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**SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHRAM, LAKHISARAI - 811311**

STUDY NOTES

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CLASS- VIII (All Section)

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## **Science**

### **CHAPTER: 7 Biodiversity and conservation of Flora and Fauna**

**Today's Topic: Saving the forests**

#### **Saving the forests:**

One of the major factors responsible for large-scale deforestation is the large consumption of paper worldwide. The raw material for manufacturing paper is wood or bamboo pulp, which is obtained from forests. It takes seventeenth full grown trees to make one tonne of paper. Limiting the use of paper to the barest minimum can help reduce the destruction of forests.

#### **Paper can be saved in many ways:**

- \* Using both sides of paper. This can cut down paper usage significantly.
- \* Using recycled paper.

\* Subscribing to digital edition of magazines, which can be downloaded directly to the computer and read on the monitor screen.

\* Viewing and paying of bills online.

### **The Chipko Movement:**

Certain active people's movements have been successful in preventing deforestation in some parts of India. In the 1970s, an organised resistance to the destruction of forests spread throughout India and came to be known as the **Chipko Movement**. The word '**chipko**' in Hindi means 'to stick to'. During this movement, villagers would hug trees to protect them from being felled.

Over the past few centuries, many communities in India have helped save nature. The Bishnoi community of Rajasthan started a movement nearly 260 years ago to protect trees. It is said that a large group of people from eighty-four villages led by a woman called Amrita Devi laid down their lives in an effort to protect the trees from being felled on the orders of the Maharaja of Jodhpur. After this incident, the maharaja issued royal decree, preventing the cutting of trees in all Bishnoi villages. Even today, the people can protect the forests by taking a united stand against illegal felling. Deforestation can also be countered with **reforestation**.

When a tree is cut, it can be replaced with a new tree. It is better to plant trees of only those species that are native to the area. The number of trees planted should at least equal the

number that have been cut. Natural reforestation can occur sometimes without human intervention if the forests are not completely destroyed. Planting of trees, however having the process manifold.

There is a forest (Conservation) act in India, which is aimed at preserving and conserving the natural forests as well as meeting the basic needs of the people living in or near it. the strict enforcement of the Act can go a long way in conserving the forests and retaining the green wealth for generations.

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