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## Environmental Movements in India



# Definition

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Environmental movement is a type of social movement that involves an array of persons, groups and coalitions that observe a common interest in environmental protection and act to bring about changes in environmental policies and practices.



Tong, Yanki 2005

The environmental movements as “organised social activity consciously directed towards promoting sustainable use of natural resources halting environmental degradation or bringing about environmental restoration.”



Guha and Gadgil (1989)





# ORIGIN

Of Environmental  
Movements in

# INDIA

1

Against the commercialization of forest resources during the British colonial period.

2

Ecological impact of state-monolithic developmental process.

3

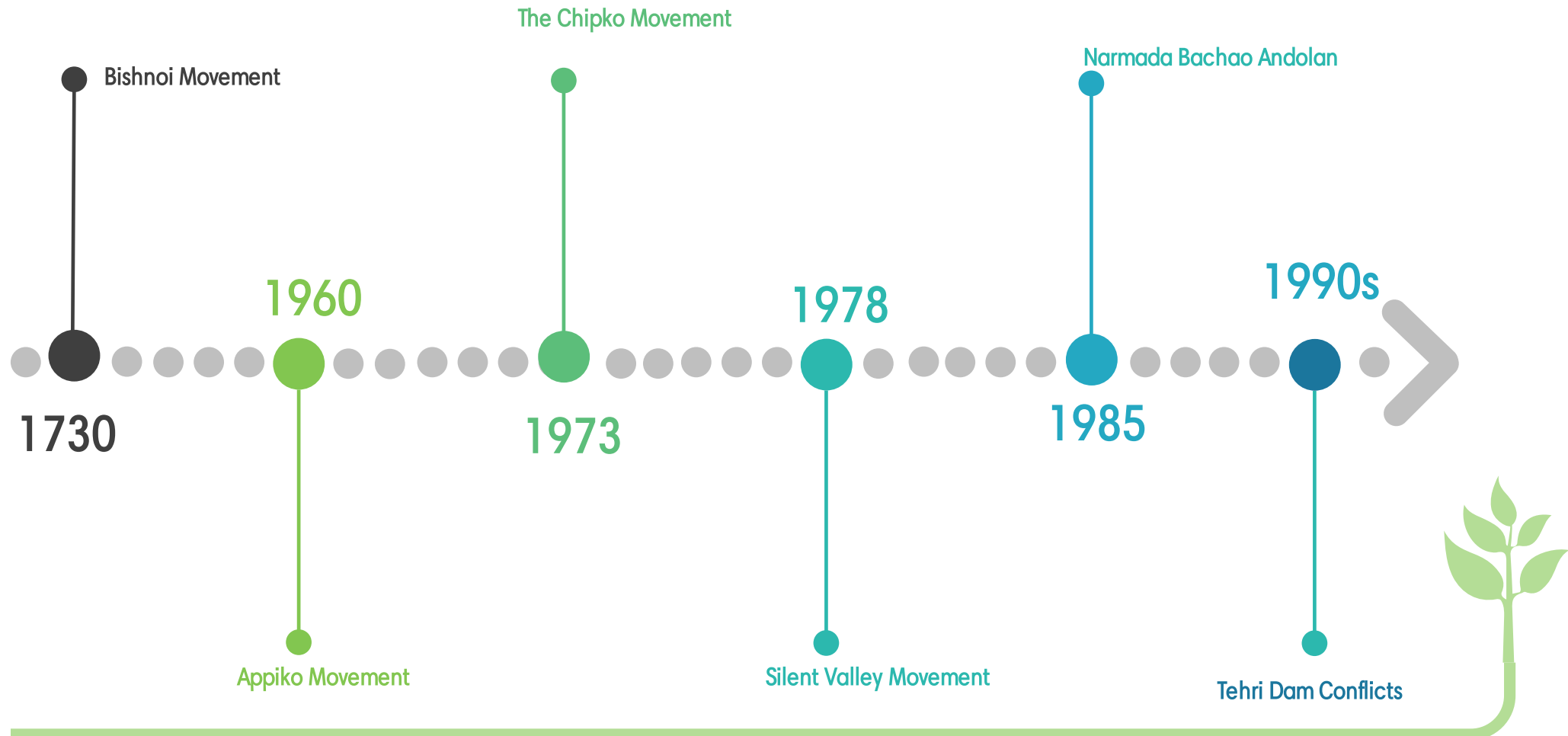
Understanding of the limited nature of natural resources.



