



50 Years of Chipko Movement

Why in News?

Recently, [Chipko Movement](#) which began in **Uttarakhand**, in early **1973**, marks its **50th anniversary**.



Key Points

- Chipko Movement 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.
- Its 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.

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 | Kantipuzha 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 Singbhum | Against governments decision to replace the natural sal forest with Teak. |
| Appiko Movement | 1983 | Karnataka | 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 Sakdani | |
| Narmada Bachao Aandolan | 1980s to present | Gujarat Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra 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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