

PROPOSITION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MEMORIAL IN MEMORY OF  
363 BRAVE MARTYRS OF BISHNOI COMMUNITY FOR PROTECTION  
OF GREEN KHEJRI TREES, ALSO KNOWN AS

# **THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE**



प्रयावरण में करों विचार, इसी में है जीवनसार

प्रयावरण रो जलुसौ: खेजडली खडाणौ

संवत् सतरासौ सतियासियै, भादवा सुदी दशमी मंगलवार।

बन राख्यो विश्रोइयां, खड्या तीन सौ न तेसठ नर-नर ॥

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सिर साठे रूख रहे, तो भी सस्तो जाण।  
विष्णु विष्णु तू भण रे प्राणी, कारण किरिया सारूं।

# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

Environmental problems are one of the major challenges for humanity. However, there are people who live in perfect harmony with nature, in a very simple way. This is the story of the

**Bishnoi**, a nation that **protect nature** and **animals** with their lives.

**Bishnoi** is a community of **nature worshippers** in the state of Rajasthan, India. They also **have** a sizeable presence in the neighbouring states of Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, and Delhi. The Bishnoi people do not cut or lop the trees.

They **don't use firewood**, instead they use dried cow dung or coconut cover. Bishnoi family has their own small water tank in their field to provide **water for the birds and animals**.

They feed animals and birds by maintaining the groves.

**Agriculture** is main source of Bishnoi people; they also collect wood which comes from the trees that have fallen during the storm



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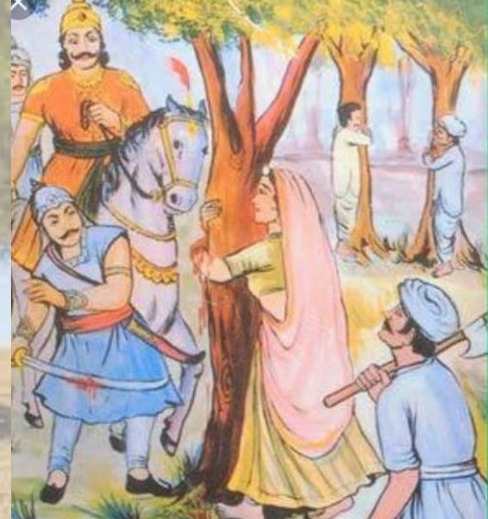
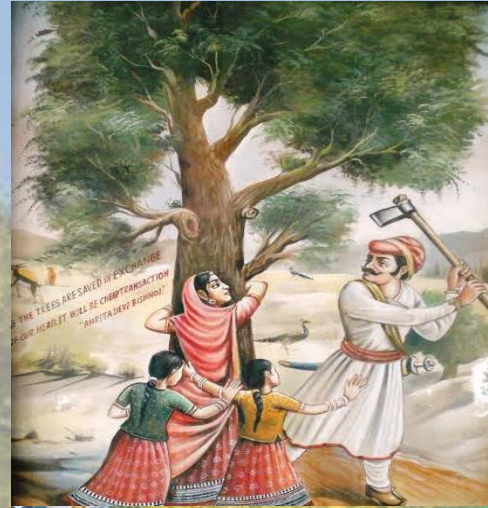
**Amrita Devi**, a Bishnoi woman who, along with more than 363 other Bishnois, died saving the **Khejarli trees**.

Nearly two centuries back, Maharajah Abhay Singh of Jodhpur required wood for the construction of his new palace.

So the **king sent his soldiers to cut trees** in the nearby region of Khejarli, where the village is filled with the large number of trees.

When Amrita Devi and local villagers came to know about it, they opposed the king's men. The malevolent feudal party told her that if she wanted the trees to be spared, she would have to give them money as a bribe. **She refused to acknowledge this demand and told them that she would consider it as an act of insult to her religious faith and would rather give away her life to save the green trees.**

This is still remembered as **the great Khejarli sacrifice**



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## Precursor to the 20th century Chipko movement.

The Chipko movement, or Chipko Andolan, was a forest conservation movement in India. It began in 1970 in Reni village of Chamoli district, Uttarakhand and went on to become a rallying point for many future environmental movements all over the world. It created a precedent for starting nonviolent protest in India, and its success meant that the world immediately took notice of this non-violent movement, which was to inspire in time many similar eco-groups by helping to slow down the rapid deforestation, expose vested interests, increase ecological awareness, and demonstrate the viability of people power. Above all, it stirred up the existing civil society in India, which began to address the issues of tribal and marginalized people. The Chipko Andolan or the Chipko movement is a movement that practiced methods of Satyagraha where both male and female activists from Uttarakhand played vital roles, including Gaura Devi, Suraksha Devi, Sudesha Devi, Bachni Devi and Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Virushka Devi and others.