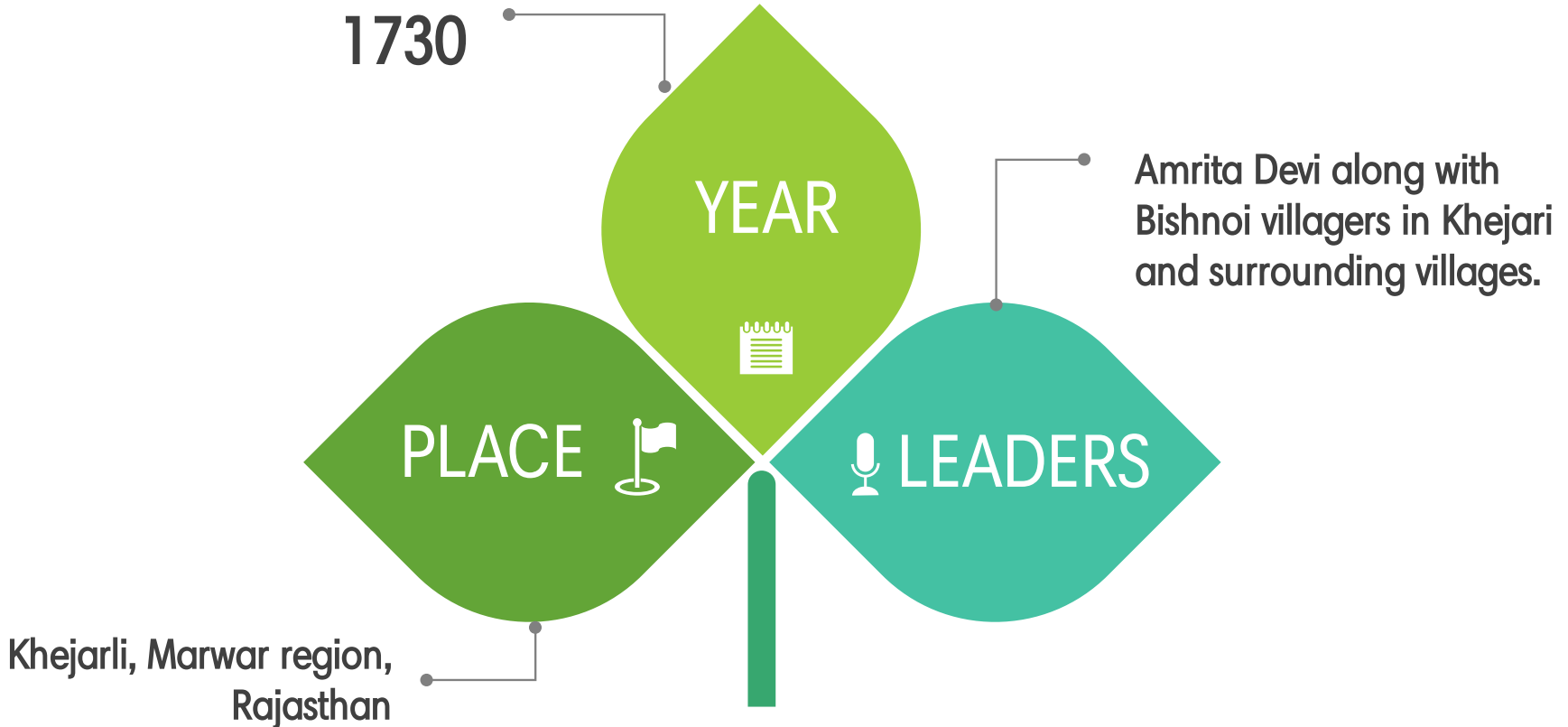
Major grounds of  
the emergence of  
environmental  
movements in  
INDIA

