

Fertile agricultural land in the northern parts of Doon Valley. On the left is seen land damaged by debris flow along the riverbed. In the background is seen degradation of a hillslope by a road under construction.

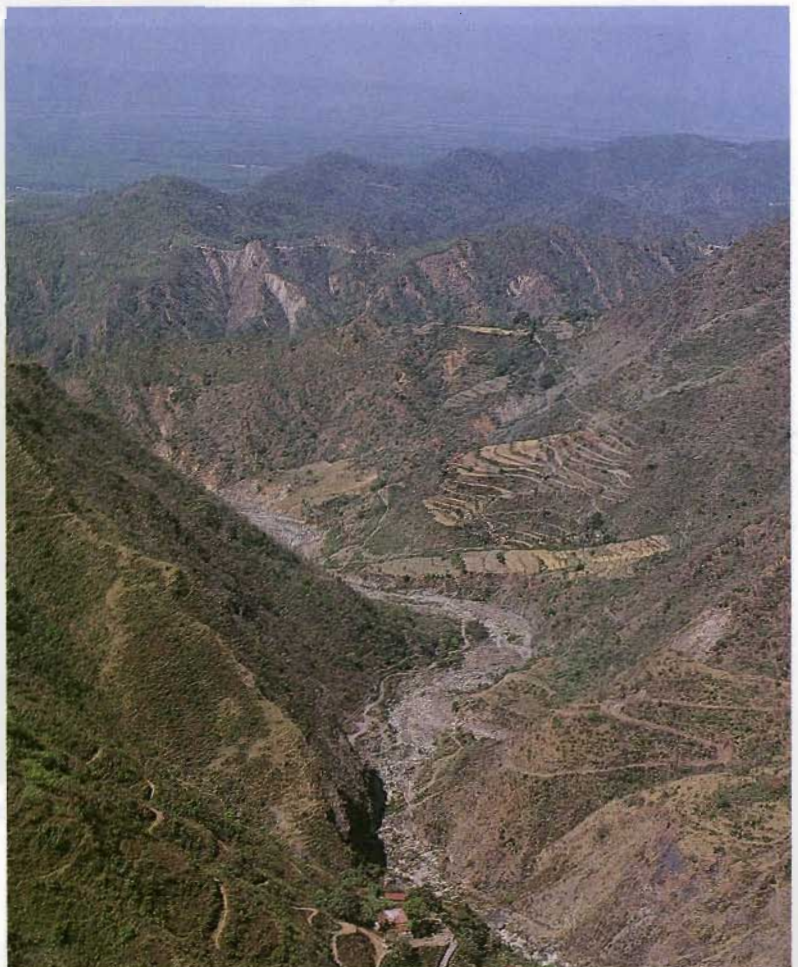


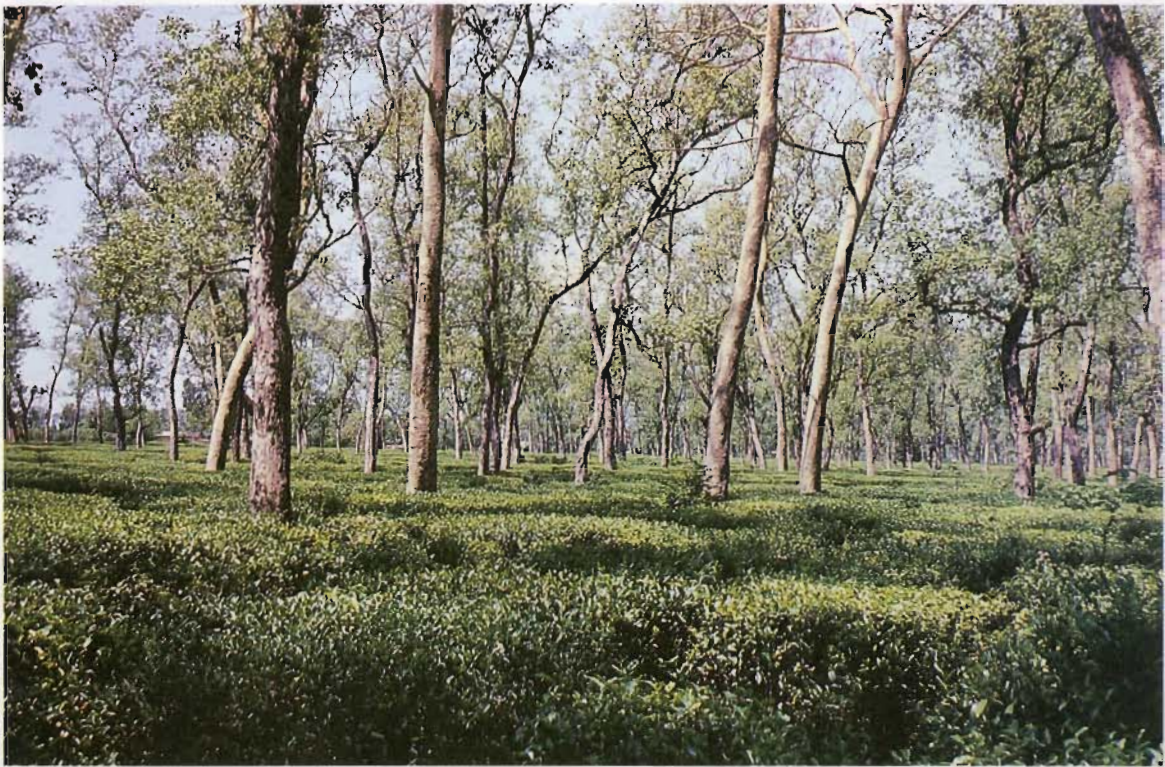
Fertile agricultural land in the southern part of Doon Valley. In the background is the rich vegetation cover of the Rajaji National Park bordering the farmland.



Nature of forest utilisation in Doon has changed from largescale production of timber by the forest department to large scale collection of fuelwood by the poor for the urban market.

Degraded landscape on the southern slope of the Mussoorie hill damaged by overlopping and overgrazing. The first hydel station in the valley, built by the British at Bhatta, is seen in the foreground.

