



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 Andolan	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 Bhilangana 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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