

Sunderlal Bahuguna: Chipko Movement

Why in News

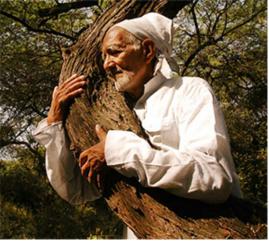
Recently, **Sunderlal Bahuguna,** the Gandhian who was the driving force behind the <u>Chipko movement</u> died due to <u>Covid-19.</u>

Key Points

Chipko Movement:

- It was a **non-violent agitation** which originated in Uttar Pradesh's **Chamoli district** (now Uttarakhand) in **1973.**
- The name of the movement 'chipko' comes from the word 'embrace', as the villagers hugged the trees and encircled them to prevent being hacked.
- It is best remembered for the collective mobilisation of women for the cause of preserving forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society.
- It's biggest victory was making people aware of their rights to forests, and how grassroots activism can influence policy-making regarding ecology and shared natural resources.
 - It led to a **ban on commercial felling of trees above 30 degrees slope** and above 1,000 msl (mean sea level) **in 1981.**

Sunderlal Bahuguna (1927-2021): //



- $\circ\,$ Initiated the chipko movement to guard the trees on the Himalayan slopes.
- $\circ~$ Known for coining the Chipko slogan 'ecology is permanent economy'
 - After the Chipko movement in the 1970s, he gave the message across the globe that ecology and ecosystem are more important. He was of the opinion that ecology and economy should go together.
- **Campaigned against the <u>Tehri Dam</u> on River Bhagirathi,** a mega-project with devastating consequences. He undertook one of **India's longest fasts after**

Independence, over 56 days.

- Took **4,800 km Kashmir to Kohima padayatra (foot march)** in the early 1980s to bring attention to the entire Himalayan region.
- Supported women-led movements against the liquor mafia in the hills, and for the Beej Bachao Andolan, a movement to save Himalayan agricultural biodiversity from being wiped out by the unsustainable, chemical-intensive Green Revolution.
- $\,\circ\,$ He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2009.

Major Environmental Movements in India

| Name | Year | Place | Leaders | Details |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Bishnoi Movement | 1700 | Khejarli, Marwar region, in Rajasthan | Amrita Devi | |
| Chipko Movement | 1973 | Uttarakhand | Sunderlal Bahuguna Chandi Prasad Bhatt | Used to hug trees to stop their felling The main objective was to protect the trees on the Himalayan slopes from the axes of contractors of the forest. |
| Silent River Valley Project | 1978 | Kantipuza river in Kerala | Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad Sughathakumari | To protect the Silent Valley, the moist evergreen forest from being destroyed by a hydroelectric project. In November 1983 the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project was called off. In 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi formally inaugurated the Silent Valley National Park. |
| Jangal Bachao Aandolan | 1982 | Singbhum district of Bihar | Tribals of Singhbum | Against governments decision to replace the natural sal forest with Teak. |
| Appiko Movement | 1983 | Kamataka | Lakshmi Narasimha Yuvak Mandali Pandering Hegde. | To stop felling of natural trees. Against commercial forestry of teak and eucalyptus trees |
| Tehri dam | 1980s to 1990s | Bhagirathi and Bhilangama rivers at Tehri in Uttaranchal | Tehri Badh Virodhi Sangarshan Committee Sunderlal Bahuguna and Veera Dutt Saklani | |
| Narmada Bachao Aandolan | 1980s to present | Gujarat Madhya Pradesh and Maharastra Total 33 dams Two main are Sardar Sarovar Dam and the Indira Sagar Project | Medha Patkar Arundhati Roy Sundarlal Bahuguna Baba Amte Arundhati Roy | |

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Recent Movements

| Name | Year | Place | Leaders | Details |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---|---|--|
| Climate Action Strike | 2019 | Students in metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Chennai | Greta Thunberg, Bittu KR | |
| Right to Breathe Protest | Nov 5, 2019 | New Delhi India Gate. | Leonardo Di Caprio posted about this movement | New Delhi has been the world's most polluted city for the past 2 years. Its Air Quality Index (AQI) plummeted to 494 |
| Save Dehing- Patkai | April 2020 | Tinsukia district of Assam | Rohit Chaudhary Adil Hussain, Randeep Hooda, and Joi Barua. Jadav Payeng, known as the Forest Man of India, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and All Assam Matak Youth Students' Union | This movement began as a protest against the April 2020 decision by the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) to allow North-Eastern Coal Fields (NEC) to do opencast mining in 98.59 hectares of Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary. Known as the 'Amazon of the East,' |
| Save Aarey | 2019-20 | Aarey National Park in Mumbai | | Against the felling of the Aarey Colony for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (MMRLC) metro 3 car-shed. |
| Save the Sundarbans | May 2020 | The Sundarbans are the largest mangrove forest in the world. They are located in the delta region of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers | A campaign emerged online to #SavetheSundarbans. | The recent cyclone Amphan in May 2020, the worst cyclone since 1737, left a trail of misery in the Sundarbans. |
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