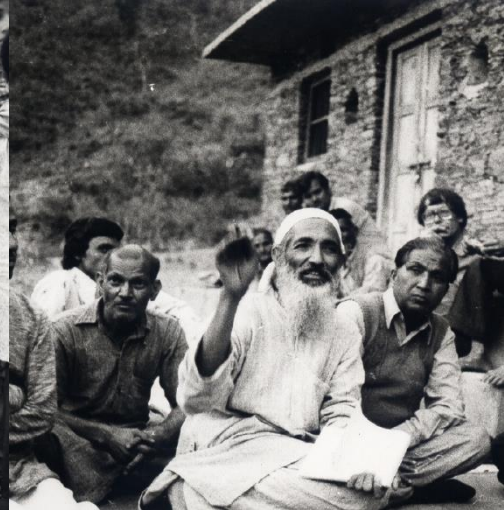
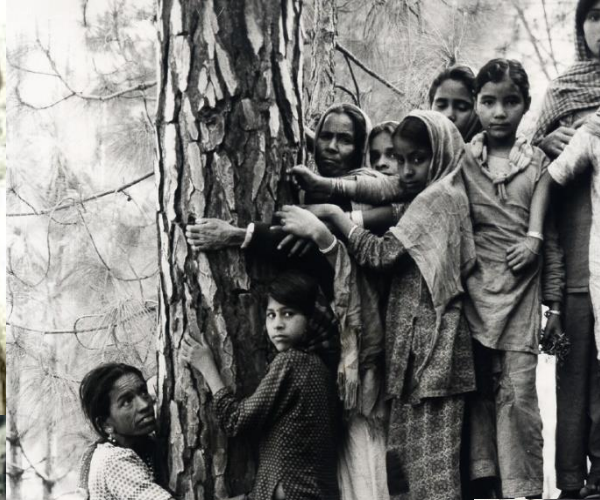
Today, beyond the eco-socialism hue, it is being seen increasingly as an ecofeminism movement. Although many of its leaders were men, women were not only its backbone, but also its mainstay, because they were the ones most affected by the rampant deforestation, which led to a lack of firewood and fodder as well as water for drinking and irrigation. Over the years they also became primary stakeholders in a majority of the afforestation work that happened under the Chipko movement. In 1987, the Chipko movement was awarded the Right Livelihood Award.

Chipko style movements date back to 1730 AD when 363 Bishnois sacrificed their lives to save Khejri trees.



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## Chipko movement in pictures..





# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

- Goal is to inspire and inculcate same values for our future generations , about environmental protection and conservation, which is the need of the hour, as the world is dealing with pollution, climatic changes and global warming.



# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

- 363 individuals who sacrificed their lives to protect felling of trees in their Village **Khejarli** **are no less then soldiers of Environmental protection** moment since early times. Hence **we need to commemorate** this noble act for nature and wildlife conservation.
- Khejarli already had existing Memorial which is in dilapidated state and needs to be rejuvenated & restored due to its importance and relevance to society today as we realize how nature should be protected and conserved for future generations.





# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

## DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES...

- **MONUMENTAL MEMORIAL FOR THE KHEJARLI MARTYRS.**
- **‘JAMBHANI SAHITYA ACADEMY’ BUILDING WITH A ‘MUSEUM’ & ‘LIBRARY’ WITH CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTALISM AS THEME.**
- **SCULPTURE GARDEN RECREATING THE RESISTENCE AND SACRIFICE OF MARTYRS (LIGHT & SOUND SHOW)**
- **SIGNAGES WITH TREE PLANTATION FROM JODHPUR TOWARDS KHEJARLI VILLAGE.**

This shall promote the rich traditional & cultural past of the people and places around, being just 30 kms away from Jodhpur, it will be a potential tourist attraction for the right reason to impart social and Environmental message for future generations across the globe.

# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.



Eternal Flame at the top of structure as a symbol of continuous inspiration to fight for nature & wildlife conservation.



Height : 36.3 m in relation to 363 martyrs.



# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

- **ALL DESCENDENTS OF THE 363 MARTYRS WILL BE IDENTIFIED FROM SURROUNDING VILLAGES, BASED ON THE AVAILABLE DATA, THEY WILL PLANT TREES IN THE MEMORIAL LAYOUT AS MARK OF RESPECT FOR THEIR ANCESTORS.**



# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

## DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES...

- **SCULPTURE GARDEN RECREATING THE RESISTANCE AND SACRIFICE OF MARTYRS(LIGHT & SOUND SHOW) , WORLD FAMOUS EXAMPLES AS LISTED BELOW**



National Salt Satyagraha Memorial' at Dandi



TERRACOTA  
SOLDIERS





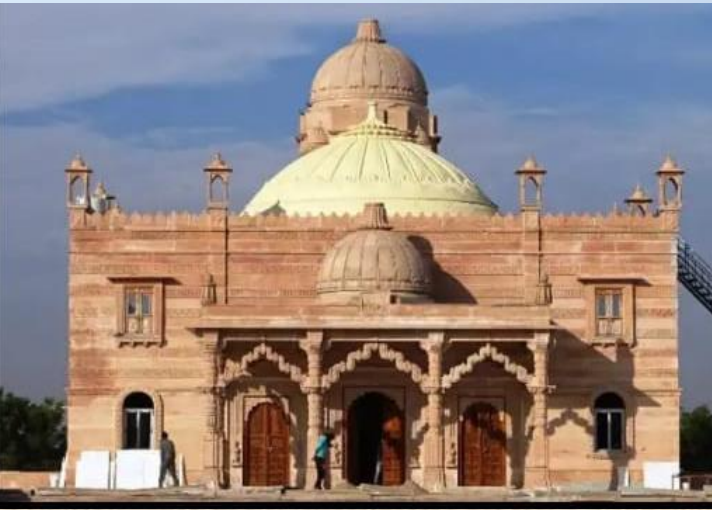
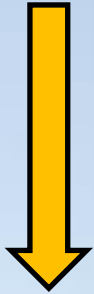
# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

- SIGNAGES/BASIC INFRASTRUCTURAL REFORMS FROM JODHPUR HIGHWAY TOWARDS KHEJARLI VILLAGE.**



# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

**EXISTING KHEJARLI  
BISHNOI TEMPLE**



**PROPOSED 36.3M  
MEMORIAL**



**PROPOSED LIBRARY/  
MUSEAM  
JAMMBHANI LITERATURE  
ACADEMY BRANCH**







# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

- Memorial Buildings , History & Designs across India...



Indian War Memorial

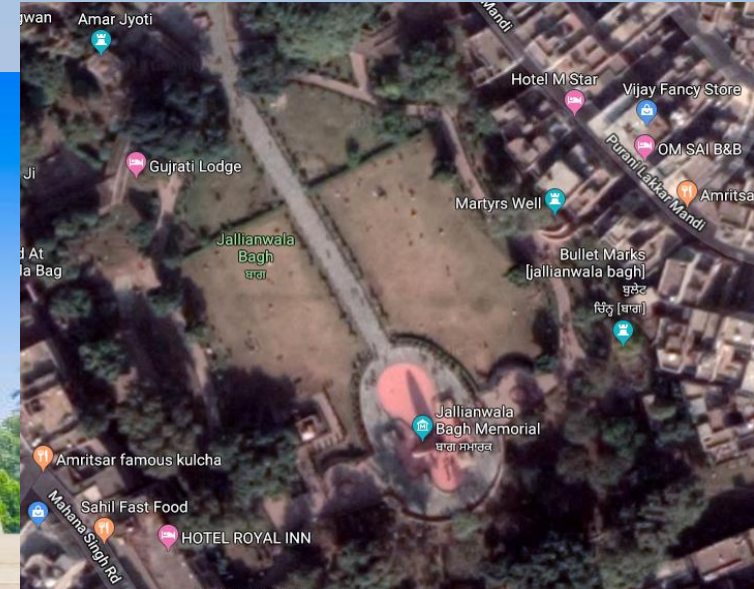


# PROPOSAL OF MEMORIAL FOR MARTYRS OF THE GREAT KHEJARLI SACRIFICE.

- Memorial Buildings , History & Designs across India...



Jallianwala Baug Memorial, Amritsar





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***प्रयविरण में करें विचार, इसी में है जीवनसार***

*Let all of us pledge to take a step towards building a sustainable environment  
for future generations.*

**Thank you!**

Presented by  
**Sohanlal Vishnoi**  
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