



---

**Global Warming and Climate Change an Overview :  
Alarmism or Skepticism**



**Vishal Kumar**

Assistant Professor in Geography

Govt. College Sarkaghat Distt. Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)

E-mail: [vt220101@gmail.com](mailto:vt220101@gmail.com)

---

**ABSTRACT**

*Global warming refers to the increase in the earth's average surface temperature since the Industrial Revolution, primarily due to the emission of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels and land use change. Global surface temperature has increased by about  $0.74 \pm 0.18$  °C ( $1.33 \pm 0.32$  °F) between the start and the end of the 20th century. The rate of warming over the last half of that period was almost double than that for the period as a whole may resulting in melting of ice caps and glaciers, leading to rise in sea level, destruction of habitats of various species of polar bears, penguins and seals among many others, disturbed climate pattern – erratic monsoon activity, extreme weather : hotter summers and colder winters, increased chances of natural disasters like cyclones, tornados and hurricanes. Climate change refers to the long-term change of the earth's climate including changes in temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns over a period of several*

*decades or longer. Between 1970 and 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 70 % and it puts threat to geographical shift, change in timing of different biological events, agricultural impacts, continuous deforestation, More consumption in energy use and poisoning of mother earth, increasing its temperature regularly. Many new things should be adopted to cope with global warming such as mitigation to reduce further emissions, geo-engineering to reverse global warming, signed and strictly follow Kyoto Protocol aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, planting more trees – adequate afforestation, awareness among the common people, deforestation, adopting carbon diet. There is only one wise conclusion to the whole climate change debate – prevention is better than cure. Scientific findings surrounding global warming have resulted in political and economic debate. Some scientists claim that there is no scientific proof that greenhouse gases lead to global warming and that the popular belief is fueled for political and economic gains. They also claim that there was six times as much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere 100 million years ago than present times. Stopping social and economical development is not the answer, the answer lies in Sustainable Development – Development that meets the needs of present generation without compromising on the ability of future generations to meet their needs.*