

# University of Delhi - Open Book Examination (Semester Examination)

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ANSWER 4 :• Speech about Chipko Movement / Andolan

A very good morning to one and all Present here. We live in a world where our environment needs to be protected and conserved. This has not been a sudden downfall of our planet, rather it has been our long struggle to protect the environment from the selfish deeds we humans have engaged into. The chipko movement has been one such struggle, a movement to protect nature in its true and we still draw inspiration from it in our long endeavour to protect nature to intertwine the quality of life on this planet intact.

→ The chipko movement / andolan, a forest conservation movement, began in 1973 in Uttarakhand and went on to become a rallying point for many future environmental movements all over the world.

→ The capacity of local women to band themselves together in the foothills of Himalayas comprehended that it was the deforestation that prompted floods and devaluation in the villages and in the gangetic fields below.



They likewise valued that replacement of oak and other broad leaved hardwoods of the Himalayas by planting quickly developing pine for timber and resin was a natural and social fiasco which decreased the forest resources utilized by traditional hill communities.

### → Importance of Forests :

- It produces mass amounts of oxygen as a by product of photosynthesis.
- While photosynthesis, trees also absorb  $\text{CO}_2$  from the air.
- Also prevents soil erosion and keep soil pollution in check. Deforestation, in fact leads to soil erosion on a large scale as the topsoil comes loose.
- Forest also plays important part in the water cycle and control moisture levels of our ecosystem.
- It is the natural home and habitat for millions of species of animals, birds and insects.

### → Ways to Conserve the Forest

- Control Deforestation
- Protect or avoid against Forest Fires



- Afforestation
- Better Farming Practices
- Awareness among general public

### → Protection of Forest with respect to Chipko Movement

It was nonviolent social and ecological movement by rural villagers, particularly women, in India in the 1970s, aimed at protecting trees and forest.

The rural villagers depended heavily on the forests for subsistence both directly i.e. food and fuel, and indirectly, i.e. water purification and soil stabilization.

### → Role of Local communities

- The first chipko movement protest occurred near the village of Mandal in the upper Alaknanda valley in April 1973. The villagers, having been denied access to a small number of trees with which to build agricultural tools, were outraged when the govt. allotted a much larger plot to a sporting goods manufacturer.
- Chipko was started by Rajasthan's Bishnoi community. Both male and females activists did play pivotal role in the movement.



## → Women Empowerment :

Chipko is a movement primarily begun and supported by local women in the hills of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, where the women have had to bear the brunt of deforestation.

Gaura Devi, Suresha Devi, Bachni Devi, Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Sundar Bahuguna were the main role in the movement.

Women around the world have played a vital role in creating networks with regards to critical issues and drawing public at it.

## → Relevance of Chipko movement :

- Spread to many states in the country
- Stopped felling of trees in western ghats
- Generated pressure for formulation of a natural resource policy
- Saved more than 1 lakh tree from excavation
- Began the environmental awareness in India