

- Prepare manuals, codes and guidelines relating to treatment and disposal of sewage and trade effluents as well as for stack gas cleaning devices, stacks and ducts;
- Disseminate information in respect of matters relating to water and air pollution and their prevention and control;
- Lay down, modify or annul, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, the standards for stream or well, and lay down standards for the quality of air; and
- Perform such other function as may be prescribed by the Government of India.

**Source:** <http://www.cpcb.nic.in/Functions.php>

#### **Role of the Central Board as State Board for the Union Territories**

- Advise the Governments of Union Territories with respect to the suitability of any premises or location for carrying on any industry which is likely to pollute a stream or well or cause air pollutions;
- Lay down standards for treatment of sewage and trade effluents and for emissions from automobiles, industrial plants, and any other polluting source;
- Evolve efficient methods for disposal of sewage and trade effluents on land; develop reliable and economically viable methods of treatment of sewage, trade effluent and air pollution control equipment;
- Identify any area or areas within Union Territories as air pollution control area or areas to be notified under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- Assess the quality of ambient water and air, and inspect wastewater treatment installations, air pollution control equipment, industrial plants or manufacturing process to evaluate their performance and to take steps for the prevention, control and abatement of air and water pollution.

**Source:** <http://www.cpcb.nic.in/Functions.php>

#### **State Pollution Control Board**

The State Pollution Control Boards (PCBs), represented in the state of the republic, are the implementing authorities of the Rules and the Acts relating to the conservation of the environment. The Board is headed by the chairperson, a senior person with qualification and vast knowledge in matter related to environmental protection. Person with special knowledge on environmental matters and senior officials of the government departments are the nominated members of the PCBs.

The Boards has certain roles that help in controlling both air and water pollution. Some of the most important roles are:

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- To implement an exclusive programme on the water pollution prevention. In every state the State Pollution Control Board formulates a programme to control, preserve and abate the pollution of wells and streams that are present in the state.
- The State Pollution Control Board also provide suggestions to the government of the state on matters concerning water pollution and air pollution, its control, preservation and abatement.
- The State Pollution Control Board also assemble and distribute information involving to air pollution, and water pollution, its prevention, decline and control.
- For air and water pollution, the State Pollution Control Board support, perform, and contribute in research and experiment to eradicate the pollution problem.
- For the treatment of effluent water and for its purification, the State Pollution Control Board also investigates the sewage effluents and trade effluents. It looks for its proper deposition as well as its disposal.
- The State Pollution Control Board also modifies the principles for trade and sewage effluents and also maintains the standard of water quality that the state receives.
- The State Pollution Control Board provides reliable and most economical method for sewage and trade effluent treatment.
- In agricultural sector, the State Pollution Control Board provides the most effective methods and strategies for the utilization of suitable trade effluent and sewage effluent.
- The State Pollution Control Board also evolves resourceful methods for the disposal of trade effluents and sewage effluents on the piece of land. This is mainly essential in relation to the principal circumstance of limited stream flow.
- The State Pollution Control Board also regulates a standard while discharging the trade effluents and sewage effluents into water, say a particular stream. This way the board can limit the degree of water pollution in the streams.
- To create, differ, or withdraw any order
  - (i) For the abatement, prevention, and control of releases of waste materials into the water bodies such as wells and streams.
  - (ii) Demanded any individual who is mainly concerned to create a new structure for the dumping of trade effluents and sewage, and to extend, alter, correct, or to adopt such corrective measures as are essential to control, prevent, and abate pollution of water.

- The State Pollution Control Board also formulates effluent standards in the state for the released sullage or sewage and trade effluents. It also lay down annual effluent standards for the same.
- The State Pollution Control Board also provide suggestions concerning to the establishment of any industry in the state to the state government.
- The State Pollution Control Board examines all control equipment, industrial plant as well as manufacturing process for the prevention, control, or abatement of air pollution. It also gives directions to individuals concerning air pollution.
- The State Pollution Control Board also examines areas of air pollution control at regular interval and monitors the air quality. Besides, the board in such area also pays special attention for the control, prevention, and decline of air pollution.
- The State Pollution Control Board advises the state government concerning to the appropriateness of any location for carrying on any industry that likely to cause pollution in the air.
- The State Pollution Control Board also carries out many other functions prescribed by the state government or the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

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Thus, each Pollution Control Board maintains its own environment and formulates its own rules for environment protection. It maintains separate environment monitoring laboratories, which are equipped with modern facilities. Usually, each board plays its own role in the field of environment protection.

### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

9. The Central Pollution Control Board was established in the year
  - (a) 1979
  - (b) 1978
  - (c) 1972
  - (d) 1974
10. The Central Pollution Control Board was established as per the provisions of the
  - (a) Indian Forest Act, 1927
  - (b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
  - (c) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
  - (d) Indian Fisheries Act, 1897
11. The key role of CPCB is to advice the Central Government on matters concerning
  - (a) Land pollution
  - (b) Air pollution

Contd. ...

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- (c) Soil pollution
- (d) Demforestation

12. The key role of State Pollution Control Boards is to plan a comprehensive programme for the prevention, control or abatement of
- (a) Air pollution
  - (b) Poverty
  - (c) Soil degradation
  - (d) Deforestation

## 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

According to the *Oxford Dictionary*, following is the meaning of the term 'movement':

an instance of moving of a body of persons with a common object and a campaign undertaken by such body. Movements can be social, political, economic, cultural, etc. The goal of a movement is to bring about some desired change in the respective fields. These can be understood within the context of the societies they seek to change. Environmental movement is not an exception.

With the increase of ecological crisis there starts an environmental awareness. As Vandana Asthana notes, 'environmental concern started seedling in the 1960s and then gained epoch-making prominence in the form of a so called environmental revolution'. The awareness is not confined to one place but the entire globe. A new age seems to have dawned ever since the beginning of the 1970s. Within the last two and a half decade, a new perception towards global environment has developed. Environmental movements to protect and promote the environment began in the Third World since the 1970s.

Environmental movements believe in the conservation of nature as every form of manifestation has evolved through the ages and as a part of ecosystem has every right to a continued existence as man has. This movement in its incipient stages believed in protecting and preserving certain nature forms.

Environmental movements are more radical and progressive than any other movement. It focuses attention on relationship with nature, democratization of resources, achievement of social justice and quality of surroundings. Most of these movements are non-violent in nature and believe in passive resistance.

### **Roots of environmental movement for environment promotion**

Both the creation and recognition of environmental problems and opportunities depend on society, its organisation, its values and objectives. Change in the

relationship between people and their physical environment depend to a large degree on changes in society. There has always been a profound interaction between people and their environment. Early humans for their livelihood were dependent on hunting and food gathering. They greatly modified large parts of the earth and caused the extinction of several animal species.

During early times, people learned that their practice of cultivation and hunting and degraded the natural resources by which they lived. Activities such as soil erosion, deforestation, and overgrazing were destructive forces in the in Mediterranean areas from Syria to Spain, in India, in central and southern China, in Central America. Civilizations that once flourished in these areas disappeared because agricultural productivity declined, in spite of the development of some conservation practices. Historical records indicate that some species of animals were protected by religious taboos; religious sanctions prevented the destruction of some forest groves and plants; and practices to prevent soil erosion and to maintain its fertility were developed. Some of the early civilizations created reserves to protect wildlife or natural areas.

By the 17th century, many European nations had developed an increasingly powerful technology and a growing ability to modify large areas of the environment. As explorer and colonialist, they concentrated on transplanting their own culture to the lands they visited and settled and showed little interest in learning from the indigenous people, who had in many places developed sophisticated methods of managing their own environment. Soil erosion and the destruction of natural vegetation and wildlife accompanied the spread of European colonization in the America and later in Asia, Australia and Africa.

The greatest expansion of human requirements for natural resources followed the Industrial Revolution during the latter half of the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century. The environmental students of the nineteenth century expressed a concern about the impacts of human transformation of the landscape and early geographers and geologists attempted to describe the changing face of the earth in its entirety. Such perspectives were by no means the first environmental protest. The first smoke abatement law was passed in England in 1273, for example. Later on several other environmental movements came into existence by governments and NGOs to save the environment worldwide. It is believed that the 'Chipko movement' is the foundation event of the Indian environmental movement. Besides this, in order to slow down the pace of commercial forestry the "Grass-root ecological Movement" was established. The movement followed the traditional form of protest of non-violence, non-cooperation. This way, the destruction of natural areas stimulated the formation and growth of a several conservation movements all around the world.