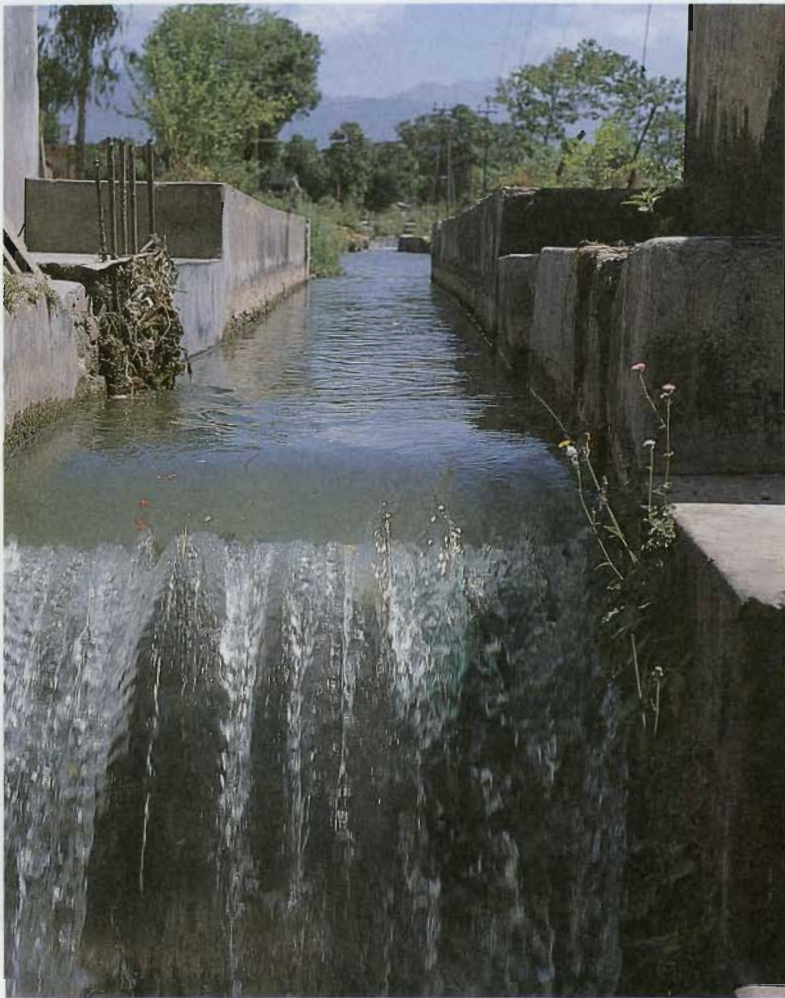




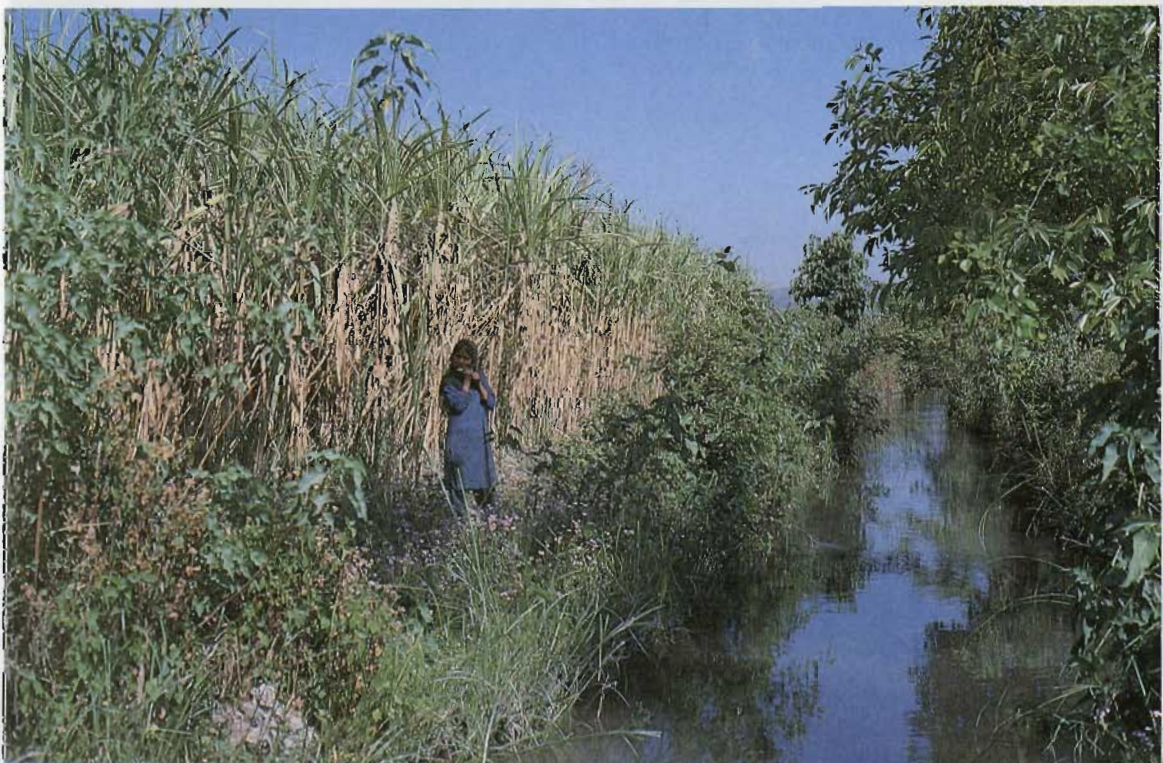
Among the first large scale transformations in land use introduced by the British in the valley was the growth of tea gardens.



Tea bushes for the cattle! Environmental degradation and urban demand for land are probably the most important reasons behind the decay of the one time flourishing tea-economy in the Doon Valley.



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production of timber by the forest department.
Tapping the mountain streams at the foot of
the Mussoorie hill and transporting the water
long distances by stone-lined masonry canals
was the making of the Doon economy.



The availability of canal irrigation encouraged cash crops such as sugarcane in the lower parts of the valley.



The mountain hydrogeology of the Doon is such that once the streams emerge from the hills they flow below the gravelly riverbeds making surface water scarce for most parts of the year.



