

Class-13

Environmental Movements

2nd November 2023

Bishnoi- the ecological stewards

The Bishnois of Rajasthan



Founding Guru: Jambhoji (16th cent.)

Rules: Not to cut trees

Be compassionate to all living beings

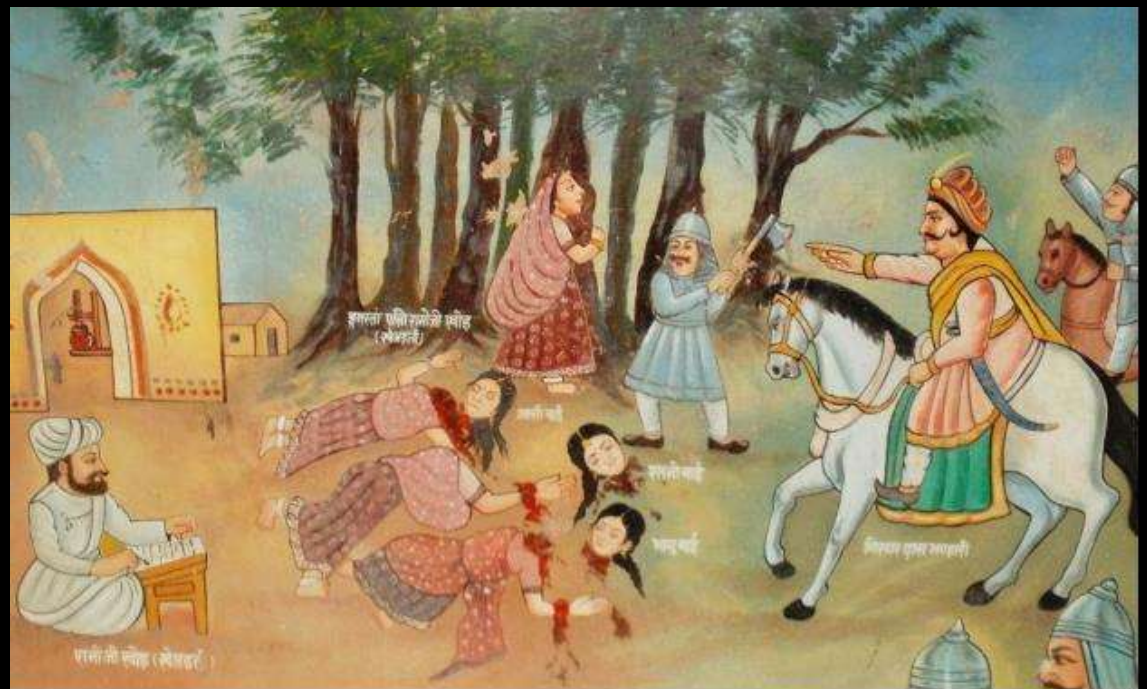


Khejri Trees





Khejarli Massacre (1730)



Khejarli Massacre (1730)



Khejarli Massacre (1730)



<http://www.bishnoism.com/thefirst.php>

The Chipko Movement



Government's decision to allot forest trees to a sports goods company.

The local residents in Gopeshwar were denied the similar demand of getting few trees, required for making farm tools.

Mr. Chandi Prasad Bhatt of 'Dasoli Gram Swarajya Sangh' (DGSS) wanted to establish small industries using forest resources, with an aim to provide job opportunities to local youth and check migration.



Chandi Prasad Bhatt



Founder of Chipko movement.

Organized rallies to protect the forest from mass destruction.

“Let them know we will not allow the felling of a single tree. When their men raise their axes, we will embrace the trees to protect them.”

Gaura Devi (an elderly woman)

Head of the village Mahila Mangal Dal.

Mobilized village women for the movement when company men marched to cut the trees.

Gaura Devi stood on way and declared:

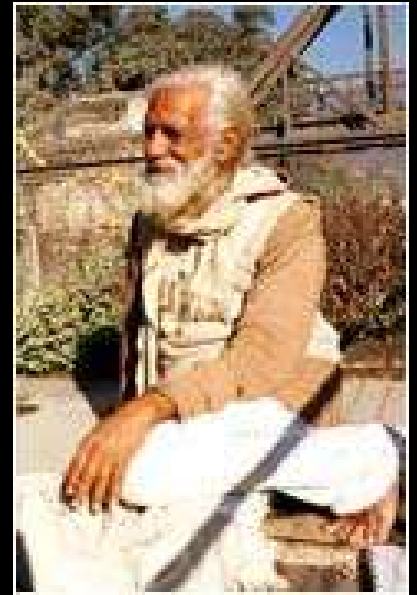
“The forest nurtures us like a mother; you will only be able to use your axes on it but you have to use them first on us”.