#### **Environmental movements and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of environment in India**

In India, the hungers for an affluent life style are continuously threatening the environment and its natural resources. In independent India, there is a continuous

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increment in the environmental conflict leading to exploitation of natural resources. The process of exploitation has led to the development of energy and resource intensive industrial actions, major advanced projects like mining, dam, energy intensive agriculture etc. With the demand in development, the resources have been transferred from natural base to the human environment for survival and economic development. It adds economic to the poor and powerless people of the society. Thus, looking at the environmental conflict, there came up the people's demand for ecological conservation. They approached for various ecological movements for the promotion of environment. Some of the well known environmental movements of India in the promotion of environment are:

### *The Chipko movement*

The Chipko movement (embrace the tree to oppose cutting down) was established in the year 1970 by the noted environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna in order to maintain the ecology of the Western Himalaya Range. Basically, the goal of Chipko movement was to save trees and to oppose the cutting of trees. Under this movement, the villagers of Gopeshwar village of Chamoli district formed an association called Dasholi Gram Saraja Mandal in the year 1970. The main function of the association was to provide relief to flood affected people in that area and to protect the forest land of that region. Under the leadership of Bahuguna the movement was aimed to protect environment and ecology. It draws great attention of the Government and World Bank.

### *Narmada bachao andolan*

Another popular environmental movement is Narmada Bachao Andolan, led by Medha Patkar. The main issue of this movement is the displacement of tribals, aboriginals and indigenous people of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, would be replaced by the Government, for constructing big dams to provide water to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and two districts of Rajasthan to fulfill the demand of drinking water as well as irrigation. The movement seeks to meet these demands by constructing small dams in lieu of big dams to avoid tribal replacement and resettlement problems.

### *APPIKO movement*

The APPIKO movement was started in the year 1983 in the Balegadde district of Uttar Kannada of Karnataka state. This district is a part rich forest of Western Ghats. This movement was similar to Chipko movement. The villagers protested the cutting of teak trees by embracing the trees just the way the people did into Chipko movement. The movement mainly focused on to conserve to grow trees. This movement has played the most crucial role to preserve the environment and ecosystem of Western Ghats. The activists spread the movement throughout the region by meetings, padayatras, folk dance etc.

Besides this, various non-government organizations are active participants in the promotion and protection of environmental movements. Some of the them

are the Silent Valley movement, Mitti Bachao Abhiyan, Vashet campaign, and Western Ghat's March, Padayatra. Under Silent Valley movement an NGO of Kerala called Kerala Sastriya Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) raised its voice against the Silent Valley Hydral Project in 1978. Silent Valley is rich in tropical forest with enormous bio-reserve. This tropical forest was the only remaining one in the country. But the Government of Kerala wanted a hydroelectric project for the power hungry state inside a deep tropical forest in Silent Valley. The environmentalist objected to the project and filed a case in High court, which they lost. The project was cancelled. The Mitti Bachao Andolan was started in the year 1977 against water logging and salinity caused by the Tawa Dam in Madhya Pradesh. The campaign mobilized local farmers to demand compensation for the affected lands.

Then came the Vashet campaign, the sitting of the world's biggest urea plant in Mumbai which evoked enormous opposition from the city groups, notably Shyam Chainani's Bombay, environmental Action, group, which feared that the plant would increase the pollution of Bombay city.

The Western Ghats March, Padayatra jointly organized by a number of environmental groups and NGOs in 1988, covered over 1,300 km across the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The March which was very popular and it focused attention on the environmental problems of the Western Ghats.

People are raising concern over chemical projects and nuclear sites. Balco project in Orissa which is an aluminum plant is opposed by environmental activists led by Gandhamardan Suraksha Yuva Parishad an NGO to save the environment.

Mining is another area which witnessed peoples' movement. Tarun Bhagat Singh local voluntary organisation is fighting against mining in and around Sariska National Park in Alwar district of Rajasthan.

Last but not the least came the issue of Doomed Valley. Limestone mining in the Doon Valley and Mussoorie Hills has left permanent scars on this famous hill region, destroying forests and permanent water resources. Therefore, to overcome this problem, the Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra an NGO has come up in Dehradun and field a public interest case in the Supreme Court, which in a historic judgment ordered the closure of the mines on grounds of environmental destruction. Many women's organisations are also involved in the environmental movements for the promotion of environment. For example, working women's forum is dealing with fisherwomen and milk-maids and Mandals in the Himalayas. Many Non-Government Organisations are also educating people on environmental activities to protect their environment. Some of the organisations believe in creating awareness through education like Center for Science and Environment, Delhi Science Forum, some believe in protesting against environmental degradation and conserving the same like Dasholi Gram Swaraya Mandal, and some others believe in developing suitable technologies and opposing public or private sector projects that could be harmful to environment, like Appropriate Technology Group, Lucknow, Magan Sangrahalaya and Wardha.

