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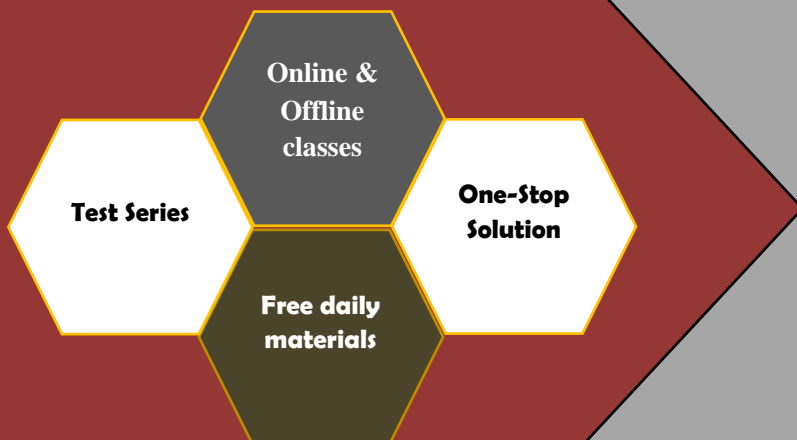
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Chipko Movement

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

Chipko Movement

Recently, **Sunderlal Bahuguna**, the Gandhian who was the driving force behind the **Chipko movement** died due to **Covid-19**.

Key Points

- **Chipko Movement:**

- It was a **non-violent agitation** which originated in Uttar Pradesh's **Chamoli district** (now Uttarakhand) in 1973.
- The name of the movement '**chipko**' comes from the word '**embrace**', as the **villagers hugged the trees** and encircled them to prevent being hacked.
- It is best remembered for the **collective mobilisation of women** for the cause of preserving forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society.
- It's biggest victory was **making people aware of their rights to forests**, and **how grassroots activism can influence policy-making** regarding ecology and shared natural resource .
 - It led to a **ban on commercial felling of trees above 30 degrees slope** and above 1,000 msl (mean sea level) in 1981.

Sunderlal Bahuguna (1927-2021):

- Initiated the chipko movement to guard the trees on the Himalayan slopes.
- Known for coining the Chipko slogan '**ecology is permanent economy**'
 - After the Chipko movement in the 1970s, he **gave the message across the globe that ecology and ecosystem are more** He was of the opinion that **ecology and economy should go together**.
 - Campaigned against the Tehri Dam on River Bhagirathi, a mega-project with devastating consequences. He undertook one of India's longest fasts after Independence, over 56 days.
- Took **4,800 km Kashmir to Kohima padayatra (foot march)** in the early 1980s to bring attention to the entire Himalayan
- Supported **women-led movements** against the liquor mafia in the hills, and for the **Beej Bachao Andolan**, a movement to save Himalayan agricultural

biodiversity from being wiped out by the unsustainable, **chemical-intensive Green Revolution.**

- He was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan in 2009.**