- 01 Control over Natural Resources.
- 02 Unsustainable Developmental policies of the Government
- 03 Socio Economic reasons
- 04 Environmental Degradation/ destruction
- 05 Spread of Environmental awareness and Media

# Some popular environmental movements in INDIA



# Bishnoi Movement

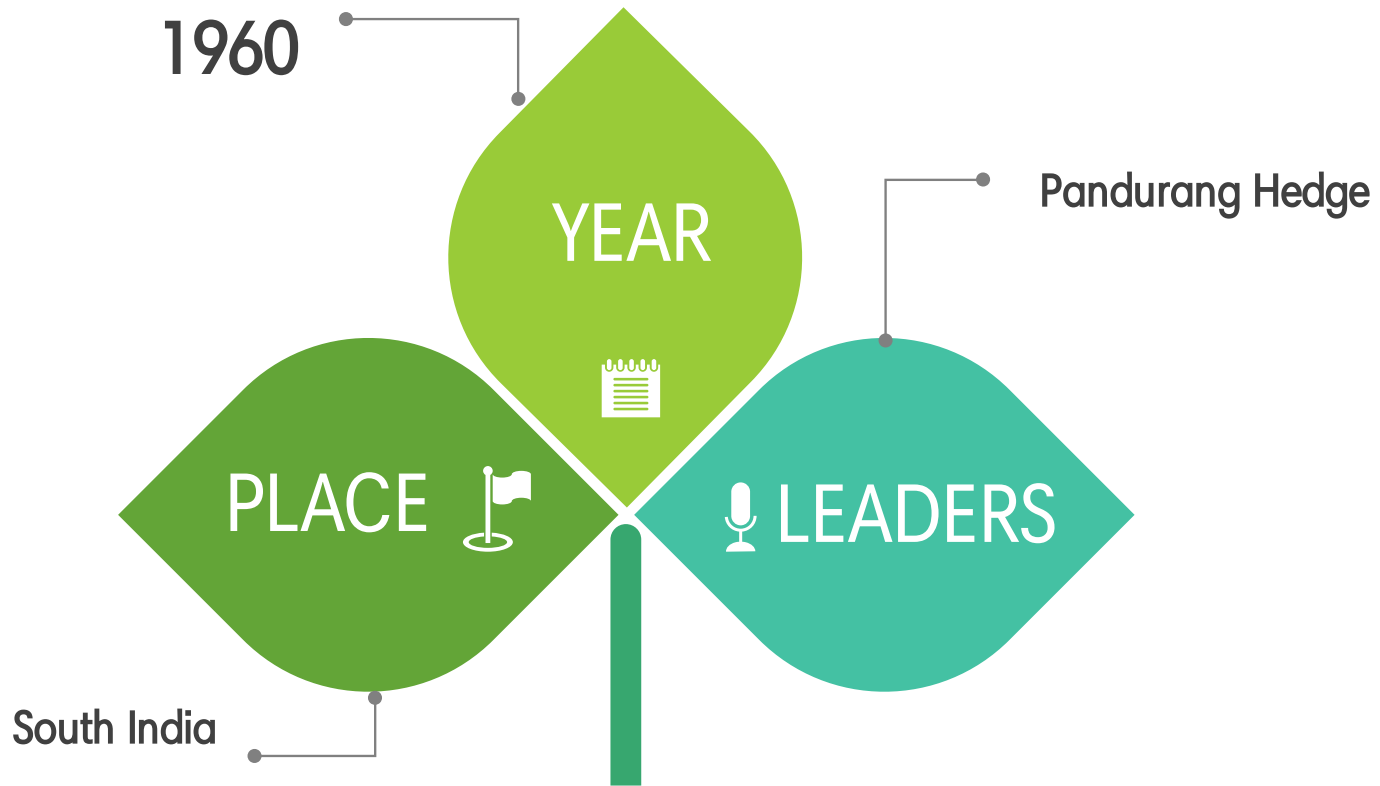


# Bishnoi Movement



- Amrita Devi, a female villager could not bear to witness the destruction of both her faith and the villager's sacred trees.
- She hugged the trees and encouraged others to do the same. 363 Bishnoi villagers were killed in this movement.
- The Bishnoi tree martyrs were inspired by the teachings of Guru Maharaj Jambaji, who founded the Bishnoi faith in 1485 and set forth twenty-nine principles forbidding harm to trees and animals.
- This legislation still exists today in the village.

# Appiko Movement





# Appiko Movement



- It can be said that the Appiko movement is the southern version of the Chipko Movement. The Appiko Movement was locally known as the “Appiko Chaluvali”.
- The locals embrace the trees which were to be cut by the contractors of the forest department.
- The Appiko Movement used various techniques to raise awareness such as foot marches in the interior forest, slide shows, folk dances, street plays, etc.
- The movement became a success. The current status of the project is – stopped.

# Chipko Movement

1973

YEAR



Sunderlal Bahuguna, Gaura Devi, Suresha Devi, Bachni Devi, Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Govind Singh Rawat, Dhoom Singh Negi, Shamsher Singh Bisht and Ghanasyam Raturi

PLACE



In Chamoli district and later at Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand

LEADERS



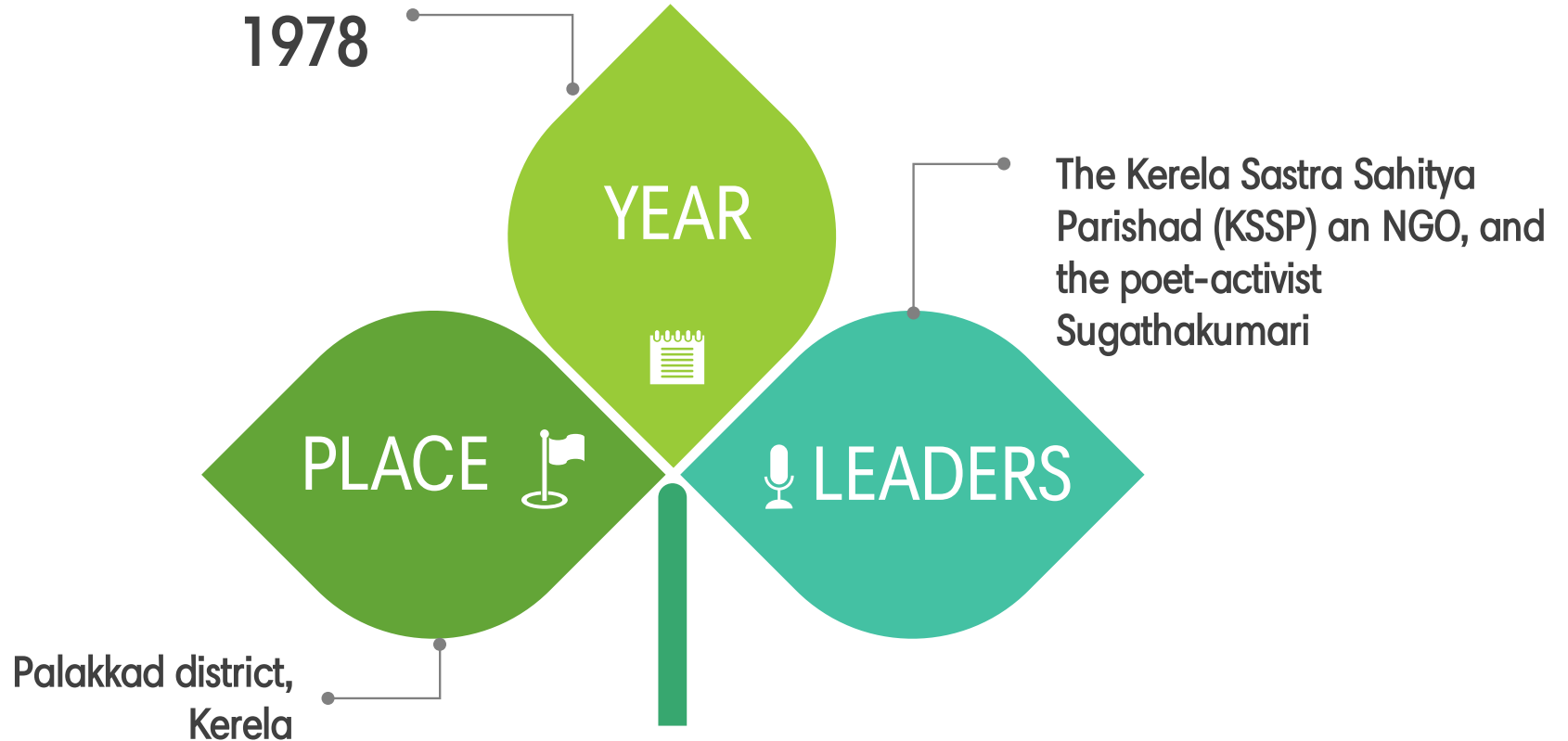
# Chipko Movement

- Mr. Bahuguna enlightened the villagers by conveying the importance of trees in the environment which checks the erosion of soil.
- The women of Advani village of Tehri-Garhwal tied the sacred thread around trunks of trees and they hugged the trees, hence it was called 'Chipko Movement' or 'hug the tree movement'.
- The main demand of the people in these protests was that the benefits of the forests (especially the right to fodder) should go to the local people.
- 1978, Chief minister, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna set up a committee to look into this matter, which eventually ruled in the favour of the villagers.





