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Q5(c)

Discuss the various forms of environmental movements waged in india. .

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Social Movements in Modern India

Social Movements in Modern India: Peasants and farmers movements; Women's movement; Backward classes and Dalit movement; Environmental movements; Ethnicity and Identity movements.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the various forms of environmental movements waged in India
- Keep **Chipko**, Narmada, and tribal-forest struggles

Revision summary

Chipko-type movements defend forest as peasant and women's subsistence.

Dam and mine movements fight displacement of Adivasis and peasants.

FRA is a legal form of the forest struggle.

Urban movements target pollution and amenities, with class bias risks.

Guha's **environmentalism of the poor** names the main Indian pattern.

Introduction

Indian environmental movements are struggles over forest, dam, factory, and city air, usually led by those whose livelihood is the environment. They are social movements, not only green lifestyle clubs.

Body**Livelihood-forest forms**

- **Chipko** in the Himalaya joined peasant women to trees as subsistence, a gender-environment form.
- Forest satyagrahas and later FRA campaigns assert Adivasi title against the colonial Forest Department, in Elwin's protective line recast as rights.

Displacement-dam forms

- Narmada Bachao Andolan made big dams a national question of whose development.
- Similar anti-mine and anti-plant struggles in Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh join tribe, land, and ecology.

Urban and middle-class forms

- Anti-pollution, park, and climate marches can be civic. They sometimes ignore the waste-picker and the slum.
- Silent Valley and later biodiversity fights mixed scientists with local people.

Sociological reading

- Ramachandra Guha's **environmentalism of the poor** fits most Indian forms. They are class and caste ecology, not post-materialism alone.

Flow diagram

Chipko forest -> Livelihood ecology
Narmada mines -> Anti-displacement
Urban pollution -> Civic green
Livelihood ecology -> Indian environmental movements
Anti-displacement -> Indian environmental movements

Conclusion

Forms run from **Chipko** and forest rights to Narmada and urban clean-air. The durable Indian form is the poor defending habitat as livelihood.

Facts & figures

Chipko

Himalayan tree-hugging struggle that globalised India's livelihood environmentalism.

NBA

Narmada movement against large-dam displacement.

Forest Rights Act

2006 statutory form of forest-dweller claim.

Environmentalism of the poor

Guha's label for Indian ecology as survival politics.