

1) Bring out the causes for more frequent occurrence of landslides in the Himalayas than in the Western Ghats. (150 words) 10 marks

Ans) Landslides are **mass movement** of soil, rocks and debris which occur in areas of steep slopes, heavy rainfall and snowfall .

They occur in the **Himalayas more frequently** due to :

1. **Physiographic conditions:** Himalayas have steep slope (average height 6000m) whereas Western Ghats average elevation is only 1200m due to erosion by **exogenic forces**.
2. **Instability of the Himalayas:** Movement of Indian Plate 5-10 cm per year northward towards Eurasian Plate causes Earthquakes in the Himalayan region increasing scope of landslides .On the other hand Western Ghats are located on **stable deccan plateau**.
3. **Climatic Conditions:** Perennial Rivers in Himalayan region carry huge amount of silt and debris causing landslides. Water flow is seasonal in rivers of Western Ghats.
4. **Human Activities:** like unplanned construction of houses, hotels and lodges for tourism are more in Himalayan Region compared to Western Ghats.
5. **Natural Hazards** : like cloud bursts and flash floods which cause landslides are also more frequent in Himalayas. Eg Uttarakhand flash floods.

Anthropogenic activities like **rapid urbanisation** and **deforestation** are putting more pressure on the Himalayan Ecosystem leading to greater **frequency** and **intensity** of hazards.