# Silent Valley Movement

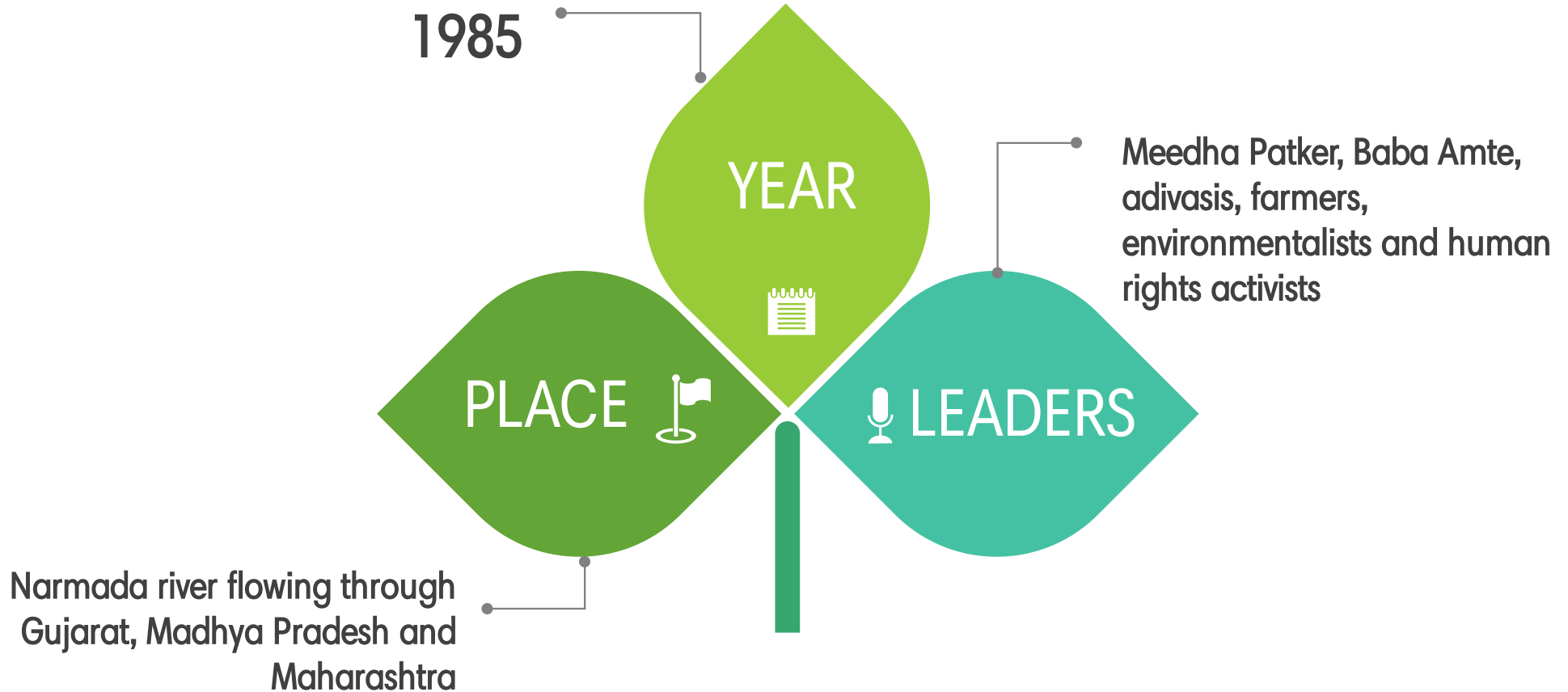


A stylized, vertical graphic of a tree trunk in shades of green, positioned on the left side of the slide. It features several horizontal white lines representing bark texture and a few thin, branching limbs extending to the left.

# Silent Valley Movement

- Movement intended to protect Silent Valley, an evergreen tropical forest in the Palakkad district of Kerala.
- Started in 1973 to save the Silent Valley Reserve Forest from being flooded by a hydroelectric project.
- The valley was declared as Silent Valley National Park in 1985.
- Hydroelectric dam on the crystal clear river Kunthipuzha under the Kundremukh project was to come up.

