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Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh Tussle over the Narmada

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Recently, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have engaged in a tussle over the sharing of Narmada river waters.

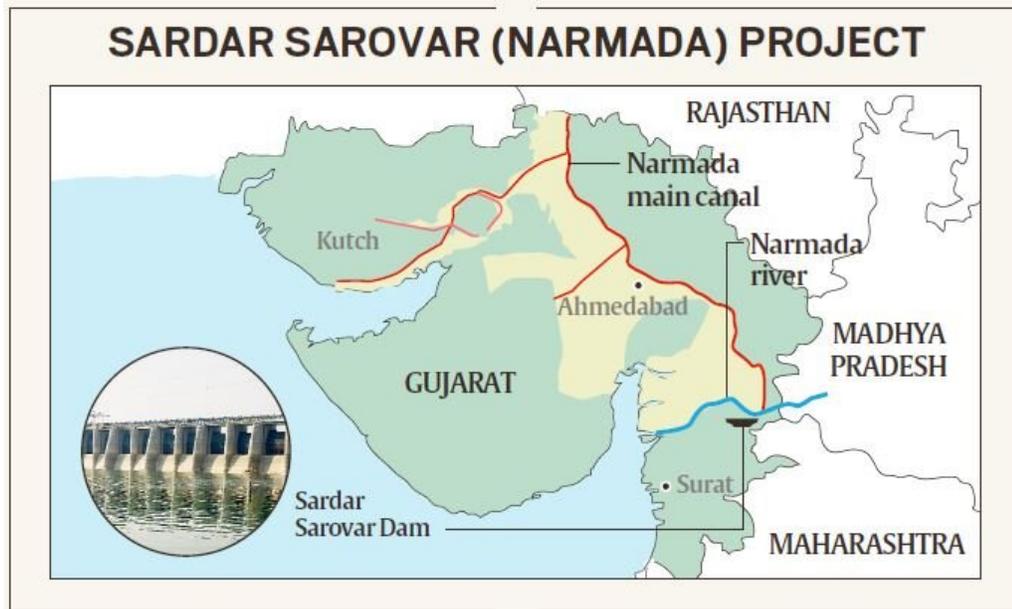
What is the Controversy?

- Madhya Pradesh has **threatened to restrict the flow of water into the Sardar Sarovar Dam**, located in Gujarat.
- The Sardar Sarovar Project **includes two powerhouses**, the River Bed Power House (RBPH; 1,200 MW) and the Canal Head Power House (250 MW).
 - Power is shared among Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in a 57:27:16 ratio.
 - The RBPH has been shut since 2017, Gujarat has sought that generation should not start until the water reaches the full reservoir level (FRL).
- Gujarat's view is that its share of 9 MAF (million-acre feet) **water in a normal monsoon year is insufficient to generate power** as drinking water and irrigation are priorities.
- Gujarat has also argued that **reaching the FRL is necessary** for testing whether the increased height of the dam can withstand the thrust at that level.
- In light of this Narmada Control Authority has granted the permission **not to start generation at a powerhouse until the dam fills to its full level**.
- **Madhya Pradesh is discontented by frequent power outages** and has refused to release the surplus share for power generation and to allow the dam to be tested at FRL.

Sardar Sarovar Project

- The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is a **gravity dam** on the Narmada River crossing Gujarat in India.
- **It involves a series of large irrigation and hydroelectric multi-purpose dams.**

- The project **took form in 1979** as part of a development scheme to increase irrigation and produce hydroelectricity.
- The hydroelectric power of the SSP is to be **shared by the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh**; the irrigation benefits would accrue to the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.



Source: IE