The groundwater then re-emerges from underground, forming large pools at the lowest parts of the valley, creating main drainage flows like Asan, Song etc.



The accumulative impact of limestone quarries on the private agricultural land, village pastures, and water channels was the most significant reason behind rural protests against limestone quarrying in Doon Valley. The photograph shows debris accumulation on the bed of Jud Khala, a small stream emerging from the Mussoorie hill.



The urban water supply of Dehradun during the monsoon months is maintained at heavy cost because of the constant need to divert the debris away from the main intake point. Any delay in doing so will "choke" the whole water supply system causing heavy losses.



The members of the Ecological Taskforce of the Government of India have taken up the challenge of greening the areas of the Mussoorie hills damaged by quarrying, with a fair degree of success, providing new ideas in afforestation.



Industrial growth based on local mineral resources created a serious air-pollution problem threatening the flourishing agro-horticulture of Doon Valley and drawing heavy public protests.



The growth of industries also caused serious pollution of water resources. The photograph shows a notice from the forest department cautioning anyone against bathing in the small rivulet which is highly polluted.

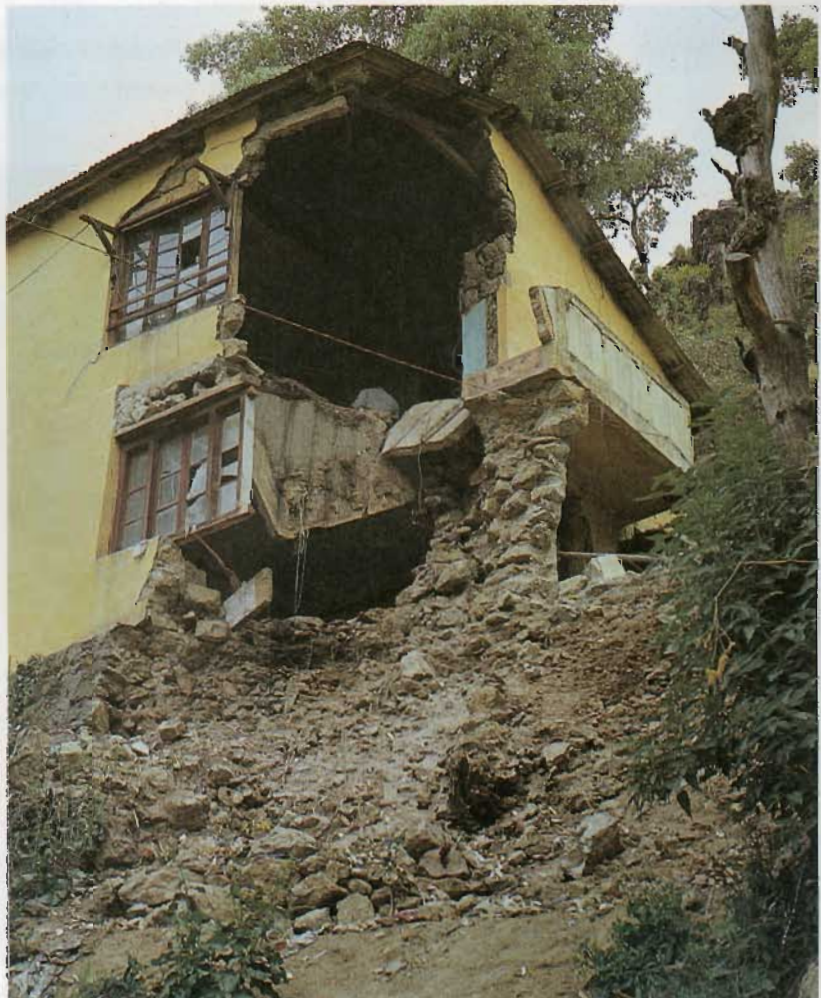


The internal environment of the one-time picturesque town of Dehradun rapidly degenerated because of industrial growth, leading to insanitary living conditions and urban decay.



Environmental degradation in Mussoorie was generated mainly by the huge rush of tourists and their need for accommodation.

Photo credit: The Government of India
The National Repository of Environmental Photographs



House collapses, like this one, may soon become very common in Mussoorie as a result of landslip