



ADAPTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE - GS I AND III MAINS

Q. The government needs to adopt a Mission Adaptation to create a supportive ecosystem for all entities to come together and work towards developing locally-sound adaptation solutions. Discuss (10 marks, 150 words)

News: *Spending on adaptation to climate change 5.6% of GDP: India puts on record*

What's in the news?

- The budget for 2023-24 in India includes some measures towards climate change mitigation, but adaptation has not been given adequate attention.
- The government needs to adopt a Mission Adaptation to create a supportive ecosystem for all entities to come together and work towards developing locally-sound adaptation solutions.

Climate Change Mitigation Measures:

1. Allocation for green transition:

- The budget for 2023-24 in India has allocated funds towards climate change mitigation, with a focus on green growth initiatives targeted at reducing the carbon intensity of the economy such as green mobility, energy efficiency, and the green hydrogen mission announcement.

2. Promoting nature based initiatives:

- Nature-based solutions such as the mangrove plantation initiative and the community-based wetland conservation scheme also promise to have potentially positive impacts in mitigating climate change.

Lack of Attention to Climate Change Adaptation:

1. Climate change is addressed indirectly:

- While climate change mitigation has received attention in the budget, climate change adaptation has been addressed only indirectly.

2. No measures towards enhancing resilience:

- The budget does not include measures towards enhancing the resilience of communities and habitations to climate change's impact, despite India's high vulnerability to climate change
- For instance: Measures to account for climate change-induced risks, such as the recent example of Joshimath, do not find explicit mention in the budget.

3. Funding for Adaptation:



- Adaptation has traditionally received far less attention than mitigation in the global climate discourse, resulting in lower funding for adaptation.
- In India, the ratio of funding for climate adaptation to mitigation stands at 1:10. While funding for mitigation is also underfunded, with only 25% of the requirement met, the gap for adaptation stands much higher, at only 7.9% of the needed funds.

Challenges in Funding Adaptation:

1. Adapting to climate change often requires highly local and nature-based solutions that do not have a classically-measured solution. Consequently, mainstream, interest-seeking capital flowing into adaptation is scant.

2. Climate adaptation has largely remained a publicly-funded endeavour in India, with nearly 100% of the funding for adaptation coming from public sources. International funding has also remained scarce due to the skewed discourse on climate change.

Need for a Strategic Investment:

1. Climate shocks are anticipated to get more frequent and severe, and in the absence of resilience-building for communities and habitations, the impact could be devastating.

2. The public sector must view **resilience building** as a strategic priority and actively address this matter.

3. Climate adaptation must come to be seen as a strategic investment by the public sector, which it must make in order to climate-proof lives, livelihoods, the environment, and the economy.

4. Mission Adaptation:

- Mission Adaptation is a term used in the context of climate change and refers to the need for a strategic, proactive approach to building adaptive capacity in order to climate-proof lives, livelihoods, the environment and the economy.
- It is a proposed initiative for creating a supportive ecosystem for all entities, including the private sector, non-profits, and civil society, to come together and work towards developing and scaling up locally-sound adaptation solutions in India.

5. The idea is to view climate adaptation as a strategic investment by the **public sector** and to bridge complex challenges faced by society today using the idea of public purpose to guide policy and business activity.

Given the increasing frequency at which climate-related stress is occurring and is expected to occur, the public sector will remain a crucial contributor to funding for climate adaptation.