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Q6(c)

Has reduction of green cover affected ecological degradation leading to global warming? Elaborate your answer with illustration

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society
Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Has reduction of green cover affected ecological degradation leading to global warming? Elaborate your answer with illustration
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Forest and canopy loss releases carbon and heats localities.

Mines, dams and cities are Indian illustrations.

Adivasi commons and hill farms suffer degradation first.

Fossil fuels remain the larger global driver.

Plantation statistics can mask real ecological loss.

Introduction

Yes. Loss of green cover degrades local ecology and adds to warming by releasing stored carbon and reducing cooling shade and moisture. India illustrates this in forests, coasts, and cities.

Body

The chain

- Trees and soils store carbon. Clearing for mines, dams, and cities releases it and cuts future uptake.
- **Degradation is also local:** erosion, hotter micro-climates, lost commons for Adivasi and pastoral groups.

Illustrations

- **Western Ghats and Himalayan slopes:** road and hydropower cuts raise landslide and flood risk, which hill farmers pay for.
- **Central Indian mining belts:** forest loss is tribal displacement plus a carbon and biodiversity hit.
- Urban heat islands where canopy is replaced by asphalt show warming as a lived class fact: slums cook, gated parks stay cooler.

Limit of the claim

- Green cover is not the only driver of global warming; fossil fuels dominate.
- Plantation numbers can hide real forest quality, so 'green' on paper may not cool.

Flow diagram

Green cover loss -> Carbon heat erosion
Carbon heat erosion -> Adds to warming
Fossil fuels -> Adds to warming

Conclusion

Reduction of living green cover has degraded ecology and contributed to warming, especially as a local and national carbon and heat story. India's mines, hills, and cities illustrate that tree loss is a social as well as a climate event.

Facts & figures**Carbon stock**

Living biomass and soil that clearing turns into emissions.

Urban heat island

Built surfaces without canopy that raise city temperatures.

Mining forests

Central India where green-cover loss is displacement plus emissions.

Himalayan slopes

Deforestation and cuts that worsen disaster for hill agrarian life.