



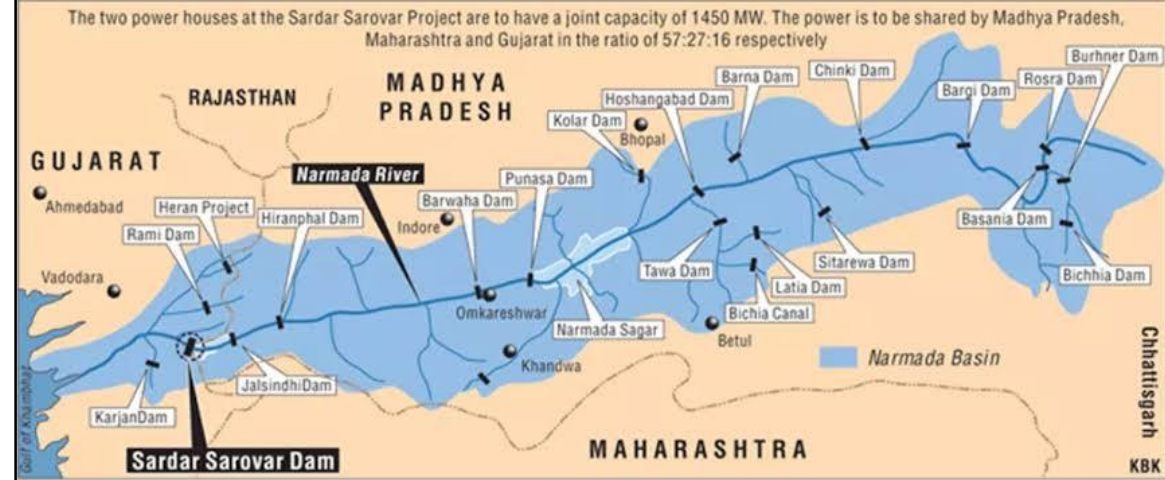
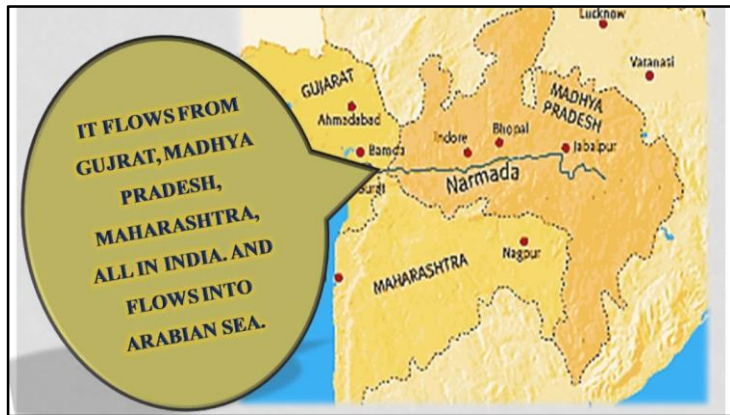
NARMADA BACHAO ANDOLAN

Dr. RITUPARNA GHOSH

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY

RANIGANJ GIRLS' COLLEGE

- The Narmada Basin covers an area of approximately 94,500 square kilometers between the Vindhya and the Satpura ranges in Central India. It is the site of the Narmada Valley Development Project (NVDP), an ambitious project that seeks to harness the river Narmada that flows through the three states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, which envisages that thirty big dams; one hundred and thirty-five medium dams, and three thousand small dams will be constructed on the Narmada river and its forty-one tributaries.
- The Narmada basin has such characteristic that has led the people to oppose the project envisaged by the state.



- The 1312 kilometers long Narmada Valley contains large alluvial plains in Madhya Pradesh. To the West, the Narmada River meanders through Gujarat widening into a 25-kilometer long estuary as it flows into the Gulf of Cambay. More than 22 million people live in the valley and several tribal groups, particularly Bhils and Gonds occupy the forested uplands. The project is estimated to affect over 2.5 lakh of people.
- The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) and the Narmada Sagar Project (NSP) are the two largest dams to be constructed in the Narmada River, and the SSP alone will submerge 245 villages: 19 in Gujarat, 33 in Maharashtra, and 193 in Madhya Pradesh.
- These two projects have remained controversial owing to their large-scale displacement and problems of humane rehabilitation. This has resulted in the emergence of a protest movement unique of its kind called the 'Narmada Bachao Andolan'.

- Narmada Bachao Andolan is the most powerful mass movement, started in 1985, against the construction of huge dam on the Narmada river.
- It is undoubtedly the most famous Indian example of resistance to large Dams. As one of the leading anti-dam movements in India, the Narmada Bachao Andolan has waged a long, multi-pronged fight against the Narmada Valley Projects.