The spreading of movement

*Sunder Lal Bahuguna (Environmentalist)
Enlightened the country and out world about
the movement, its success and environmental
impact.*

*Padmabhushan winner for his contribution in
the movement.*



Sarla Bahen from Lakshmi Ashram

Women groups

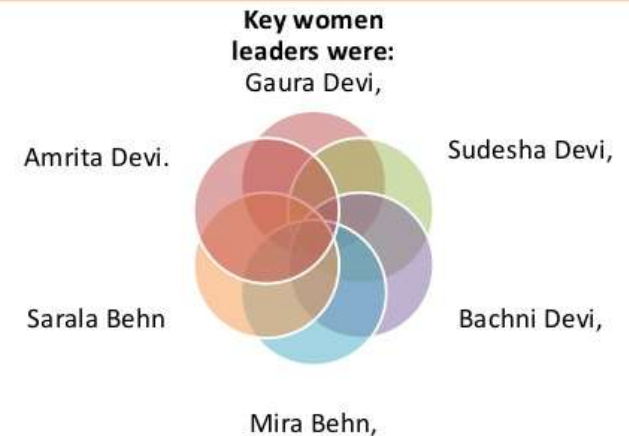
*the Uttarakahand Sangharsh Vahini (USV)
took part in different rallies and gatherings*

highlighted the importance of trees in the life of human beings.

active in protecting the forests from auctions for commercial cuttings

'ecology is permanent economy'.

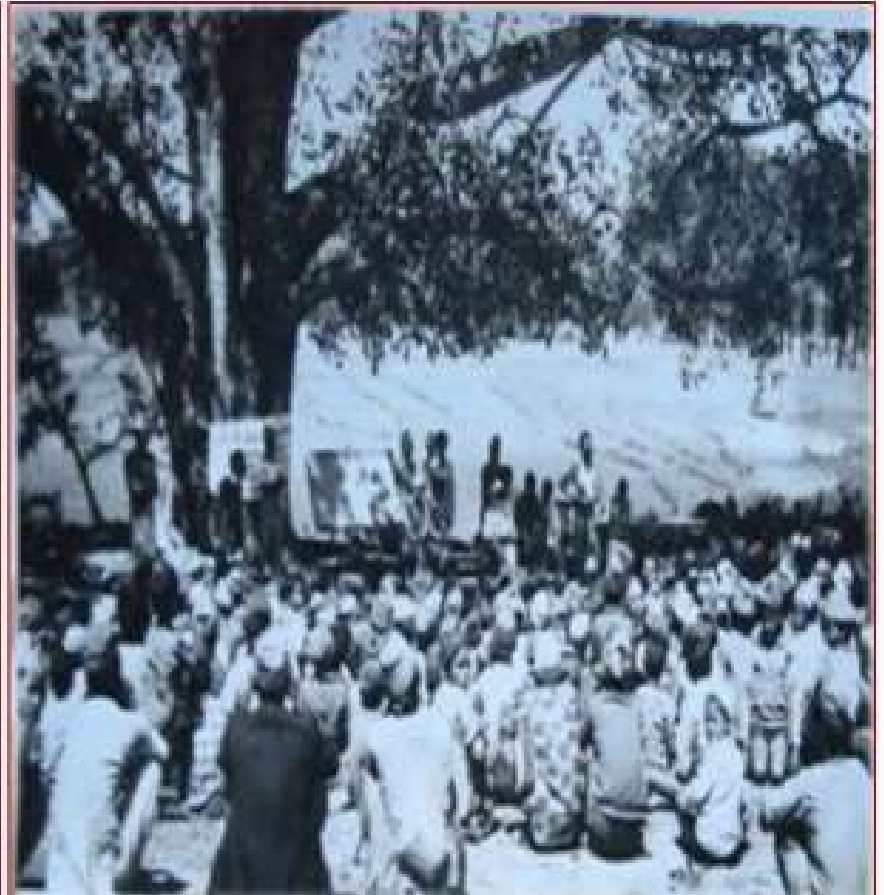
Women's Participation



Foot March for Chipko Movement



Meeting for Chipko Movement



Appiko movement

*Background (Husri village-
1969 -900 acres forest cleared)*

Started in 1983

Discussed with forest official

Visiting of forest official

Problems with contractors



Objectives of Appiko

Preservation

Restoration (5F's)