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India has a tradition of sacrifice for the protection and promotion of environment. About 250 years ago, 363 men and women led by Amrita Devi sacrificed their lives by hugging the trees around their village. This tradition has survived. People are unequivocal in terms of evaluating the environs around them. As the intensity and range of ecological degradation increases, the intensity and range of environmental movements have kept on increasing.

### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

13. Western Ghats March, Padayatra was organized in the year
  - (a) 1988
  - (b) 1977
  - (c) 1984
  - (d) 1978
14. Gandhamardan Suraksha Yuva Parishad was established in
  - (a) Punjab
  - (b) Orissa
  - (c) Rajasthan
  - (d) Madhya Pradesh
15. Dasholi Gram Saraja Mandal is a part of
  - (a) Mitti Bachao Andolan
  - (b) Dasholi Gram Swaraya mandal
  - (c) Chipko Movement
  - (d) Gandhamardan Suraksha Yuva Parishad
16. Narmada Bachao Andolan was led by
  - (a) Indira Gandhi
  - (b) Amrita Devi
  - (c) Rajiv Gandhi
  - (d) Medha Patkar

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## 5.6 SUMMARY

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- In this unit we have discussed the laws, policies, legislations and movements in the environment sector with special reference to India. You have also learned about the National Policy on Environment which has been developed in most countries.
- In India, the National Policy on Environment provides a comprehensive policy statement and infuses a common approach to the various sectoral and fiscal approaches to environmental management.
- Special stress is given in the Environmental Protection laws. For protecting the environment, a number of laws have been developed worldwide.



- The mission of every law is to safeguard the natural environment, including air, water and land upon which most of life depends.
- Increasing population, urbanization, industrialization and various developmental activities pose threat to the environment. Therefore, for effective control and management of environmental pollution, pollution control legislation is required, national level standards are to be evolved, pollution control technology is to be developed and pollution programmes are to be implemented effectively by suitable techniques.
- In this unit you have learned about the Pollution Control Board of India, its role and functions in protecting and promoting the environment.
- You have also learned about some important environmental movements in India and the role of non-government organizations in the promotion of the environment and how these movements have contributed to ecological development so that our future is secure.

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### 5.7 KEY TERMS

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- **National Policy on Environment:** In India, the National Policy on Environment offers a broad statement on environmental policy and also imparts a relevant suggestion on several fiscal and social aspects for the management of the environment.
- **Intra-generational equity:** The principal objective of the policy is to ensure equal benefit to the poor section of the society by providing them equitable access to environmental resources.
- **Inter-generational equity:** The principal objective of the policy is to make sure that the environmental resources are used sensibly so as to provide for not only the current generation but also for the generations to come.
- **Equity:** According to the cardinal principle of equity or justice, the law cannot treat any human being differently based on insignificant or irrelevant differences among them. These equity laws are of different types:
- **End-result equity:** The equity laws relate to fair outcomes in terms of equal distribution of obligations and entitlements.
- **Procedural equity:** The equity rules are applicable according to context.
- **Decentralization:** The Decentralization of power involves transfer of power from the Central Authority to Local and State Authorities. These powers are applied to address certain salient issues and empower the public authorities that have jurisdiction at the spatial level.
- **CPCB:** Central Pollution Control Board.
- **PCB:** Pollution Control Board.

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## 5.8 ANSWERS TO 'CHECK YOUR PROGRESS'

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1. (d) 2. (c), (d) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (a) 6. (b)  
7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (a)  
14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (d)

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## 5.9 QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

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### Short-Answer Questions

1. Write a short note on the Tewari Committee.
2. Write a short note on the APPIKO movement.

### Long-Answer Questions

1. Explain the National Policy on Environment.
2. Discuss the role of the Pollution Control Board.
3. Discuss the laws on environmental protection.
4. Discuss the role of environmental movements and NGOs in the promotion of environment.
5. Explain the roles and functions of State Pollution Control Board.
6. Discuss the role Chipko movement in forest conservation.
7. Discuss the role of Non-Government Organization (NGO) in environmental promotion and protection.

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## 5.10 FURTHER READING/REFERENCES

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*Environmental Protection  
and Promotion*

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