except Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, conducted any assessment of carbon sequestration during 2015–2025. Improper planning on the part of ICFRE regarding maintenance and the upkeep of the flux towers installed in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh led to idling of the infrastructure built for quantification of carbon sequestration despite incurring an expenditure of ₹3.50 crore.

Monitoring was deficient at most prescribed levels, with 14 States failing to provide required public web-links for transparency. Audit evaluations revealed inflated data, overstated achievements due to non-validated KML files and GIS analysis showing that 70 *per cent* of sampled sites had no noticeable changes attributable to GIM.

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