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The paper highlights the ill-effects of human interference on the vegetation of the Western Himalayas. Impacts of forest management practices, overgrazing, surface mining, defence and development operations, and road building activities are severe and have created an alarming situation for soil and water conservation in the region. Increased soil loss and runoff pose a threat to various reservoirs built for various uses and have increased hazards of erosion and floods in the Indus and Ganga basins.