# Narmada Bachao Andolan

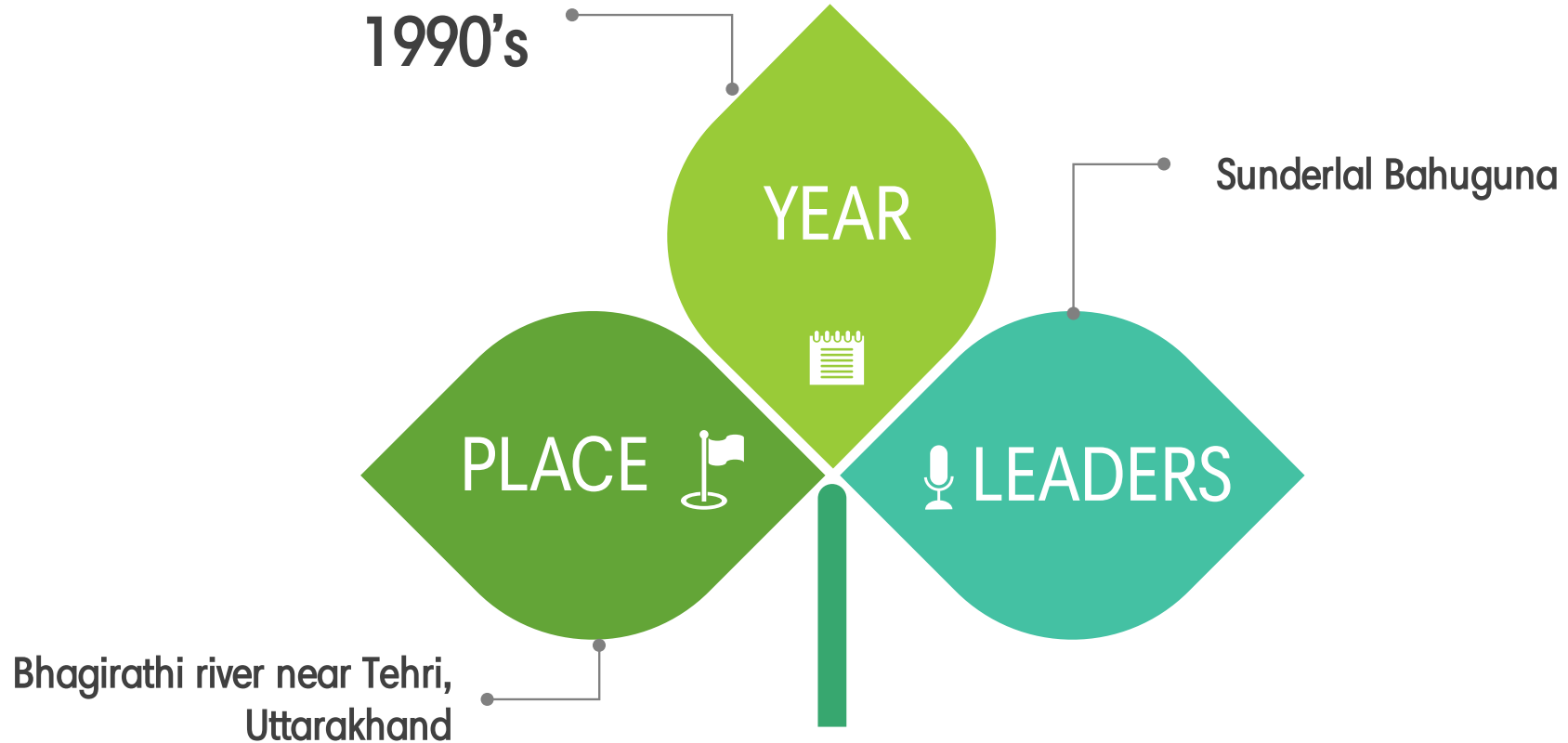


# Narmada Bachao Andolan



- The movement first started as a protest for not providing proper rehabilitation and resettlement for the people who have been displaced by the construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- Later on, the movement turned its focus on the preservation of the environment and the eco-systems of the valley.
- Activists also demanded the height of the dam to be reduced to 88m from the proposed 130m. World Bank withdrew from the project.
- The environmental issue was taken into court. In October 2000, the Supreme Court gave a judgement approving the construction of the dam with a condition that height if the dam could be raised to 90m.
- This height is much higher than the 88m which the anti-dam activists demanded, but it is definitely lower than the proposed 130m.
- The project is now mainly funded by the state government and market borrowings. The project is expected to be fully completed by 2025.
- As a democratic movement, it followed the Gandhian way 100%.

# Tehri Dam Conflict





# Tehri Dam Conflict

- Tehri Dam attracted national attention in the 1980s and the 1990s. The major objections include seismic sensitivity of the region, submergence of forest areas along the Tehri town, etc.
- The movement has failed to gather enough popular support at national as well as international levels.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Water (Preservation and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986



# Conclusion



Movements not only bring the environmental issues in the focus of the government, but also help spread awareness about them to common man and helps him introspect their outlook towards nature as Former US President Barack Obama had stated-

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

As responsible citizens of our country, and the most advanced species on the planet, it is our primary responsibility to ensure the health of earth. Environmental movements have been a bold initiative throughout history to challenge the norms which have been threatening to degrade the ecosystem.



Thank You