Rational Use

Impact of Appiko

(Kodagu)



Pandurang Hegde

Save Silent Valley Movement



The Kunthipuzha River

1970: the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) (submergence of 8.3 sq km of moist EG forest)

1971 – 72: Steven Green -Rom Whitaker (BNHS)

February 1973: The Planning Commission approves project

October 1976: National Committee on Environment Planning and Coordination - sets up a task force, chaired by Zafar Futehally (loophole)

1977: Sathish Chandran Nair visits Silent Valley (Vijayan – Environmentalist -Morarji Desai)

June 1979: Kerala begins the project in earnest

August 1979: N.V. Krishna- get a stay order from the High Court of Kerala (Charan Singh reinvestigate)

January 1980: the High Court rejects the writ plea – Governor interference

January 1981: Bowing to unrelenting public pressure, Indira Gandhi declares that Silent Valley will be protected

November 1983: the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project is called off.

1985: Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi formally inaugurated Silent Valley National Park

Kali Bachao Andolan



*The river is 184 kms. long – flow- Arabian Sea.
There are 6 major hydroelectric dams that have
submerged over 32,000 acres of the rich forests
of Uttara Kannada*

*A 7th dam has been proposed now -it will
submerge another 210 hectares of forest area*

In addition: Pollution from Dandeli paper factory+ Sand mining

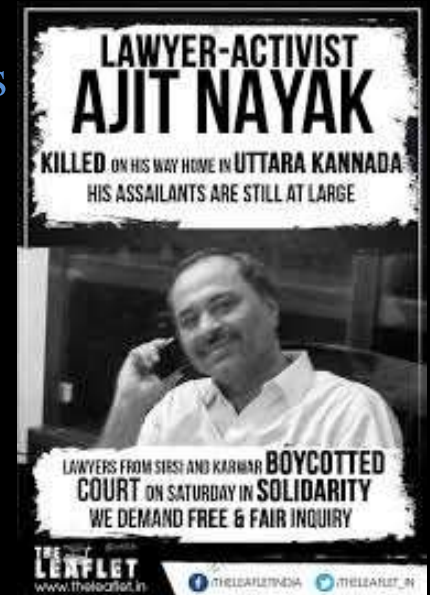


Rejected on 2 grounds

1. Govt. notification (EIA-TERI)
2. Cost incurred



*Andolan opposes
expansion of Dandeli
paper factory---
Panduranga Hegde*



Friday, July 27, 2018.
58 years old

<http://www.esgindia.org/campaigns/press/kali-bachao-andolan.html>

Narmada Bachao Andolan

Conceived in the mid-1960s under Nehru
Building postponed due to disagreement
between three states impacted by project:

Madhya Pradesh
Gujarat
Maharashtra

Scope of the project
Factors behind NBA
challenges

Developments in 1990s

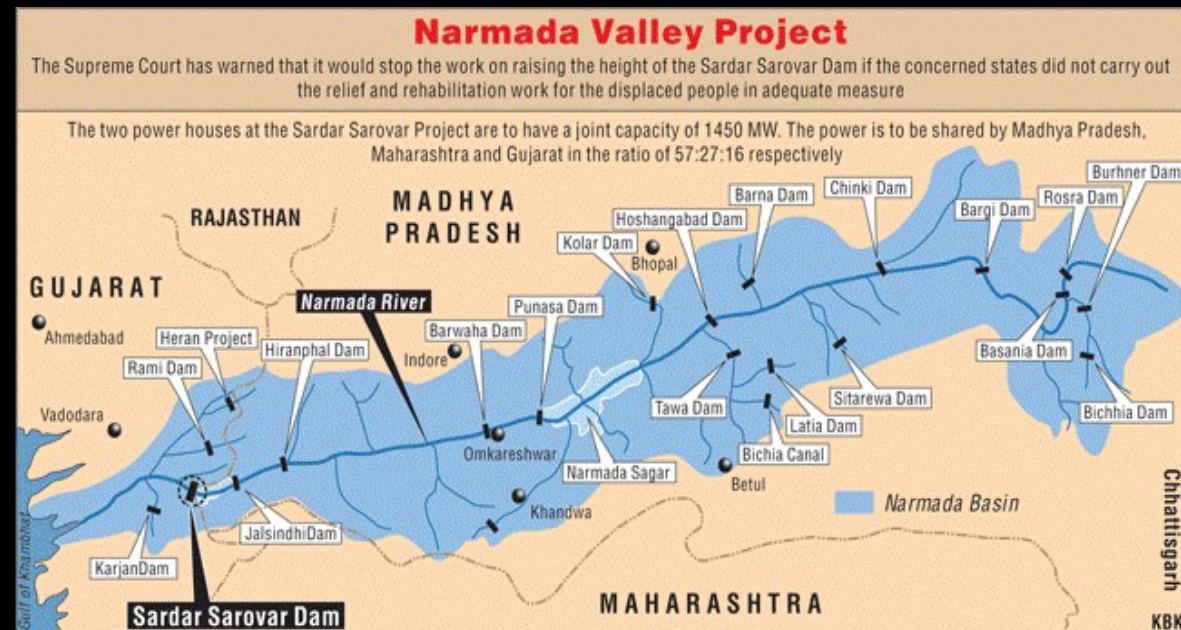
Govt. Response

2001 supreme court verdict

Now the project is expected
to be

fully completed by 2025

Medha Pathekar
Baba Amte
Arundhati Roy



Tehri Dam



Introduction

- Initially taken up by the irrigation department of Uttar Pradesh government.
- In 1998, was taken over by a joint venture company of the government of India and Uttar Pradesh government, called the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC)



Coffer
Dam

Timeline for Tehri Dam

- Tehri Development Project approved in 1972
- Construction started 1978
- Cofferdam completed 1996
- Closure of last two tunnels December 2002
- Projected completion August 2003

- Location : On the Bhagirathi River.
200 miles north east of Delhi.
- Height : 855 feet (261 m)
5th tallest dam in the world.
- Capacity : power generation capacity of 2400 MW
provision of irrigation to an area of 270,000 hectares.
Supply of 270 million gallons of water.

Negative Impacts

- Change in the (i) water chemistry, especially with respect to dissolved oxygen and (ii) turbidity of water.
- Impact on biodiversity, i.e. flora and fauna of the area.
- Obstruction of movements of migrating fish species during breeding season.

Protests

- 1978 – Tehri Bandh Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti (TBVSS)
- 74-day hunger strike in 1996 by Sunderlal Bahuguna
- Many Anti-dam rallies and protest

Issues Relating Tehri Dam

- Human Rights : Forced displacement of people
Diverting water from poor communities
- Environmental : Catastrophic flood danger
Multiple environmental review recommending cancellation
- Corruption : Six corruption cases CBI Inquiry but no result

Obsolete Dam Design



- The design of the dam was finalized in the 1960s when scientific understanding of seismic hazards and seismic engineering solutions were far less advanced than today

Seismic Risks

- Location : world's most earthquake – prone regions with several fault lines traversing the project area
- Not adequately equipped to withstand earthquakes of the magnitude expected during its life span
- Designed for 7.2 ; expected: 8.5 or more

Popular Resistance and Review

- The project was abandoned in the mid 1980s after being sharply criticized on environmental grounds by a government appointed review committee
- In 1987 the project was again referred to a committee of the Ministry of Environment to assess its safety and environmental and social impacts. This committee unanimously ruled against the project but the Indian government overruled its findings and restarted the project
- After a 74-day hunger strike in 1996, Sunderlal Bahuguna, a Gandhian activist and long-time opponent of the dam, forced the government to set up a review of the seismic, environmental and rehabilitation aspects of the project.
- Hanumantha Rao Committee submitted its report and recommendations in 1997. The government has failed to implement most of the committee's recommendations, especially those concerning rehabilitation
- In 1992 environmentalists filed a case in the Supreme Court alleging that project authorities had not acquired the mandatory environmental clearance for the dam.

Environmental issues

The Tehri Dam has been the object of protests by environmental organizations and local people of the region.

Environmental activist Sunderlal Bahuguna led the Anti-Tehri Dam movement for years, from 1980s till

2004



A protest message against Tehri dam, which was steered by Sunderlal Bahuguna for years. It says "We don't want the dam. The dam is the mountain's destruction."

Environmental issues

Dam proponents claim that the complex is designed to withstand an earthquake of 8.4 magnitude, but some seismologists say that earthquakes with a magnitude of 8.5 or more could occur in this region. Were such a catastrophe to occur, the potentially resulting dam-break would submerge numerous towns downstream, whose populations total near half a million.

The relocation of more than 100,000 people from the area has led to protracted legal battles over resettlement rights, and ultimately resulted in the project's delayed completion.

Conclusion



"This is a dam built with our tears"

..... Sunderlal Bahuguna